It’s hard to believe that summer is over and that classes have already started! With a new academic year upon us, we are implementing some new designs, features and look of the Center for Career Development (we’ve re-decorated!), our website and our monthly eNewsletter. Our best additions are the new Public Interest Law Center (“PILC”) and Director, Jennifer Friedman. Turn the page to read more about Jennifer and the PILC.

We have some terrific programs lined up for this fall in addition to our annual programs:
- Stuart Smith, Director of Legal Recruitment for the NYC Law Department will be here on September 22 to talk about professionalism during the interview process.
- Friday afternoon, October 24 brings a star-studded group of professional women to talk about “Women in the Law.” We are excited to announce that our plenary speaker will be Lisa Belkin, author, New York Times “Life’s Work” columnist who coined the phrase “the opt-out revolution,” and host of “Life’s Work With Lisa Belkin” on XM satellite radio.

More information will be in an upcoming newsletter.

Remember, we are here to help you with your career development and job search. If there is anything we can do to better provide you with information or make any of our programs more interesting or the information we relay more accessible and readable, we want to hear about it. Stop by the CCD on the second floor of Aloysia (above the Registrar’s Office), call us at 914-422-4217 or e-mail us at careers@law.pace.edu.

Assistant Dean for Career Development, Rachel Littman.
Jennifer Friedman named Director, Public Interest Law Center

Jennifer Friedman joined Pace Law School on August 11th as the Director of our new Public Interest Law Center (PILC). Ms. Friedman comes to Pace as a seasoned litigator who founded and directed the Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP), a pioneering legal program based at Sanctuary for Families that offers pro bono advocacy to domestic violence victims petitioning for orders of protection in New York City’s Family Courts. Friedman is no stranger to working with law students. Under her leadership, CAP trained over 6,200 law students from ten New York City-area law schools and summer associates from more than 45 law firms, who advocated for nearly 5,500 battered women. Friedman spent ten years litigating in Family Court, and supervised staff and pro bono attorneys who represented battered women in order of protection, custody, visitation, support and matrimonial cases as well as appeals.

Jennifer Friedman arrived on campus August 11, 2008

The PILC was founded this year to build on Pace’s rich public interest history and centralize counseling, resources, and opportunities for students and alumni interested in public interest law. It also will work to raise awareness of pro bono service throughout the school – and be a resource for community groups.

Ms. Friedman’s career counseling will include assistance with internships, fellowships, and post graduate employment. The PILC is located within the Center for Career Development on the second floor of Aloysia Hall in Suite 207.

Network at the 19th Annual Public Interest Career Reception

The 19th Annual Public Interest Career Reception is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, at the NYC Bar Association, 42 W. 44th Street from 6:00pm—8:30pm. This Reception is a fantastic opportunity for students to meet representatives from over 50 public interest organizations and government offices throughout New York City and the Metro area. The Reception is not a formal “job fair,” as students will not be interviewing for specific open positions. The Reception has an informal format where attorneys from organizations will set up tables and be available to speak with students about their work, hand out literature, and answer questions. The Reception will expose students to the range of public interest work available, and enable students to make better choices when planning a job search. Students attending should dress in business casual attire.

Get Involved!

Whether you intend to dedicate your career to public interest law full-time, or plan to integrate pro bono volunteerism into private sector work, a great place to start as a law student is with local community service projects and participation in student-run groups. In the first few weeks of the semester, the campus’s many student groups will hold introductory meetings, which are a wonderful opportunity to explore your interests and learn how to get involved. Some examples of student-run volunteer projects are the Public Interest Law Scholarship Organization (PILSO)’s annual midnight run, through which law students assist the homeless in New York City, and

Pace’s participation in the national Student Hurricane Network, which provides opportunities for law students across the country to become involved with volunteer activities that benefit people impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Community service is part of public interest work
Riding the Economy

You don’t have to look very hard to see signs of the downturned economy. Even the legal industry has taken a hit. Top Manhattan firm Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, well-known for its securitization practice, laid off 96 attorneys from their capital markets and global finance groups at the end of July after having let go 35 attorneys — most of their structured finance practice — back in January 2008. Those firms that haven’t let attorneys go (generally a taboo in the law firm industry) are shrinking their summer classes, waiting to give permanent offers to their current summer classes, or holding off on hiring until absolutely needed. A recent study by Citi Private Bank Law Firm Group reports contracted growth, higher expenses and decreased demand for legal services at even the most profitable, largest and well-known law firms.

But it’s not all doom and gloom. The market still offers many opportunities for law students and new lawyers. The key is to have an open mind, think creatively, and build transferable skills. For example, if your dream job is to be a commercial real estate attorney, consider learning about foreclosures, or try to work on a pro bono case in the public interest sector where there is a huge demand for legal help. For litigators or corporate lawyers, bankruptcy, restructuring and out-of-court workouts are vibrant practice areas that incorporate skills from many legal fields. And don’t forget to keep up your networking — you never know when the next job opportunity will appear!

Tips for the Job Search

Any job search, no matter what industry, comprises two basic strategies: a passive “see-and-apply” approach and a proactive approach. The passive strategy, which includes scanning Symplicity and other job sites and applying to job postings and even sending out hundreds of unsolicited resumes and cover letters, is a necessary and familiar part of the job search process. The second method, however, conducted by networking and sending out well-researched and targeted inquiries, is the most effective. Most jobs are obtained through networking — that is, communicating with others about your interests and goals and speaking with as many people in your field of interest as possible.

In both cases, you need to do your homework and be organized. Read information available on the web, attend bar association and law school functions, and keep track of where you have sent resumes and to whom you have talked. It will pay off!

Don’t Sweat the Interview

An interview may be the first, last and only chance for you to sit face-to-face with a potential employer. Whether you are a first time interviewee or a seasoned pro, if you remember a few tips, you’ll sail through your next interview with enthusiasm and confidence.

- PREPARE. Know everything you can about the employer and the position you are applying for.
- KNOW YOURSELF. Be prepared to discuss everything on your resume in depth. Think about why you went to law school and what has lead you to the moment when you are sitting in front of a particular interviewer.
- RELAX AND SMILE. Remember that the interview is a conversation. Be poised and professional, but also be yourself. Any interview is tiring, but it’s the good ones that we don’t want to end. And then you know you’ve aced it!

“One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.”
— Arthur Ashe
Clerkships—Continued from Front Cover

They allow developing attorneys to get a behind-the-scenes view of the judicial process, and an opportunity to shape current law and judicial decision making.

Pace offers some unique opportunities for its students to obtain clerkship experience while in law school. Through the Ninth Judicial Internship Program, for example, select students may spend all or a portion of their summer interning with a judge in the Ninth Judicial District. (This District spans five counties, including Westchester, and includes numerous county, city, surrogate’s, family and other courts.) The remainder of the summer may be spent with a law firm. Ninth Judicial District interns work with both judges and law clerks to research and draft proposed decisions and memoranda. They also have the opportunity to observe hearings, trials and conferences.

Pace also sponsors, in conjunction with the New York State Judicial Institute, a highly competitive Federal Judicial Extern Honors Program. Click here for more information: http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=28957.

After graduation, clerkship positions in the federal or state courts generally last a term of one to two years. The CCD office can guide you through the application process and help you to select clerkships that fit with your interests and complement your professional credentials. Visit the CCD to discuss whether a judicial clerkship fits in with your career goals. We will be happy to assist you!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

CCD Events
Tuesday, Aug. 26; Sept. 2, 9, 16
CCD Counselor Drop-By Table
(in front of Cafeteria)
5:00–8:00pm

Sunday, Sept. 7
CCD/PILC Upper Level Orientation
P-T Students (C-201): 2:30–3:30pm
F-T Students (Moot Court Room):
4:15–5:15pm

Monday, Sept. 22
Professionalism During the Interview Process -
Presentation by Stuart Smith,
Director of Recruitment, NYC Law Department
(C-202)
5:15–6:00pm

Monday, Sept. 22
Evening Student Orientation
(Moot Court Room)
7:30–8:30pm

Tuesday, Sept. 22
PMF, Fulbright & Other Fellowships Presentation
(CCD, A-207)
5:00–6:00pm

Public Interest Events
Thursday, Aug. 28
Public Interest
Career Reception
(NYC Bar Association)
6:00–8:30pm

Monday, Sept. 8
Summer Public Interest
Experience Get-Together
(C-02)
12:30–2:00pm &
7:30–8:30pm