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Career Corner

Career Tips

«Joining the Legal Community»

By Pamela Hyland

Most law students know about the national organizations such as the American Bar Association, National Lawyers Guild, and American Association for Justice but did you know there are local organizations to support budding attorneys as well as local chapters of these national organizations?

The State Bar of California, for example, does more than regulate the Bar exam – it also supports California attorneys in a variety of ways. And, even more local is the Bar Association of San Francisco, as well as other county and specialized bar associations.

All of these are great ways for you to join the community of attorneys, find mentors and friends with like interests, and learn more about the day-to-day practice of law. Student memberships are cheaper, you'll separate yourself from the average student by attending meetings, and they are great sources of real-life information about legal practice. Here are some representative examples but there are many, many more!

Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF). Has numerous practice area sections, events, publications and resources. Most big cities and most counties have similar

associations, such as the Contra Costa County Bar Association, Alameda County Bar Association, etc.

Barrister's Club of San Francisco

This is the division of the BASF created for newly minted lawyers with less than ten years of experience.

Specialty Bars There are many specialty bars that include members of the same ethnic, racial, religious or sexual orientation. Many have corresponding national organizations, as well. Here are just a few:

**Asian American Bar Association
Charles Houston Bar Association**

(African American bar association)
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)

**LGBT Bar Association
National Association of Muslim Lawyers**

Queen's Bench (Women's bar association)

San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association (Plaintiff's side trial attorneys)

State Organizations Attorneys congregate for state functions as well; consider joining some of these organizations if they fit your needs.

California Lawyers for the Arts (Northern and Southern CA divisions)

California District Attorneys Association

California Public Defenders Association

State Bar of California

There is a bar association to fit almost any attorney's needs; if you don't see one you can relate to here, check out the CSO Publication "Making the Connection: Exploring the Hidden Job Market" or try online search engines to find them – they are out there and their members are waiting to welcome you into the legal community!

Want to make an appointment with a career counselor?

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

JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Everyday, the Career Services Office receives new listings. Log onto HastingsCareers.com and check often for new postings. Just a few highlights:

SUMMER POSITIONS

Cohen & Lord, PC seeks a Summer Associate position for 2nd year law student. Student must be ranked in the top 20% of his/her class. We also prefer students who have participated in the Law Journal and Moot Court. Paid

Position. **Years Required:** 2L. **Materials Requested:** transcript, resume, and a writing sample. Apply online. **Deadline:** 5/26/07

3L FELLOWSHIPS

The Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation is accepting applications for the Frederick B. Abramson Public Interest Fellowship Award. The fellowship is awarded to students graduating from any ABA approved law school in the US, individuals completing judicial clerkships, or practicing attorneys wishing to work in the non profit sector. Candidates must agree to work for a 501(c)(3) non-profit and government organizations in the District of Columbia for at least 12 months beginning September 2007 and must demonstrate commitment to public interest law and community service. Financial need is a critical factor in awarding fellowships. Preference will be given to applicants whose work most directly benefits the District of Columbia residents. **Years Required:** 3L. **Materials Requested:** Application form (available online), resume, two letters of recommendation, confirmation of public interest job statement of financial responsibilities, statement of interest and career plans. (See

HastingsCareers.com.) **Deadline:** 8/13/097

1L POSITIONS

Steptoe & Johnson LLP is hiring 2Ls for a 2008 summer associate position in Arizona. Please submit your resume for a resume collection. **Years Required:** 1L. **Materials Requested:** resume. **Deadline:** 2/2/07

This Week's Events

Career Options in Tax, Estate Planning, Wills & Trusts
Tuesday, April 3
3:40-4:30pm; Panel/Room K

Family Law Brown Bag
Wednesday, April 4
12:40-1:30pm; Panel/Room K

Diagnosing and Accelerating a Slow Job Search
Friday, April 6
12:40-1:30pm; Workshop/Room E

SPECIAL EVENT!!!!

Alumni Mentor Reception
Wednesday, April 4
6:00 – 8:30pm
Skyroom, 24th Floor
100 McAllister

All students welcome!

Refreshments will be served.

Alumni Mentor Program Orientation

Thursday, April 5
3:40 – 4:30pm
Room 307C

Advanced Sign Up Required!
Sign up on HastingsCareers.com

(AMP orientations are scheduled every week)