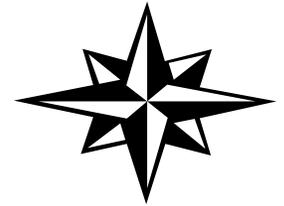


SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SAPLA

It has been a privilege to serve as an officer within this organization now for almost eight years and I look forward to working with all the executive officers in my next capacity, as the ex-officio. I still remember when Gerald Wilson asked me, in Atlanta, to consider the position of 2nd Vice President during the first conference I had been able to attend in my role as NC State's Pre-Law Adviser. He assured me that the duties were something I could handle. "All you have to do is raise money" he said I just had to ask people for money, or "sponsorships" to help support the conferences. At the time little did he know that my track record as a Girl Scout, was being unable to even sell cookies to my neighbors. I was "thrown" into the role for our next conference and the experience allowed me to begin getting to know individuals at a variety of law schools and a number of other pre-law advisers and become comfortable asking for support for a great cause, our organization.

From the beginning it has been my good fortune to have the help of people who became my mentors: Nyota Tucker, Gerald Wilson, Melanie Nutt, and Dennis Shields, then the Associate Dean of Admissions at Duke, and almost every other law school admissions officer in North Carolina, available whenever I needed help, and that was often. They were followed by many members from other organizations and the ability to attend conferences to continue learning. A good message here to any newcomers is never hesitate to ask for help or guidance. For a "few" years now my life has included the spirit and action of volunteering. This began as a JANGO in the Eighth grade with the Army Navy Hospital in Be-

thesda, Maryland and has essentially never stopped. This causes me often finding myself saying "yes" to questions like "will you serve on (fill in the blank)." This participation, and helping where it was needed, opened even more doors in getting to know a broader range of pre-law advisers and law schools. I continue to find it necessary to ask questions, most of us do, and there are many places to seek this guidance, so never hesitate. Also just jump in when help is needed and you will find yourself learning things you may not have been able to otherwise.

To review what has happened over these now almost eight years our organization has coordinated or participated in conferences annually, at the local and national level. In Atlanta with if I recall Emory (2002), Duke Law in Durham (2003), Boston (2004), the tragedy of Katrina altered our plans with SWAPLA for joint conference in New Orleans (2005), but we were able to coordinate with St. Thomas in Miami, Florida (2006), Chapel Hill and Durham with the two North Carolina public institutions one an Historically Black Institution (HBCU) a first for SAPLA, The University of North Carolina and North Carolina Central, Schools of Law (2007), Las Vegas (2008) and this summer a joint conference with NAPLA in Durham with Duke Law as our sponsor. Each of these opportunities has afforded me even more chances to "stretch" what I knew, and develop new sets of skills that are useful in all that I do.

The organization invested in web support and a new website was created, by Matthew Rust from NC State. It was set up in such a way that I can now maintain it with some support

from him but am still learning here. The newsletter under the new leadership and guidance of Tyra Mason, your incoming President, has become consistent. Once she has finished the letter it is then loaded to the website and sent to the membership. This duty resides within the role of the First Vice President so will be transferred to Wendy Vonnegut later this summer. Administratively, at the direction of Tyra, all the officers are working on documentation of procedures. This history and process has been maintained with excellent record keeping and function over now almost twenty five years with the brainpower of Gerald Wilson and others, but we all felt it was time to move from this incredibly accurate and wonderful oral tradition to "tablets" or actual documents. The process although slow is coming along.

Additionally, to strengthen the organization, and better develop the leadership team it was decided that term limits needed to run from a one year term to two years. There were many reasons for this plan the most practical were to allow each officer to get a stronger sense of the required duties, to become involved with the PLANC board, develop relationships with each other and those in the profession, and create a stronger sense of continuity. We created the by-law change and this was passed in 2006 while we were in Miami.

The Executive Committee had always worked closely to coordinate our conferences, but had not scheduled annual meetings consistently during a year we were not hosting a conference. This past fall the board elected to develop a more strategic pattern of annual meetings in order to stay better connected and we have now held board meetings twice a year, once in Durham to plan with NAPLA for

SAPLA

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 3

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

- Mary Alice Tetro**
North Carolina State University
President
- Sharon "Nyota" Tucker**
Albany State University
Immediate Past President
Assistant Editor, Newsletter
- Tyra R. Mason**
Florida A&M University
1st Vice President
Managing Editor Newsletter
- Wendy Vonnegut**
Methodist University
2nd Vice President
- Michelle Rahman**
University of Richmond
Treasurer
- Bekki Davis**
Georgia Southern University
Secretary
- Peter Wubbenhorst**
St. Leo University
Representative at Large
- Gerald L. Wilson**
Duke University
PLANC Representative
- Mary Alice Tetro**
North Carolina State University
Web Person

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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISERS

WORST PAYING COLLEGE DEGREES



We all know money doesn't buy happiness--and that's good news for these new grads.

by Charles Purdy, Yahoo! HotJobs senior editor

There's no denying the value of a college education: According to recent U.S. Census surveys, the median salary for college grads is more than \$20,000 higher than that of people with only a high school diploma. And the unemployment rate for people with bachelor's degrees is almost half the rate for people without.

But some degrees are worth more than others, as PayScale.com shows in its 2010 report on the earning power of bachelor's degrees. No surprise, engineering degrees continue to be top earners--and (also no big shocker) you have to go pretty far down the list before you see the liberal arts well represented.

But there's more to choosing a major than comparing dollar amounts. We salute and congratulate the graduates whose interests (and hard work) have led them to the following degrees--the lowest-earning degrees on PayScale's list.

10. Drama (starting annual salary: \$35,600; mid-career annual salary: \$56,600)

Some mega-millionaire movie stars with drama degrees (Denzel Washington and Meryl Streep, for instance) may be skewing these numbers upward--for every Denzel and Meryl, there are thousands of thespians struggling to make ends meet. But you don't study drama because you want to get rich--you study drama because you love the theater. (And an abil-

ity to act comes in handy in many professions.)

9. Fine arts (starting annual salary: \$35,800; mid-career annual salary: \$56,300)

Well, it takes an artist to make a thrift-store wardrobe look like a million bucks.

8. Hospitality and tourism (starting annual salary: \$37,000; mid-career annual salary: \$54,300)

Jobs that include tips may be skewing these numbers downward--and this is an industry that looks to be on the rebound as the economy improves. Plus, the perks associated with jobs in hospitality and tourism may compensate for the comparatively low salaries--many jobs in the industry allow extensive travel (or provide considerable travel discounts).

7. Education (starting annual salary: \$36,200; mid-career annual salary: \$54,100)

For the right people, teaching is an immensely rewarding career--and it's truly a noble one. The good news is, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the employment opportunities for primary, secondary, and special education teachers are expected to grow by 14 percent in the coming decade. And there will be plenty of new opportunities in continuing education for adults, as professional skill requirements change ever more rapidly.

6. Horticulture (starting annual salary: \$37,200; mid-career annual salary: \$53,400)

It seems that a green thumb doesn't necessarily bring in the greenbacks. But when you work among flowers and plants in a nursery or garden, who needs 'em?

5. Spanish (starting annual salary: \$35,600; mid-career annual salary: \$52,600)

As an old proverb puts it, when you learn a new language, you "gain a new soul." Who could put a price on that? And certainly, knowing Spanish--the language with the second-highest number of native speakers (after Mandarin)--in addition to English opens up a world of job opportunities beyond Spanish teacher or translator (as a plus, you can

better enjoy a world of fantastic Spanish-language music, movies, and literature).

4. Music (starting annual salary: \$34,000; mid-career annual salary: \$52,000)

Hey, if being a musician were easy, everyone would do it. Some of us are guitar heroes; most of us just play the video game.

3. Theology (starting annual salary: \$34,800; mid-career annual salary: \$51,500)

This is the perfect example of a degree earned by someone who's "not in it for the money": people who choose to study theology often feel they're pursuing a higher calling (and often feel a strong desire to do good in the world, no matter the cost).

2. Elementary education (starting annual salary: \$33,000; mid-career annual salary: \$42,400)

Specializing in elementary education means a lower median salary than an education degree (number 7).

1. Social work (starting annual salary: \$33,400; mid-career annual salary: \$41,600)

They say that crime doesn't pay. As this list seems to point out, neither does helping people. So it's a good thing that many college students seem to believe that helping others is its own reward--social workers are an indispensable safety net for people who've fallen on difficult times. And the BLS reports that the outlook for opportunities in this field are favorable--particularly for social workers who work in rural areas or with senior citizens.

(Source: [PayScale](#) salary survey. Methodology: Annual pay is for bachelor's graduates without higher degrees. Typical starting salaries are for graduates with two years of experience; mid-career salaries are for graduates with 15 years of experience. PayScale also provides salary information by college; for more information, check out PayScale's [Best Colleges Report](#).)

2010-2011 FEE WAIVER PROGRAM

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) dedicates funds, through its Fee Waiver Program, to support law school access for all applicants regardless of their ability to pay for the LSAT and associated services. This program is an important component of the effort to enroll diverse law school student bodies.

The 2010-2011 LSAC Fee Waiver will cover the following LSAC services only:

- Two LSATs \$272.00
- Credential Assembly Service (LSDAS) with four reports and the letter of recommendation service \$165.00
- The Official LSAT Super Prep \$ 28.00
- Total** **\$472.00**

To be considered for a fee waiver a person must be a US citizen, US national, or permanent resident alien of the US with an Alien Registration Receipt Card. Fee waivers are intended for only the most needy applicants and this implies need in excess of that required for routine finan-

cial assistance; only those with extreme need should apply. All waivers are for a combination of services listed above. **Whether granted by a law school or requested from LSAC, the fee waiver application form and supporting documentation must be submitted to LSAC. Applicants are no longer required to submit the paper LSAC Registration Form; they can now register for LSAC services online after they receive notification that their fee waiver application has been processed.** Items received separately at LSAC may be returned unprocessed.

Applicants with questions should call the regular Candidate Services number (215) 968-1001.

Application Procedure:

The quickest and most convenient way to apply for a fee waiver through LSAC is for an applicant to complete an online application. Applicants must first establish an online account with LSAC in order to apply for a fee waiver online. Applicants will know the decision of their fee waiver application immediately since the online application will be conditionally approved or denied in "real" time.

Conditionally approved applicants may then use their fee waiver to order services online. However, the applicant will have a 45 day deadline to submit applicable tax forms, which will be reviewed by LSAC for a final decision. Applicants who are denied can appeal online.

Paper fee waiver packets are available through law schools, your university pre-law advisor (216 Lucy Moten Building) or LSAC. Applicants may also download the fee waiver packet from the LSAC website or apply online at www.LSAC.org. **Fee waiver forms must be completed in their entirety to be considered.**

2010-2011 LSAT

Test Dates

June 7, 2010

October 9, 2010

December 11, 2010

February 12, 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

the joint conference and the other in Philadelphia when the PLANC Board met in March. We also have included within this structure an additional law school representative, to enhance our perspectives and to create a broader support network.

This past year Peter Wubbenhorst, from Saint Leo University, Florida, presented his resignation as our member-at-large. During our meeting at the upcoming conference we will be reviewing individuals for that position, as well as, for the position of Second Vice-President.

Thank you once again for the care you gave me and our

family this year as we endured and survived our son's brain injury. A quick note to say he is a walking miracle, has been immersed in a local Senatorial campaign all spring and continues this work through the next primary and beyond (we hope), will return to law school in the fall, and I could not have put one foot in front of the other all year without your friendship and support.

For those who are just joining our organization you will unfortunately miss the opportunity to work directly with Melanie Nutt, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Wake Forest Law School. Melanie has been in service to

the law profession through Wake Forest Law School and SAPLA for forty years. She has told us her last month will be October 2010. There is no way to put into words the thanks due to Mel for her tireless effort in the arena of pre-law advising and law admissions.

Due to the work of my father in the Foreign Service I had to move often in the first 20 years of my life, but even with all that traveling I never enjoyed the part where we had to say "Goodbye", so I don't do it very well. It is easier this time because I am changing roles and not leaving. For those who know me well they would say "she's crazy for things Italian!" having

been fortunate to spend almost 8 years in that country over my life, so will use the Italian phrase, "Auguri, ciao, e ci vediamo" translation, "Best Wishes, goodbye and we will see one another".

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunities you have given me to serve over these past years and I look forward to seeing many of you at our conferences, and in other places, in the future.

Mary A. Tetro,
President
Southern Association
of Pre-Law Advisers

PLAN LAW SCHOOL FINANCING NOW



It's not too early for 2011 law school applicants to start thinking seriously about how they're going to pay for their J.D. degree, says Senior Law School Admissions Consultant Heike Spahn.

"Typically, most applicants begin the financial aid application process in January or February," she says.

"It's difficult to begin earlier than that because you will want your 2009 tax information to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Even if you don't plan to ask for financial aid, the FAFSA is what is used to determine your eligibility for federal loans."

Most law students use a combination of federal, institutional, and private loans to pay for their education.

Federal loans are administered through law schools, with each school deciding how much money an applicant is eligible to borrow. The amounts of money you qualify for will vary from school to school.

As Heike noted, the first step in determining your eligibility for federal loans is to complete a Free Application for Fed-

eral Student Aid (FAFSA). Many law schools also use the FAFSA to help decide how much aid to offer students in the form of institutional scholarships and grants.

The FAFSA is available online at the official website, www.fafsa.ed.gov. (The FAFSA website should not be confused with commercial websites that use similar URLs and charge users a fee to complete financial aid documentation. The official FAFSA website and application are free to all users.)

Federal loans are attractive to students because they carry lower interest rates than private loans do. However, the amount of money that can be borrowed under federal loan programs is often not enough to cover full tuition and living expenses at a top law school.

For 2011, most students should be able to borrow a maximum of \$20,500 in subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford and Ford Loans. For 2009, students applying to participating school could qualify for up to an additional \$6,000 in Federal Perkins Loans, depending in part on the availability of funds. By contrast, tuition at a number of law schools is \$30,000 per year or more.

Many law students take out private educational loans from banks and other lenders to cover the gap.

"If you anticipate securing private loans (in addition to fed-

eral loans) to fund your legal education, I highly recommend obtaining a copy of your credit report now," Heike says. Applicants should act immediately, regardless of whether they know their admissions outcomes. The extra time they gain by doing so can be used to improve their credit worthiness and qualify for more favorable loan rates.

"The sooner you receive your credit report, the sooner you can clean up any credit problems" you might find there, says Heike. "There is often inaccurate information contained in credit reports. If you get a copy of your report now, you will have plenty of time to correct any mistakes you find. I recommend making sure you have good credit prior to applying for a private loan."

Heike adds that applicants can request a free credit report every 12 months from www.annualcreditreport.com.

Academic qualifications are important and so is financial education. They're both important and schools are forgetting one of them.

- Robert Kiyosaki



SAPLA

Southern Association of Pre Law Advisers

Membership Form

Membership Dues for 2010-2011

Name: _____

Position: _____

Title: _____

Institution: _____

Law School Representative

Primary Pre-Law Adviser at your institution:

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

Secondary Pre-Law Adviser 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 Registrar.

Address: _____

Area code and Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Dues: Please check the appropriate category:

\$50.00 Pre Law Adviser/Advisers

\$65.00 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

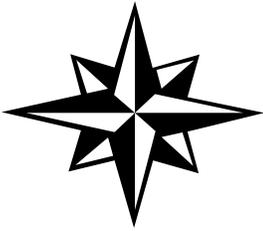
Federal Tax ID Number: SAPLA Federal Tax I.D. # 54-0505-965

**Complete the form, make checks payable to SAPLA & mail or fax form to:
Registrar- Michelle Rahman, SAPLA Registrar- mrahman@richmond.edu**

University of Richmond, School of Law

Richmond, Virginia 23173

Phone: 804.289.8189/Fax: 804.287.6516



Pre Professional Law Program
 Florida A&M University
 112 Tucker Hall
 515 Orr Drive
 Tallahassee, FL 32303

SAPLA

Mailing Address Line 1
 Mailing Address Line 2
 Mailing Address Line 3
 Mailing Address Line 4
 Mailing Address Line 5

We're on the Web!
www.ncsu.edu/prelaw/sapla

SAPLA IMPORTANT DATES & INFO



- New SAPLA officers as of June 2010

Tyra Mason
 Florida A&M University
 President

Mary Tetro
 North Carolina State University
 Immediate Past President

Wendy Vonnegut
 Methodist University
 1st Vice President

Rodia Vance
 Emory University
 2nd Vice President

Michelle Rahman
 University of Richmond
 Treasurer

Bekki Davis
 Georgia Southern University
 Secretary

Scott Lucas
 The Citadel
 Representative at Large

Gerald L. Wilson
 Duke University
 PLANC Representative

Jon Benfield
 Charleston School of Law
 Law School Representative

- **LSAC 2010 Forum - Saturday, September 11** - Miami, FL (**Volunteers are needed to assist with advising forum attendees. If you are interested, please contact Tyra Mason at tyra.mason@famuedu**)

with your availability.)

- **October 9, 2010** - LSAT
- LSAC 2010 Forum - **Saturday, November 6 - Atlanta, GA** (**Volunteers are needed to assist with advising forum attendees. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Vonnegut wendy@methodist.edu with your availability.**)
- New Tools for the Trade: LSACnet.org. If any pre law advisor does not have a user name and password to log in to the members only area of www.lsacnet.org, email prelaw@lsac.org.
- HACU/HBCU - LSAC Pre Law Advisors Conference - Atlanta, GA - Dates to be announced