

ARIZONA ADVOCATE

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Pounding the Pavement for Summer Jobs

by Nancy Stiller, Director of Career Services

Although it may seem as if everyone around you has already secured employment for the summer, job opportunities may still be available. The key to finding such opportunities is to conduct a job search that involves a number of different strategies and approaches. Most big law firms may have made their hiring decisions, but other employers may have just begun to think about the summer.

The First Steps

Most people who are hired have a fairly concrete conception of their abilities, skills, and goals. Begin with a realistic self-assessment. Think about your background, your undergraduate years, and your law school experience. Make a list of the skills you have developed. Have you had leadership, organizational, administrative, or managerial responsibilities? Did you write articles for any campus or community publications? Did you develop interpersonal skills through community service? What were your major achievements?

Once your list of skills is defined, the next step is to think about an assessment of the kinds of jobs that may be available to you. Think about your own strengths, limitations, and job parameters. Where, geographically, are you willing to work? What are your salary expectations and needs? Are there job tasks or responsibilities that you are unwilling or unable to complete? Students who ask themselves these questions may be able to broaden their perception of summer job opportunities. For instance, if you have been thinking only about full-time work in a law firm, you may not realize that short-term legal research opportunities and part-time volunteer positions exist. Although these options may seem like compromises, they often become experiences ripe with helpful contacts for future employment.

By now, most students have put together their resumes. If you have not completed this necessary task, several helpful resources are available. You can stop by the Career Services Office to pick up the *Placement Handbook* which contains examples of law students' resumes or look through our books and articles that offer step-by-step instructions for writing an effective resume.

Job Search Strategies

When most students think about conducting a job search, they envision sending out as many cover letters and resumes to as many employers as possible. Blanketing a geographic region with your application materials is sometimes effective, but if you send out 100 letters and then wait by the mailbox

for your dream job to appear, you may be out of luck.

I strongly recommend that you develop a multifaceted, persistent, and assertive approach to finding a job. Even if one strategy elicits a hopeful response, continue with the other approaches. The mistake many job searchers make is to stop the search when they get called for an interview and wait for that interviewer's decision. If that particular job falls through, the disappointment can be more intense than it would be if the individual continued seeking out other options until a job offer comes through. A combination of some or all of the following approaches is recommended:

Check the Job Board

The glass case next to the Career Services Office lists clerkship opportunities as well as permanent positions for graduates. The listings are updated daily. For more information on a clerkship listing, check the red notebook entitled "Current Clerkship Openings." Throughout the summer, listings for part-time and full-time positions are posted. Follow the stated instructions for applying to the employer.

Circulate Your Resume

Many students have successfully found a summer job by dropping off a cover letter and resume to employers in person. By taking the time to go directly to an employer's office, you are conveying your commitment to finding a job. You may have an opportunity to meet the employer and discuss your qualifications on the spot.

Use the Telephone

Attorneys are busy people. They may have hiring needs, but they may not have time to think about posting an opening. The telephone book is a helpful resource. Before calling, jot down what you want to say so that your introduction is clear and concise.

The Clinical Program

If you are interested in an unpaid, for-credit summer opportunity in a criminal prosecution agency, judicial setting, or as an intake interviewer at Southern Arizona Legal Aid, see Professor Silverman. The clinical program offers wonderful opportunities to work with attorneys and gain practical experience.

The Career Services Office is open throughout the summer. If you're planning to stay in Tucson, make an appointment or stop by to discuss your job search efforts. We're here to help.

A Different Version of the Truth

by Jennifer Pershing

On March 8, 1990 the National Lawyer's Guild presented a very different look at the United States' invasion of Panama which occurred on December 20, 1989. The guild is a group of progressive lawyers which was originally formed as an alternative to the American Bar Association and who focuses mainly on human and civil rights. Their Central American Task Force was sent to Panama on a fact-finding mission about a month and a half after the invasion in order to determine whether the U.S. was correctly reporting the news regarding the invasion. The presentation included pictures and descriptions of what they found there and what the people of Panama told them. The following paragraphs give a summary of these findings.

Although official U.S. reports put the Panamanian civilian death toll at under 300, the guild's representatives found conflicting reports. A month and a half after the invasion "the smell of death" still lingered in the air of the town surrounding the PDF headquarters where the U.S. said that "only 5-10 people had died." There was no way to verify the actual number because the U.S. took control of the hospitals and the morgues immediately after the invasion. The human rights organizations in Panama put the number at 2,000 to 3,000 and the Catholic Church said it could verify 645 deaths. A volunteer at one hospital in Panama said that 500 had died there while the official figure for the hospital was 71.

The official figure at one of the seven mass graves left by the U.S. was 65 bodies but an unofficial gravedigger said there were many more than that.

When the U.S. took control of Panama they were described as an "intimidating occupying force" - on December 21 our own *Arizona Republic* described the invasion as the "largest military operation since Vietnam." The guild reported that U.S. troops captured and incarcerated 4,800 people who were believed to be Noriega supporters. Although supposedly acting on authority from a list supplied by the U.S.-backed Endara government, one U.S. soldier described very unique arrest techniques. He told the representatives that they would go house to house looking for Noriega loyalists who were identified as people with short haircuts, who did not applaud the American soldiers or who gave them dirty looks. Many of those arrested were soon released because the Endara government did not know who they were. The house to house searches continued while the task force was in Panama. Although search warrants are required by Panamanian law, the U.S. was acting without them, saying they considered the "war conditions" to justify this disregard.

The town which housed the headquarters of the PDF was the hardest hit and sustained tremendous damage. The guild reported that there were 16,000 refugees from this area alone. Although the refugees were said to

have been kept in "primitive conditions," the U.S. made sure that the children attended the "Sunrise on Democracy" classes which were provided.

The most troubling issue discussed at the presentation concerned the justifications for the invasion and the continued occupation. On the day of the invasion *The Arizona Republic* credited White House Spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, with three justifications for the invasion: safeguarding American lives; upholding U.S. rights under the Panama Canal Treaty; and apprehending Noriega as a drug trafficker. Fitzwater saw the U.S. as finally getting the chance to put an end to the "pattern of harassment and threats going back for more than a year." Disturbed by the continuing illegal searches, seizures and what they saw as violations of international law, the guild's task force questioned America's Southern Command in Panama regarding their authority to continue. What they were told could serve as the basis for the legal invasion of numerous other countries whenever the U.S. government sees fit. Southern Command explained that they were justified in their actions because of the "international law of war." "What war?" you may ask . . . well, the "war on drugs," of course.

International Environmental Attorney Joins Faculty

by Stephen Wetherell

Next year the College of Law will add to its ranks of outstanding professors an international and environmental law professor. Lakshman D. Guruswamy, who is currently a tenured member of the Faculty of Law at the University of Durham in the United Kingdom and a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Iowa, will be continuing his legal teachings here next August.

Professor Guruswamy's credentials include an LL.B. which he received in 1962 in Sri Lanka, and a Ph.D. in law from the University of Durham, which he received in 1978. In the interim, between earning his graduate and

post-graduate degrees, Professor Guruswamy practiced in Sri Lanka as both a barrister in private practice and for the Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Department. He embarked on a teaching career, remaining at the University of Durham, after earning his Ph.D. In 1984 he was named a Visiting Fellow to Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge and he joined the faculty at the University of Iowa as a Visiting Professor of Law in 1987. Among the courses he has taught are Environmental Law, International Law, Comparative Administrative and Environmental Law, Water Law, and Comparative Law. Next year for the College of Law, he is scheduled to teach Public

International Law, International Environmental Law, Energy/Natural Resources, and Environmental Law.

Professor Guruswamy brings with him extensive experience in international and environmental law as well as some very impressive writing credentials. Professor Guruswamy's multitude of legal writings includes a book on legal controls on land-based sea pollution, chapters in several books on protection from aquatic pollution and air pollution, and over a dozen articles in legal and environmental journals on environmental protection and regulation. Recently he finished an article on International Environmental Law, and two more articles are currently in progress.

Death of an Idealist

It seems like a very long time ago that I entered law school. In reality, it has been less than two years. In those two years, I have both learned more and aged more than in any previous two-year period of my life. That is the magic of law school. More magical than that, however, is conjuring up the strength to hold on for the third and final year.

If law school were simply attending classes and taking exams, it might be tolerable. But this is not the function of a law school. Rather, law school is a proving ground for the next generation of people who will shape society as we know it: Lawyers. Law school is designed, perhaps unconsciously, to weed out the idealist, the dreamer, the lover. These people, though an important part of generations past, cannot seem to compete with the cynic or the pragmatist in the legal profession of today. The vision of an attorney as professional counselor and advisor, or as savior of lost souls, takes a back seat to billable hours and intense competition for clients. Given these realities of practice, it is a rare person who can survive law school with some measure of idealism intact.

The first few days of law school are heady ones indeed, filled with new concepts and ideas. The fountain of knowledge seems endless. We try to sort out our *Res Ipsa Loquitur* from our *Corpus Juris Secundum*s. Professors give us volumes of case law which are supposed to instill in us some "rule of law" based on "precedent," some overarching feeling of what is "just." For a few lucky students, this idealistic vision of the law is quickly smashed; for others, the cruel realization never comes. For most of us, the realization that law is but a game comes slowly and painfully. We try, in vain, to reconcile cases with each other which have no business being reconciled. We hope that the courts will provide us with some measure of predictability so we won't appear completely useless. It will simply not do for us to tell our client that the outcome of the case rests on what the judge had for breakfast. But sometimes, this seems to be the only explanation for the irrational manner in which courts settle the rights of the litigants.

In order for us to play this game well, law school attempts to ingrain in us some notion of the real world we will face. And this education occurs not only in the classroom, but in the rest of the Law College. The amorphous Honor Code teaches us how the criminal judicial system works by turning us all into involuntary informants on our fellow students. Requesting any type of final exam schedule change opens us up to oral arguments, petitions to the Administration, and a possible written opinion. Getting financial aid is similar to asking the court for reasonable attorney's fees: what is reasonable to the court is often barely enough to cover expenses.

Law school enables us to find out many things about our fellow human. We tolerate endless abuse from those people we don't like, for we may end up needing them for a favor when we get into practice. The competition for employment is so intense that we cannot even enjoy a congratulatory comment from another law student once we do get a job, for we wonder if the comment is sincere. We discover the outer boundaries of our friends' tolerance and our loved ones' compassion for us. Have we become more argumentative? Have we become less sensitive? Law school anesthetizes us from these feelings, because we are surrounded by people who act the same way we do. We often fail to realize the extent to which we are becoming alienated from the rest of the world.

Perhaps most importantly, though, Law school teaches us about ourselves. It teaches us exactly what the limits of our intellectual endurance are. It teaches us how many sleepless nights in a row we can withstand. We learn what it means to be truly tired – not simply end-of-the-day tired, but sick and tired. The fatigue is not only of the body, but of the soul. Some call it burn-out; others have more explicit words for the feeling. What law school fails to teach us, however, is how to combat this ever-encroaching gloom.

What makes the entire journey through law school so treacherous is the fact that we are almost powerless to change the process. As first-year students, we are truly scared to death, and thus we fear change. We assume that since there are so many lawyers in the world, the law school system must work, and we say nothing. As second-year students, we are worked to death. We spend so much time correcting the mistakes we made as first-years and so much time preparing to enjoy the third year, we forget the changes we so valiantly wanted to effect when we first came to law school. And as third-year students, we are bored to death. We realize that we have such a short time left in the law school process that it would be pointless to stand up and speak our minds. We just want to serve our time quietly and enjoy all the work we did as second years, if indeed we did any.

A long, strange trip it has been, this law school experience. Fortunately, our minds tend to forget painful experiences, and we will remember the good times we had in law school. We learn in law school to look at both sides of an issue and to be able to argue either side persuasively. Thus some day, we will smile when we look back at law school, for we will subconsciously argue to the court of our mind that it wasn't so bad after all. And that is the one way we will triumph over this three-year nightmare.

The College of Law Gets a New Assistant Dean

by Kathryn A. Pierce

The University of Arizona College of Law is excited to introduce Dr. Willie M.J. Curtis as the new Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. As many of you are aware, Assistant Dean Terry Holbert has been holding this position alone since September, 1989. Dean Sullivan had searched diligently until the discovery of Dr. Curtis.

Dr. Curtis is currently concluding six months as a prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office for the State of California. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Curtis is returning to Tucson after fifteen years. She received her B.A. in Psychology, M.A. in Clinical Psychology, and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Curtis brings diversity to the administration by being our first African-American administrator. As Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, she will work with the student organizations in planning their activities, as well as counseling students. The counseling aspect of the position is a new one here at the College of Law. In addition to her responsibilities as Assistant Dean, Dr. Curtis will be supervising the 38-E criminal prosecution clinical practice program.

The *Arizona Advocate* would like to extend its congratulations to the following people:

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LEXIS Now Available at Home!

Do you lie awake at night wondering what exactly the Supreme Court held in *Mapp v. Ohio*? Do you wish the library was open all night so you could find out and get back to sleep? The library is now as close as your computer. LEXIS has made its communications software available to law students for free home use. The software is available for both IBM-compatible machines and for the Apple Macintosh. A modem is necessary to access the LEXIS network.

The software can be checked out for home use by seeing Carol Elliot in the library. Along with the software and the LEXIS manual, students will receive use of the library's LEXIS password. And since the telephone numbers for accessing LEXIS are local, use of LEXIS at home costs nothing. For those students who have not discovered the power of LEXIS, this home-use opportunity is an invitation to explore LEXIS at their leisure. And for those students familiar with LEXIS, there's no place like home to use it.

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