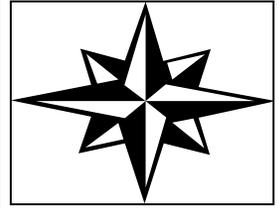


SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISORS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,
Welcome SAPLA members. I hope all of you who were able to attend PLANC's conference in June in Washington D.C. enjoyed it as much as me. As a program chair, I can assure you that it took an incredible amount of time and effort to plan and execute the very successful conference. I want to send a special thanks to Rodia Vance, Wendy McMillan, and Gerald Wilson for all of their hard work in making the PLANC conference such a success.

If you attended the conference, there was an abundance of discussion regarding how the legal profession is changing. As of the date of this letter, potential law students face a daunting future. Seizing

this opportunity, law schools are offering potential students a variety of different perspectives of the law school experience. As prelaw advisors, we have an obligation to our students to stay abreast of the myriad changes taking place in law school admissions and the legal profession. To assist SAPLA members in this regard, Rodia Vance is working on a series of webinars, free for our members that will allow you to attend from the comfort of your own office.

The SAPLA board is already in the planning process for our October 2013 Atlanta conference. We know that times are changing, but from my perspective, it is important to embrace these changes as opportunities.

With that in mind, please plan on attending our Atlanta conference next year. More details to follow.

Finally, be sure to follow SAPLA on Facebook and plan on attending those webinars; they will be very informative.

On behalf of the SAPLA board, thank you for your continued support. We value your input, so if there are issues that you believe that we, as an organization, need to address, let us hear from you!

*Wendy Vonnegut,
J.D.*

President, Southern Assn. of Pre-Law Advisors

SAPLA

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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISORS

WELCOME NEW SAPLA BOARD MEMBERS!

Cathy Clutter, Communications Coordinator

Cathy joined the Executive Board of SAPLA as the Communications Coordinator following the PLANC conference in June. Cathy returned to the role of Pre-Law Program Director at the University of Georgia in 2011 after working on the University's extended campus programs for several years. She earned her JD from the UGA School of Law and practiced law in both Savannah and Athens. In addition to her pre-law advisor role, Cathy teaches Environmental Law courses on both the UGA campus and in study abroad programs. As Communications Coordinator, Cathy is responsible for the SAPLA newsletter and Facebook page and welcomes article suggestions, links, general law school information and anything else that you think should be shared with our SAPLA membership.

Kimberly Hutson, Diversity Outreach Coordinator

Kim joined the Executive Board of SAPLA as the Diversity Outreach Coordinator following the PLANC conference in June. A member of SAPLA since 2005, Kim earned an MS in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio and her JD from Washington University in St. Louis. Since 2004, Kim has been an Assistant Professor in the Political Science department, concentrating on Constitutional Law and Supreme Court cases, and the Pre-Law Advisor at Norfolk State University, a HBCU. Prior to working at the university, she practiced law in Missouri and Illinois. Kim is excited to work on increasing the outreach to and participation in SAPLA by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of the southeast.

PLANC CONFERENCE JUNE 13-15, 2012

The national PLANC conference held this summer in Washington, D.C. was a tremendous success – well-attended by pre-law advisors and law school representatives from across the country and offering a wealth of information for both new and experienced pre-law advisors. Though a cautionary note regarding the legal job market and law school debt was interwoven throughout the majority of the sessions, there was also a strong sense of realistic optimism about the state of legal education and the legal profession itself. Law schools are expanding their skills based training curriculum through clinical programs, externships, and mentoring programs. as well as offering business management courses for those students interested in starting or joining a solo or small practice. Technology – often seen as a source of unintended displacement of attor-

neys – was also presented as the basis for greater efficiency in law schools and law practices, and even the basis for a new practice area for lawyers in statistical modeling and predictions of strategy and success in ongoing litigation.

Detailed sessions provided information on current and anticipated changes in student financial aid, particularly in respect to Income Based Repayment (IBR) models. The personal statement workshop gave pre-law advisors additional insight into what works and what does not from the perspective of law school admissions. Rodia Vance identified resources for more comprehensive career counseling of pre-law students, as we explore whether law school is a good fit for our students. Other panel discussions and workshops offered a vast array of additional information, all of which will aid pre-law advisors in our discussions with our students.

Most importantly, however, PLANC offered an unparalleled opportunity for pre-law advisors to meet their counterparts at other institutions along with numerous law school admissions representatives. It is this networking and building of relationships which enable us to perform our jobs best. The ability to pick up the phone, send an email, or Facebook post to ask a question, seek advice, make the connection between a student and the perfect “fit” law school is what ensures success for both us and our students. The 2012 PLANC conference was thus integral to our profession.

Much of the material above was gathered from the notes of Scottie McMullen, Pre-Law Advisor at VCU.

TOP 10 FAQs ABOUT MISCONDUCT AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

1. What constitutes misconduct or an irregularity?

The submission, even by mistake, as part of the law school admission process of any information that is false, inconsistent, or misleading, or the omission of information that may result in a false or misleading conclusion, or the violation of any regulation governing the law school admission process, including any violation of LSAT test center regulations.

2. What is the difference between misconduct and an irregularity?

There is no difference. These charges are used simultaneously because intent is not an element in the procedure and is not considered in the findings.

3. What kinds of acts or omissions are covered under misconduct or an irregularity?

Anything under the scope of the admissions process including the LSAT, the Credential Assembly Service, and first-year, transfer, and visiting admissions.

4. What are the most frequent types of allegations of misconduct or an irregularity?

Misrepresentation of academic record; misrepresentation of information on law school applications; altered, non-authentic, or unauthorized letters of recommendation; misrepresentation of disciplinary record; violation of LSAT testing regulations; failure to report prior law school matriculation.

5. What is the process if an allegation(s) of misconduct or an irregularity is leveled against a candidate?

The candidate will be issued a charge letter detailing the allegation(s) from LSAC which will also invite them to respond to the allegation(s) and give them the option to request a telephonic hearing.

6. What determinations can be made?

If no determination of misconduct or an irregularity is found, only the candidate and the initiating party of the charge are notified. If a determination of misconduct or an irregularity is found, the candidate, the initiating party of the charge, all law schools to which the candidate has applied, will subsequently apply, or has matriculated, and any appropriate bar associations are notified.

7. If misconduct or an irregularity is found, will this decision prevent the candidate from getting into law school or a bar association?

No recommendation is made to any law school or bar association regarding how the charge of misconduct or an irregularity should affect the outcome of a law school or bar admissions decision. Each individual law school or bar association chooses how they want to interpret the findings and how it may or may not affect their admissions decisions.

8. Does the candidate need to inform a law school they have ap-

plied to of changes to their application if those changes occurred after they submitted their application?

Yes. By keeping those law schools they have applied to abreast of any changes to the information they submitted during the application process as they occur, the candidate could avoid an allegation of misconduct or an irregularity.

9. Why am I being accused of misconduct or an irregularity if I simply made an honest mistake on my application?

Intent is not an element in the procedure and is not considered in the findings. The candidate is expected to provide true and accurate information in their application materials and adhere to all regulations.

10. What can a candidate do to avoid committing misconduct or an irregularity?

Review carefully and adhere to all instructions given for LSAT administrations and application materials.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To get more detailed information on the Misconduct and Irregularities policy, please go to <http://www.lsac.org/id/apply/misconduct-and-irregularities.asp>.



TRUTH OR DARE: THE NEW EMPLOYMENT MARKET

Here's a question for you: Given the dramatic changes in the entry-level legal employment market that we have lived through since 2009, how should we be describing employment prospects to prospective law school students?

It is a million dollar question. Actually, it is probably more like a \$4 billion question. That is the figure that one journalist recently calculated as the amount of money that ABA-approved law schools collect in fees and tuition every year. And as law schools continue to sell the product that is an American legal education, the question about what kind of job market the roughly 40,000 annual graduates of U.S. law schools will face is an increasingly important one.

I have been surprised recently that a number of law schools, through their dean or their office of career services, have called on NALP generally and on me specifically to develop a more positive message about the entry-level job market. One request went so far as to urge me to describe the entry-level legal employment market as good. Ah, if wishing would only make it so.

NALP has not shied away from celebrating the strength of the entry-level legal employment market when it has been strong. See for instance the collection of NALP press release headlines from 2007 forward collected in the sidebar below. When the news is good, NALP has been the first to shout it from the mountain tops, and when the market weakens, NALP research is among the first to document that.

The truth is that no one knows what the entry-level legal employment market will look like for members of the Classes of 2016 and 2017, the graduating classes for those students who are just now taking the LSAT or thinking about applying to law school. But one thing we know for sure is that it will be different, and probably dramatically so, than it was for the Classes of 2006 and 2007.

The strength of the NALP model for describing the legal employment market is that it is research-based. Historically, NALP has been able to describe with great precision what exactly the employment market for any given graduating class looked like nine months after graduation. So we know, for instance, that fewer than half of the members of the Class of 2011 found jobs in private practice, just over 65% of the class found jobs that required bar passage, and the median starting salary for the class fell 17% from that for the Class of 2009 (and the median private practice salary fell 35% from that of the Class of 2009). Taken together, those markers and others for the Class of 2011 describe the weakest entry-level job market that NALP has measured in nearly 40 years of doing this work.

We also know that the large law firm hiring model is different than it was before the recession, and is not likely ever going to look like it did in the last years before the economic collapse. That is because the business environment for large law firms has changed in significant ways that are likely to be permanent, or at least it has changed because of trends that are not likely to reverse themselves.

I recently had the good fortune to hear Jim Jones speak again, this time at the International Legal Technology Association conference here in DC. He identified three changes that he thinks mark a tipping point for the U.S. legal services market. The first is a shift from what had for countless years been a seller's market to a buyer's market for legal services. That means that most of the critical business decisions about the relationship between clients and their law firms that used to be made by law firms are now made by client corporations. According to Jones that shift in the balance of power is not likely to reverse itself even if the U.S. economy improves significantly.

The other two major developments are the disaggregation of legal services and the drift toward alternative fee arrangements. Where client corporations traditionally awarded work on an entire matter to a law firm, as a result of developments in technology and information science and the growth of sophisticated legal process outsourcers, as well as lessons learned from modern management science, clients are now breaking up legal matters and sending the different pieces to the lowest cost provider, meaning traditional law firms are left with only part of the work — and even then as much as 15% of that work (soon to be closer to 30% according to Jones) is alternative fee or fee-capped work.

This is a long way of saying that law firms have to manage costs more aggressively and find less expensive ways to deliver legal services, which, by the way, they are learning to do more and more effectively. But it means that they are not hiring large groups of summer associates and new law school graduates. Starting salaries of \$160,000 accounted for just 14% of the reported salaries for the Class of 2011, compared with 25% of the reported salaries for the Class of 2009.

It is hard to come to grips with change of that magnitude. As I try to make sense of the words and actions of many of those involved in legal education and the legal profession generally, I am reminded of Kübler-Ross's five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. My sense is that there are quite a few people in law schools, law firms, and other legal services settings around the country who have yet to reach acceptance.

So what is the truth? What do you tell

TRUTH OR DARE: THE NEW EMPLOYMENT MARKET (continued)

law school prospects about the job market and their likely employment prospects? A good litmus test for you might be trying to figure out what you would tell your best friend's daughter or son when they ask you if they should go to law school. This is what I say: An American legal education is still among the very best graduate programs you can pursue. It is rigorous, and it is rewarding, and it is recognized the world over as the gold standard in legal education. But, you should borrow as little as possible to get your law degree, and you should think about going to the school where *you* can be most highly ranked rather than to the *school* that is most highly ranked.

You should enroll in law school understanding that the legal employment market is undergoing a period of profound change, and there is likely to be some uncertainty surrounding the job

market when you graduate. The traditional pathways to a legal career are changing, and it is a more entrepreneurial job market than it used to be.

It will be important to get practical experience while you are in law school, even if that means volunteering during your summers, and it may even mean volunteering for a period of time after you graduate. Increasingly law grads string several part-time or temporary jobs together until they land their first full-time job.

Finally, you should not count on getting a job at a big law firm that pays \$160,000 a year, even if you are at the top of your class. Those jobs are an increasingly small part of the pie, and you are much more likely to make \$45,000 to \$60,000 when you graduate than you are \$160,000. Still, a legal education can be a great pathway to a rewarding, chal-

lenging career, and can provide access to leadership opportunities throughout your life, whether they are in business, government, public service, or with a law firm.

It may not be a persuasive argument for a young person these days, but it has the virtue of being truthful, and that, I dare say, is the best that we can do.

(Source: NALP Bulletin, October 2012, Author: James G. Leipold)

THE DREAM LIVES ON: NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN LEGAL EDUCATION SAPLA CONFERENCE — FALL 2013

The SAPLA Executive Board met in Charleston in September to begin the planning for SAPLA's conference to be held in Fall of 2013. As the first SAPLA-only professional conference to be held in over four years (PLANC and joint conferences being held in the intervening years), the SAPLA Board is excited to develop a program that will be tailored to its membership.

Chaired by Rodia Vance and Wendy McMillan, the SAPLA conference will be held in Atlanta from October 30, 2013 – November 1, 2013, immediately preceding the LSAC Atlanta Law School Forum on November 2, 2013. A wide variety of panel discussions will be presented along with a plenary session addressing financial aid. All SAPLA members are encouraged to offer submissions on panel topics, and a formal request for submissions will be sent out in January, 2013.

The conference will also include visits to all five Georgia law schools, including Emory, Georgia State, Atlanta's John Marshall, Mercer, and the University of Georgia.

The SAPLA Executive Board invites all current and prospective SAPLA members to mark your calendar for this event, as the Conference will provide pre-law advisors with a wide variety of information on the "ins and outs" of pre-law advising, the opportunity to visit five law schools, and the venue for networking and making professional connections with your pre-law counterparts at other colleges and universities. More details will be provided in the coming months, so check your inbox for SAPLA correspondence.

The SAPLA Executive Board



IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

- **December 1, 2012**—December LSAT Administration
- **February 13, 2013**—February LSAT Administration
- **June 10, 2013**—June LSAT Administration
- **October 30-November 1, 2013**— **SAPLA Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.** Plan to attend the next SAPLA conference in Atlanta, GA! A wide variety of panel discussions will be presented along with a plenary session addressing financial aid. All SAPLA members are encouraged to offer submissions on panel topics, and a formal request for submissions will be sent out in January, 2013.
- **Atlanta LSAC Law School Forum**— November 2, 2013
- **New Tools for the Trade:** If any pre-law advisor does not have a user name and password to log on to the advisors-only area of www.lisac.org, email pre-law@lisac.org for assistance.
- **Are you having a law school fair or professional and graduate school fair on your campus?** Have you picked your date? Do you know the event dates of other schools in your area so you can schedule consecutive events? Coordinating local events in close proximity to each other helps admissions officers attend more events at lower costs, and can increase attendance of law schools at your fairs! Use the LSAC Recruitment Calendar (<http://www.lisac.org/Choosing/recruitment-calendar.asp>) to register your campus event and to learn more about other events in your region.



SAPLA

**Southern Association of Pre Law Advisors
Membership Form
Membership Dues 2012-2013**

Name: _____

Position: _____

Title: _____

Institution: _____

Law School Representative

Primary Pre-Law Advisor at your institution:

- If yes, is your contact information currently available and up-to-date with the Law School Admission Council? If no, please contact: Tracy Beck, tbeck@lsac.org

Secondary Pre-Law Advisor at your institution:

- Those who serve in this role at an institution are not listed in the Official Pre Law Directory. We would like to have our membership lists, as current and complete, as possible, so please complete this form and send to the SAPLA Treasurer.

Address: _____

Area code and Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Dues: Please check the appropriate category:

\$50.00— Pre Law Advisor

\$50.00— Law School &/or Associate Membership

Receive from SAPLA: the NAPLA/SAPLA Book of Law School Lists, the SAPLA Pre-Law Advisers Handbook and the SAPLA Newsletter.

Make Checks payable to SAPLA
Federal Tax ID Number: SAPLA Federal Tax I.D. # 54-0505-965

Complete the form and mail or fax form to:
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Phone: 804.289.8189/Fax: 804.287.6516