



March 5, 2007

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Career Corner

“Job Search Tips for 3Ls and Recent Grads”

By Pamela Hyland

As graduation approaches, Third Years in the job market will transition to a new phase of job search. Job searching after graduation is similar in some ways but quite different in others to your student job search.

As you transition through this phase, you will have extra support from our Graduating Class Advisor, Sue Tunnell. Sue is an attorney herself and a wonderful coach who will review your updated resumes, send you job leads, answer questions, and sustain your spirits with her no-nonsense advice and encouragement.

Even with Sue’s able assistance, there is much less structure to the job search after graduation. Small and mid-size firms, government agencies and public interest organizations do not hire the bulk of their permanent attorneys through job fairs or formal recruiting programs. According to NALP figures, about 49% of post-graduation job offers are obtained through self-initiated contacts with employers, and referrals from colleagues and friends; only about 20% come from job listings. While we are here to brainstorm about possible contacts and employers, this really boils down to relationship-building, so it will be up to you to build and maintain these relationships and to keep in touch with employers.

You definitely want to take June and July to focus on the Bar exam. Most grads want a break after taking the

exam, but remember that a long vacation will tend to lengthen your job search once you return. Many employers will wait until Bar results to make permanent hiring decisions. Once Bar results do come out, there is a hiring flurry, but in the interim, many grads will build up their resumes by volunteering at the DA, PD, or public interest organizations, or doing part-time, temporary or contract work.

Sometimes, the path to your dream job contains a few stepping stones along the way. Be alert to intermediate opportunities that build your skills and experience toward the desired position.

So, what can you do *now* to increase your chances of landing a position after bar study?

Take advantage of the Alumni Mentor Program to find and get to know a mentor or two in your practice area; this is one of the very few career services that is open only to students.

Engage in informational interviews to improve your knowledge of law practice and to build relationships that can lead to job leads. Start by obtaining a list of Hastings alumni in your practice area; you will find a request form and a dynamite publication on Informational Interviewing on HastingsCareers.com in the Document Library.

Join bar associations, both local and specialty bars, and attend the

meetings; doing so puts you among the very people who could hire you (and bar association dues are lower for student members!).

Establish networking contacts among faculty and fellow students now; they will be harder to reach once the semester and bar study are over and they scatter for the summer.

Before graduation, research employers to approach after the bar exam so you can hit the ground running after your vacation. Establish a system for tracking applications and following up with job leads; being organized will give you a sense of accomplishment and keep you focused and active.

Meet with Sue Tunnell so she can get to know you and your practice preferences. You are now eligible for one-hour appointments with CSO counselors, too – we're happy to help you build structure and success into this latest phase of your career development!

JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Everyday, the Career Services Office receives new listings. Log onto **HastingsCareers.com** and check

Want to make an appointment with a career counselor?

Call the CSO Front Desk at **(415) 565-4619**.

often for new postings. Just a few highlights:

SUMMER POSITIONS

Stanzler Funderburk & Castellon LLP Downtown Los Angeles complex business litigation law firm has part or full time law clerk positions. More information about the firm can be found on the Web site at <http://www.sfcfirm.com>. Paid Position. Years Required: 2L, 3L Materials Requested: Please send resume and cover letter to wfunderburk@sfcfirm.com **Deadline:** 3/11/07

The First Amendment Project is seeking students to assist with its litigation and education efforts. FAP is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal and educational resources on free speech and free press issues to our core constituency of activists, journalists and artists. Unpaid position. **Years Required:** 1L, 2L **Materials Requested:** Apply online at HastingsCareers.com. **Deadline:** 3/11/07

Alumni Mentor Program Orientation

Tuesday, March 6
12:40 – 1:30pm
Room 308, 198 Bldg.

Advanced Sign Up Required!
Sign up on HastingsCareers.com
(AMP orientations are scheduled every week.)

GRADUATING 3L

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is pleased to formally announce a call for applications for the Justice Robert H. Jackson Fellowship. FIRE supports and coordinates precedent-setting litigation in defense of the First Amendment, in an effort to end the scourge of unconstitutional speech codes on public campuses and to ensure truth-in-advertising and informed consent on private campuses. The Jackson Fellow will work full-time at FIRE's Philadelphia office, commencing in the fall of 2007. **Years Required:** 3L **Materials Requested:** For more information, please **contact** Will Creeley at fellowship@thefire.org. **Deadline:** 3/12/07

This Week's Events:

Judicial Clerkships: The Universal Career Boost, Part 2

Tuesday, March 6
3:40-4:30pm
Panel/Moot Court Room

Matt Wilson: Building Your International Law Career – Special Speaker

Wednesday, March 7
12:40-1:30pm; Room F

What's Hot & What's Not in the Legal Market – Special Speaker

Friday, March 9
12:40-1:30pm; Room K