

October 1993

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISORS NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Number 1 October 4, 1993 Jane Elza, Editor

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President's Message

I want to thank the membership of the Southern Association of Pre- Law Advisors for the confidence they have shown in me with my election to the organization's president. The meeting in Louisville was a success and our thanks to all those responsible, especially the University of Louisville School of law. All of us look forward to another fine conference next year at Wake Forest School of Law. I urge all members to continue to tell friends about our organization. With the ever-changing developments in law school admissions, SAPLA membership is an ideal way to keep up-dated. I look forward to working with the other officers in continuing with the SAPLA agenda.

Again, thank you for the vote of confidence. I pledge to try my best to continue to make our organization a meaningful one.

Dr. Ted Mosch,
SAPLA President
Political Science Division
216 Humanities Building
Martin, TN 38238-5042
(901) 587-7480



What's New!

SAPLA Fall Meeting:

[October 5th - 7th
St. Thomas Law School
Miami, FL](#)

Advising Resources:

[Financial Aid Toolkit](#)

Paul Weber Memoriam

[A Memoriam to Paul Weber: Teacher, Scholar, Leader](#)

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SAPLA Business:

The new Bylaws passed. If you do not have a copy, contact Alex Stoesen, Guilford College. Greensboro, NC 27410.

Hoda Zaki has taken leave from Hampton University and will not be second vice-president. David Mann is taking her place and Mary Ann Bowen will be the first vice-president.

Our next meeting will be on Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Oct. 2 at Wake Forest Law School.

We agreed to forgive the registration fee for all first year attendees and to pay the way for the SAPLA president to the PLANC conference in the Fall.

There was some discussion of raising dues, but a decision was postponed until the Board meets in January.

Report on Convention

The three panels focused on the needs of students financially, in preparing for law school, and in getting a job after law school. Disturbing trends in job placement may impact how students prepare for law school and the advice we give. The following trends should be considered in advising students:

1. Lawyers practice law. The law degree is no longer the flexible degree it once was and students should be told delaying career choices is unwise. If one is leaning toward a business career, the person should take the MBA, not a legal degree.
2. The large national firms are no longer hiring. Smaller local firms are hiring and they hire who they know. Students are not judged by what they know, but by their personality. This means students should take internships to establish the contacts necessary for employment. It was suggested this should start at the undergraduate level.
 Courses in manners, style, and getting along with others are encouraged. The law school itself hesitates to offer such courses, though some do. Students having them at the undergraduate level may have an advantage. Students who 'look' like a lawyer will have an advantage.
 Hiring by local firms means that students go to work where they go to school. While it may be easier for some students to get into schools outside the state, if they really want to practice in a state, they should try to attend school in that state.
3. The law student population was described as older, more diverse, more altruistic, and poorer. More are going into public interest law. The National Association of Law Placement's national statistic is 29%. Women continue to make less than men in all areas and the increase in women lawyers may be one explanation for the declining salary rates. The national mean was \$42,000 and the median was \$36,000. (Keep in mind what those terms mean.)
 "Poverty" may also result from the debt burden students carry. 75% of students borrow 75% of the cost of their law school education. As salaries decline the debt burden increases. Previously, pre-law advisors were told that salaries would 'take care' of the debt and student shouldn't be put off by the expense of law school. Now we're being told to caution students against too much debt.
 Law schools have been receiving more fee waiver applications than before and some of the representatives complained that they did not know if other schools had waived the fees for the same student. A fee waiver waives the fees for the test, the LSDAS expense, and prep kit. (It should be noted that the waiver applies only for the next scheduled test from time application was received. This gives students access to the prep test for only about 3 months. However, copies can be obtained for minority students by calling Ken Lollis at Law Services at 215-968-1227. To get a fee waiver from a law school, one must have a FAFSA form on file with the law school. Some schools require the GAPS FAS.
 The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid which will be distributed by the Secretary of Education to determine eligibility for Title IV programs. The applicant should file the financial aid form as soon as income tax information for the immediate past year is available and tax forms completed. Students are encouraged to research grant options.
 It is unclear yet how the Clinton Administration's volunteer program will affect the pre-law student.
4. Pre-law advisors were encouraged to give students the same broad based liberal arts education as always, but to establish ties between the students and the legal community through alumni attorneys, internships, and pre-law clubs so the students can get into law school and be employable afterwards.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of November 1, 1993 the balance is approximately \$16,500. The hotel invoice for the conference has not been received.

Melanie E. Nutt, Treasurer

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Harrisonburg VA 22807

Number of registered attendees: 69

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRELAW ADVISORS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

OCT. 93-OCT.94

Name _____

Department _____

School _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

check one:

pre-law advisor	_____ \$15.00
law school representative	_____ \$30.00
associate	_____ \$30.00
HBCU	_____

Send to:
Melanie Nutt
Wake Forest Law School
P.O. Box 7206, Reynolda Sta.
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

OCTOBER 1,2,3 1993 Louisville, Kentucky

Name _____

Department _____

School _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

check one:
pre-law advisor _____ \$75.00
law school representative _____ \$125.00
associate _____ \$

Send to:
Melanie Nutt
Wake Forest Law School
P.O. Box 7206, Reynolda Sta.
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

USAIR FILE NO. IS 79500004 for reduced rate

REGISTRATION FORM FOR HOTEL

OCTOBER 1,2,3 1993

Return to Executive Inn,
978 Phillips Lane,
Louisville, KY 40213

Name _____

Address _____

Organization _____

Credit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Arrival _____

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