LEGAL CAREERS IN POLITICS, POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

There is no escaping the role of a legal background in a political career. Both candidates on the Democratic Presidential ticket, for example, are lawyers. And even though you need not have gone to law school to be a successful politician, at the Federal level, 59 Senators (59%) and 174 Representatives (40%) in the 110th Congress, "self-report as having earned a JD, LLB, or otherwise identified themselves as a lawyer/attorney by profession." See ABA Charts of Lawyer-Legislators in Congress, available at http://www.abanet.org/poladv/publications.shtml.

And in government generally, there are as many potential career paths for a lawyer as there are in the private sector. Pace Law School graduates have pursued avenues from an environmental enforcement attorney in the Department of Justice or a State Attorney General’s Office, to a policy wonk in Washington, DC, a county executive or a city corporation counsel. And Class of 2007 graduate Kieran Michael Lalor is currently running for Congress in New York’s 19th Congressional District. See http://kml2008.com/home.htm.

In this issue we profile recent grads and their involvement in politics and public policy as well as give you a taste of the many career paths in Federal, State and local governments. Be sure to attend our lunch series on “Careers in Government” and feel free to stop by the Center for Career Development to pick up resources and speak with a counselor about what career path is best for you.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Two recent grads, Ryan Naples (‘08) and Alexandra Hankovsky (‘08) have been involved in politics these past few months in very different ways.

Ryan recently started as New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo’s Deputy Finance Director, assisting his New York Finance Director and his National Finance Director. He is officially working for Cuomo’s re-election political action committee called Andrew Cuomo 2010. He is responsible for ensuring that the Attorney General’s fundraising activities comply with state election law. He also handles political outreach for the Attorney General and ensures that his campaign’s fundraising events are a success.

Alexandra is also working behind the scenes in politics these days. She emailed us Continued on Back Cover.
**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

If you missed the October 20 lunch presentation about federal government careers, check out NALP’s 2008-2009 Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide (available in the CCD and online at [http://www.psllawnet.org/uploads/2008-2009_FLEOG_FINAL_PDF.pdf](http://www.psllawnet.org/uploads/2008-2009_FLEOG_FINAL_PDF.pdf)). The Guide provides an overview of the federal government hiring process for attorneys and law students and includes resources to use in your search for a permanent position or internship. You may also view a video of the program featuring Professor Jeffrey Miller, who spent a decade at the EPA, and Kay Lackey, Co-Head of the Enforcement Division and Associate Regional Director of the Securities & Exchange Commission’s (SEC) NE Region.

The federal government employs attorneys in as many settings and practice areas as the private sector including environmental, civil rights, tax, contracts, criminal, international, securities, labor and employment, health, communications, and real property law. Federal government attorneys perform investigations, enforcement, regulatory and policy work and litigation. There are legislative branch positions and nontraditional government positions in areas such as public policy, management and administration.

Attorneys may work for the federal government in executive branch agencies such as the EPA or FDA, or in an independent federal agency, such as the SEC. Federal agencies are headquartered in Washington, DC and maintain regional branch offices. These agencies employ attorneys to handle legal aspects of the agency work including developing regulations, monitoring compliance, drafting legislation, representing agencies at administrative hearings, enforcement (in the case of the SEC), and assisting the Department of Justice (DOJ) in litigation.

The DOJ, headed by the US Attorney General, employs many attorneys in its several divisions to develop and enforce federal legislation and handle litigation on national issues. US Attorneys are federal prosecutors representing the federal government in each of the federal judicial districts. The DOJ and many federal agencies use “Honors” programs to hire entry-level attorneys and summer interns. Several Pace Law students have been hired through these programs. Visit the agency website or contact the CCD for more information.

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

State governments employ attorneys in legal positions analogous to their federal counterparts.

A State Attorney General’s Offices typically advises the Executive Branch of state government, defends actions and proceedings on behalf of the state, and enforces the legal rights of state citizens in areas including, among others, civil rights, consumer rights, public health and protection of the environment and natural resources.

The New York Attorney General’s Office employs over 650 Assistant Attorneys General and over 2000 other employees in locations across New York State. Its Department of Law is divided into five major divisions: Appeals and Opinions, State Counsel, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, and Social Justice.

Numerous opportunities for lawyers are also available in field-specific state agencies and departments. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of General Counsel, for example, has a Central Office in Albany, nine regional offices, and 3 field offices.

Those wishing to obtain a legal position in New York State government may also complete a NYS Department of Civil Service Exam (“education and experience” questionnaire). Applicant qualifications will then be matched against criteria for openings.
Local/Municipal Government

There are a myriad of opportunities for law students and lawyers in local government.

Pace Law School alumni are very well placed in local governments. For example, the office of Rockland County Executive is held by C. Scott Vanderhoef ('81); Westchester County Attorney, Charlene Indelicato ('79); Putnam County Deputy County Attorney, Alessandro Mazzotta ('02); Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Yonkers, Mark Blanchard ('03); and Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of New Rochelle, Kathleen Gill ('93).

We also have a very well established pipeline with the New York City Law Department (2 members of the Class of 2008 and 3 from the Class of 2007) and have Pace Law School grads in every District Attorney's office within commuting distance from Pace Law School (10 members so far from the Class of 2008 and 15 members from the Class of 2007 went to a DA's office after graduation).

Students can also intern with the Pace Municipal Law Resource Center, which assists local governments, non-profits and health care organizations in solving legal and organizational problems. The Center provides legal research and consulting services in areas such as the drafting of municipal legislation. Its director, Lester D. Steinman, Esq., has an extensive background counseling local governments on zoning, land use and municipal matters.

If you missed the presentation on Monday, October 27 on “How to Prepare for your Interview and Career with a District Attorney's Office," you can borrow the DVD from our office. You should also speak with a career counselor and review our Career Guide to District Attorneys’ Offices available on the Career Development website or in our office.

Please join us at 12:30pm, Thursday, November 6 (Room A-202) for a lunchtime panel presentation on legal opportunities in local county, town, city and municipal governments. We will hear from representatives of various county attorneys' offices, a local town justice and a current LL.M. student who practiced for over a decade in several departments of the NYC government.

Public Policy: Making Law

Public policy tends to be centered where any government is headquartered: Washington, DC for federal policy, Albany, for New York State, and even each town center for local government.

There are a variety of avenues for entering this field, beginning as early as college and continuing through law school. Every United States Congressman and Senator has an office in Washington, DC as well as a local office in his or her home jurisdiction. All of these offices accept summer and term-time interns. On the federal, state, city, and local levels the world of public policy has a calendar and language unto itself and many people who enter that world “catch the bug” and never leave. Larger political offices have staffers who specialize in any one of a number of specialties, ranging from environmental legislation to women’s issues to health care policy. Lawyers can play almost any role on a politician’s staff but the legal training is probably most used in drafting legislation. One of the best ways to land a permanent position in a politician’s office is by volunteering on the campaign.

In addition to working within the government, many lawyers work in organizations that work to influence legislation. Although often characterized as “special interests” in the media, these organizations often provide a voice to segments of the population who otherwise would not exert any influence on lawmakers. Often policy makers rely on such organizations for their expertise and partner with them in crafting legislation. For example, victims’ rights groups collaborated with State legislators in drafting the recently passed Anti-Human Trafficking legislation in New York State that for the first time imposes felony-level criminal penalties for those convicted of human trafficking.

“Just about any lawyer in private practice who had a chance to serve in high office would. If they say no, they're kidding. I'm glad of the state experience I'm getting. I've learned a great deal. It's very broadening, this insight into how government works and how people function. What makes it, them, tick. It can only make me a better man, a better lawyer - or a better public servant.”

— Bill Goldberg, Legal Adviser to former Governor of Illinois ('73-'77), Dan Walker
Behind the Scenes—Continued from Front Cover

about what she has been doing since the July Bar Exam. She is now in Cleveland, OH, where she has been since the beginning of October, and will remain until after Election Day. She has been working diligently with the Obama Campaign for Change’s Voter Protection team, where attorneys from all fields of law, and all around the country, have joined together to help protect the vote in what they describe as a “crucial state.”

As a member of the Voter Protection team, Alexandra has helped recruit, organize and train almost 1,500 attorneys from in and out-of-state to be Poll Observers on Election Day. These attorneys will be Poll Observers in Cuyahoga County, the most important county to the Obama Campaign in this election due to of the volume of registered democrats and the voter suppression problems in recent history. The Poll Observers play a crucial role as the eyes and ears at the polls. They focus on trouble-shooting, educating voters, eliminating anything that could lead to voter dissuasion or intimidation, and ensuring that every legal vote is counted.

Alexandra describes the energy level of the community and volunteers as being extraordinary. The people she is working with “are the most dedicated I have ever met, helping to make this experience one of the most memorable of my life.” It took perseverance to get this job, and many early mornings and late nights to do it well, but at the end of this effort she knows that she will have made a difference in this outcome.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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<td>CCD Kick-Off Program for 1Ls (Moot Court Room)</td>
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<td>Government Legal Opportunities: Local County, Town, City and Municipal Governments (A-202)</td>
<td>Summer Work Experience Debriefing Program (Tudor Room)</td>
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