



Career Corner

February 17, 2004

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*The Career Corner is edited
by Pisuthi Chananudech*

CAREER TIPS

*A Lawyer's Life Can Be A Happy
One*

by

Harrison Sheppard

*When a felon's not engaged in his
employment*

*Or maturing his felonious little
plans,*

*His capacity for innocent enjoyment
Is just as great as any honest
man's.*

*But take one consideration with
another,*

A lawyer's lot is not a happy one.

**--adapted from Gilbert &
Sullivan,**

So you want to be a lawyer? Studies during the past 20 years have shown that lawyers are among the most depressed class of professionals in the United States. Some have shown that they are the *most* depressed. In urban areas, alcohol and drug abuse have been reported by State Bar Associations to be among the most common problems afflicting lawyers – especially trial lawyers. The past often predicts the future. It is therefore important for you to consider *why* you want to be a lawyer, and the kind of lawyer you are going to be --not *technically*, but *humanly*.

There are many reasons students decide to go to law school. These include to make a good living –or even become “rich”- in an interesting profession; to develop one’s talents in a calling congenial to one’s personality; to pursue a law-related career ambition, such as politics or government; to follow a family tradition; and to help promote justice in a highly competitive

society where injustice is not a rare thing.

I have heard lawyers say that they were making more money than they ever thought they would, but were also unhappier than they ever imagined they could be. After nearly 40 years as a civil lawyer in both public and private practice, I have come to some firm conclusions about why so many lawyers are unhappy people. I will share these conclusions with Hastings students in a talk and discussion at Hastings Law School, sponsored by the Career Services Office, on Wednesday, February 18. One of my main conclusions is that many lawyers are unhappy precisely because the prevalent legal practice *ethos* has led many lawyers to lose sight of the real reasons they wanted to become lawyers in the first place. They do this out of a perceived practical *necessity*. My own experience tells me, however, that no such necessity really exists, and that a lawyer’s life can be a happy one so long as his or her original motivating visions are not lost. Practicing lawyers are likely to tell you that this is very difficult to do. To the contrary, as my talk will explain, the real difficulties for lawyers arise when they accept this point of view. For the longer term, and in the deepest sense, remaining true to one’s self is the *easiest* thing to do.

And when you do that, your lawyer’s life can be a happy one.

Harrison Sheppard (Hastings '67), principal of Harrison Sheppard Law & Conflict Resolution and a frequently published essayist, is author of What's Right with Lawyers/What's Wrong with

Lawyers. His column on Law & Justice appears regularly in San Francisco Attorney magazine, the quarterly journal of the Bar Association of San Francisco. His website is voicesoflife.com.

Harrison Sheppard will be speaking at Hastings on Wednesday, Feb. 18th at 3:40pm in Room F.

FEATURED RESOURCE OF THE WEEK

Featured resources are a sure way to be better prepared, more polished, and even more



marketable in your quest for a dream job! Check this one out in Career Services today!!

This Week's Featured Resource Is ...

The Basics: Spring OCI is well underway! Check LawCareer for participating employers, research your picks, make your bids, and drop your resume off in the envelopes in Career Services. It's just that simple! Also check LawCareer and watch your email for updates regarding Spring OCI from celebrated career counselor Denice Barnes!!

The Cool Catch: Unlike Fall OCI, Spring OCI is a much more relaxed process. There is no organized resume drop date! Individual employers have their own deadlines. This affords plenty of time to tailor those cover letters!

Tune in two weeks for another ... Featured Resource of the Week!!!!



Alumni Mentor Orientations for the Week of 2/16

Please Sign-Up in Advance
Friday: 3:10p – 4:10p



JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Everyday, the Career Services Office receives new listings for **part-time, summer** and **post-JD positions. Fellowships** and **judicial clerkships** are also available. Log on to **LawCareer** and click on **School Job Listings** often for new postings.

Just a few highlights form the School Job Listings:

SUMMER POSITIONS

California Teachers Association

Burlingame, CA
Be a law clerk in the legal department of this union representing public school teachers in California. The work involves all facets of public sector labor law, including unfair labor practice litigation and court enforcement of statutory, constitutional, and contractual rights. Salary ranges from \$20.00 - \$23.50/hour.

www.cta.org

Years Requested: 2L

Materials Requested: Cover Letter, Resume. Attn: Mr. Robert L. Stenhouse.

Deadline: February 20, 2004

Franscell, Strickland, Roberts & Lawrence

Glendale, CA
Be a summer law clerk and assist attorneys in defending public entities, with a focus on civil rights claims involving law enforcement, and employment-related litigation. Applicants must be currently ranked in the top third of their class.

Years Requested: 2L

Materials Requested: Cover Letter, Resume, Transcript, Writing Sample.

Deadline: February 21, 2004

PART-TIME/SEMESTER

Law Offices of Robert L. Goldstein

San Francisco, CA
Work 12 - 20 hours per week during the semester as a law clerk at this small yet busy business tax firm, with the potential to turn into a full-time summer position. Strong writing, organizational, and communication skills are very important.

Years Requested: 2L, 3L

Materials Requested: Cover Letter, Resume, Brief Writing Sample. Email to

avassigh@taxexit.com.

Deadline: February 20, 2004

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Seventh Judicial District Court

Ely, NE

Clerk for the Honorable Steve L. Dobrescu. The clerkship begins September 1, 2004. The Court is a general jurisdiction Court hearing both criminal and civil cases.

Years Requested: 3L

Materials Requested: Cover Letter, Transcript, Writing Sample.

Deadline: February 20, 2004



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

A Lawyer's Life is a Happy

One – A talk and discussion by Harrison Shepard in Room F.

Wednesday, February 18:
3:40 – 4:30 pm.

Public Interest/ Public

Sector Day – Registration begins 8:30am

Saturday, February 21:
9:00am – 5:00pm. ■