



Career Corner

October 16, 2006

CAREER TIPS

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday

9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*The Career Corner is edited by
Maria Galarza*

Pursuing Public Interest Law

by Molly Frank-Meltzer

Pursuing a career as a public interest lawyer can be daunting and confusing. Many students know they don't want to work at a law firm, but feel that pursuing a career in the public sector is impossible or something they're not entirely sure about. Other law students know they want to work for a non-profit or government agency but don't know the next steps. That's what the Public Interest Clearinghouse Public Interest Law Program (PILP) was designed to do - help you navigate through law school towards a career in the public sector.

First, there are some myths about working in the public sector. Here are a few that are simply not true:

(1) "It's impossible to find a public interest job because non-profits and government agencies are staffed with attorneys who left big firms after 5 years." FALSE! You can find jobs in the public sector right out of law school. Recent grads are working at District Attorney and Public Defender offices, local government agencies, non-profits and small law firms.

(2) "I will never be able to pay off my loans if I choose to work in the public sector." FALSE! Explore Hastings PICAP (loan repayment program) and realize that there are thousands of attorneys, with families, living life enjoyably on public sector salaries – they have loans too!

(3) "I must have worked in one area of law all through law school to get a job at an issue-focused organization." FALSE! While organizations do like to see dedication to a cause, they also understand (and appreciate) that law students often don't know what they want when they start. What matters most is that you have gained practical experience where your skills are translatable to any field of law.

Second, it is important to use the resources available to you. The location and diverse student body at Hastings give you unprecedented access to professors, like-minded students, local organizations, and alumni. Additionally, Hastings is one of a select few law schools that partakes in PILP!

Now that you know you can do it, here are 10 things to do to help you build a career in the public sector.

- ❖ Visit the CSO and bring your resume for suggestions and helpful comments.
- ❖ Sign up for PILP! Visit www.calegaladvocates.org/pilp and gain access to a private website that posts tools and links to navigate your career. Most importantly, it hosts lists of Bay Area organizations who *want* to work with students through the Pro Bono Project.

- ❖ Open your mind—think creatively about experiences you have not had the chance to explore. Then do them!
- ❖ Talk to working professionals - lawyers, professors, alumni, fellow students, PILP staff, and family members. Ask them what their path was like and what suggestions they have.
- ❖ Volunteer your time and skills.
- ❖ Research post-grad fellowships.
- ❖ Ask CSO about post-grad opportunities in state and local government (e.g., the Honors programs).
- ❖ Realize that your first job out of law school may not be perfect but if you have a plan down the road and keep that goal in sight—you will get there!
- ❖ Come to PILP office hours every other Tuesday (sign ups are in CSO).
- ❖ Pat yourself on the back—no one said it was easy. But, working in the public sector as an attorney is incredibly rewarding and worth every effort.

If you want to talk about these tips, the Pro Bono Project or PILP, stop by or call CSO for an appointment. Questions? Contact Krista Glaser at kglaser@pic.org or Molly Frank-Meltzer at mfrankmeltzer@pic.org.

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:

FALL POSITIONS

Carter, Carter & Fries

Labor/Employment. Combination job in 4-lawyer firm: Legal secretary for 2 lawyers (letters, pleadings, memos, timekeeping, filing, billing, phone); paralegal work as available (summarize docs/depos, pleadings, interviews, research, assist at court). 15-20 hr/wk. \$15/hr. secy, \$30/hr paralegal. 1-yr commitment requested. Plaintiff and defense-side rep. and mediation. Start ASAP. **Years Required:** L.L.M., 2L, 1L, 3L
Apply Online at: Hastingscareers.com
Deadline: 11/04/07

Law Offices of Kevin W. Finck

Corporate law. Clerk. Part-time. 40 hr/month. Flex schedule with exception of alternative Fri to fill-in for Secretary. Convenient to BART/Muni. **Years Requested:** 2L, 1L, 3L
Apply Online at Hstingscareers.com
Deadline: 12/04/06

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Anti-OCI Series:

**Paul Henderson:
Revolutionary Job
Hunting Tactics** Tuesday,
10/17
3:40 – 5:00 pm
Special Event/Room A

Small Firm Job Search
Friday, 10/20
12:40 – 1:30 pm
Workshop/Room F

**Career Options
in Civil Litigation**
Wednesday, 10/18
12:40 – 1:30 pm
Panel/Room F

Alumni Mentor Orientation

*Friday, October 20th
12:40 – 1:30 pm
Room 308, Bldg. 198*

Advanced Sign Up Required!
*(sign up on
HastingsCareers.com
or in CSO)*



Look for Special
Anti-OCI Events
October 16 – 20th