



September 11, 2007

JMLS Student Newsletter No. 12

**Dean's Message**

If I told you that the best way to get a law firm job was to wear a green bracelet and enter the elevator backwards, most of you would be willing to do so, especially if you are in your third year of law school (or fourth year, evening division). But, there's an easier way: join one or more local bar associations. Student memberships are inexpensive. You're welcome to attend meetings, CLE programs, and section events. (Sections are specialized subgroups, like litigation, estate planning, family law, etc.) When you attend events, lawyers are happy to meet you; lawyers love law students. Maybe, they're just grateful not to be law students themselves. Whatever. You frequently find mentors whose contacts will lead to jobs, even if they are unable to hire you in their own firm.

I promise you, this is the best advice that many students won't take. For the smart ones, start here: Atlanta Bar Association <http://www.atlantabar.org/associations/6890/files/2007-2008%20application.pdf>

If you live or intend to work in another county, contact that county's bar association and inquire about a student rate. It is frequently not shown on their application as an option, so you need to ask.

In addition to the list of Dean's Award winners announced last week, the following students also helped during Orientation and have earned our gratitude and a Dean's Award: Kirk Brody Ballard, Brian Heck, Nehemiah Jefferson, Robin Love, Steve Tippins, Doug Collins.

I'm pleased to give Dean's Awards to Corey Martin and Mark Calhoun for their work with BLSA's Project Extend. And, to catch up from the summer, the following students deserve Dean's Awards for helping with May's graduation: Cara Rockhill, Steve Perkins, Ryan Ceasar, Nell Brimmer, Jennifer Johnson, Thomas Florio, Jason Moore, Brian Weston, Prosha Nasseh, and David Willingham. Finally, for helping with a college student tour from SUNY-Binghamton, Dean's Awards go to Ryan Ceasar and Damon Burk.

Have a great week!

Dean Lynn

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*This week's announcements:*

- Emory Law Public Interest Conference
- Volunteer Opportunity From Your Pro Bono Director
- ABA Law Student Division Member Benefits
- Sign up for your mock interview appointment
- Wondering where the job posting board has gone?

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**EMORY LAW PUBLIC INTEREST CONFERENCE**

The Honorable Representative David Scott of Georgia’s 13th Congressional District to Address Students at Emory Law Public Interest Conference Saturday, Oct. 13th

The Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC), a student run organization at the Emory University School of Law, will host the 4th Annual Public Interest Law Conference Saturday, October 13. The Conference is free. Registration will be available soon on EPIC’s websites.

This year the Honorable U.S. Representative David Scott of Georgia’s 13th Congressional District will deliver the keynote address at the conference luncheon. Congressman Scott’s speech will update attendees on his legislative bill, the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Act of 2007 (H.R. 916), promoting a loan repayment program for law school graduates who commit to serve as criminal prosecutors or public defenders.

Also part of the Conference are morning panel sessions that will address cutting edge topics: Mental Health, Privacy and Out-Patient Commitment Post-Virginia Tech Right to Die: the Legal Issues of Euthanasia Law and the Media Nation Building and Developing Constitutions

This year’s panelists include Law Professors from Emory, Vanderbilt, the University of Florida, and Brigham Young University; Scholars from Emory’s other Schools and Centers; Advocates from various non-governmental organizations, including the “Final Exit Network” and “National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare;” Leading Legal Practioners; and Journalists from National Public Radio (and possibly the Atlanta Journal Constitution, invited).

Following the panels and luncheon will be two concurrent workshops: “How to Fund a Public Interest Career,” and "Innocence Matters: Freeing Troy Davis from Georgia's Death Row.”

An afternoon reception will follow the workshops.

Again, the conference is free to attend and open to the Emory community as well as the general public.

For more information, please visit the EPIC Web site at [www.law.emory.edu/epic](http://www.law.emory.edu/epic); <http://www.law.emory.edu/current-students/student-organizations/epic/programs/conference/emory-law-2007-public-interest-conference.html>; or contact [lychen@emory.edu](mailto:lychen@emory.edu) (conference coordinator).

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**FROM YOUR PRO BONO DIRECTOR**

Dekalb Rape Crisis Center is looking for dedicated volunteers to staff our 24-hour crisis line and serve as hospital companions for rape survivors. We also are looking for volunteers to be part of the Speaker's Bureau and serve on our Special Events Committees.

Our fall 2007 Training begins October 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs through October 30<sup>th</sup>. *See below for the complete list of dates!*

Please contact Allison White, Director of Volunteer Services at 404-377-1429 or by email at [Allison@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org](mailto:Allison@dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org) for more information and to request an application.

You can also download an application from our website, [www.dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.dekalbrapecrisiscenter.org)

*Please Note: Dates are subject to change and locations are to be announced!*

Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am to 4pm  
Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 6pm to 9:30pm  
Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 9:30p  
Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm to 9:00pm

#### Requirements / Expectations:

Persons interested in becoming crisis line volunteers must have certain basic communication and counseling skills. Although these will be developed in the training class, advocates must:

1. Be able to communicate clearly and without being judgmental
2. Have excellent listening skills
3. Be able to manage his/her own emotions
4. Be able to respect and maintain confidentiality

#### Other requirements:

1. Volunteers must complete the 35 hour training series. This training is offered by the Center in the fall, winter, and summer of each year.

No more than two sessions can be missed; any session missed must be made up through video and discussion with training coordinator.

2. Volunteer will be expected to work at least two 12-hour shifts per month. Volunteer is contacted via beeper/cell phone. Volunteer can attend to regular acts of daily living; however, any call received must be the top priority for the volunteer (the volunteer must be able to respond to calls in a timely and confidential manner).

3. Volunteer must be able to get to DeKalb Medical Center within 20 minutes of the initial call about a client's arrival and within 40 minutes to DeKalb Medical Center at Hillandale. Volunteer must provide own transportation.

4. Volunteer can use agency-provided beeper, personal beeper or personal phone for responding to crisis line calls. If agency-provided beeper is used, volunteer is responsible for its pick-up and drop-off.

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## **ABA LAW STUDENT DIVISION MEMBER BENEFITS**

Legislative advocacy is one of the most important benefits provided to American Bar Association Law Student Division members. Over the past several years, the Law Student Division has made incredible strides within the Association and in the lives of law students nationwide. In particular this past year, the Law Student Division undertook an aggressive lobbying campaign designed to ease the financial pressure facing public interest lawyers. Armed with personal written accounts collected from law students across the country, the Law Student Division leadership took to Capitol Hill and put a sympathetic face on this issue by sharing these stories in meetings with almost 50 congressional offices.

The ABA championed three avenues for student loan repayment assistance, two of which have been approved in some form in both the House and Senate and the third has been cleared by the Senate and the ABA is working to ensure its passage in the House. Details about the Division's legislative initiatives can be found on our home page at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/home.html>.

I encourage you to join the Division's grassroots advocacy efforts by becoming a member of the ABA Law Student Division now. (<http://www.abanet.org/lawstudent>).

### **Competitions Program**

The opportunity for students to hone their critical thinking and legal skills by participating in one or more of the ABA Law Student Division competitions is another great member benefit. Last year, 1,300 students from 160 ABA-approved law schools and 2,400 bench and bar members participated in the Division's regional and national competitions. Participation in the Division's four competitions is limited to ABA Law Student Division members.

- Arbitration Competition (entry deadline is September 14)
- Negotiation Competition (entry deadline is September 14)
- Client Counseling Competition (entry deadline is October 26)
- National Appellate Advocacy Competition (entry deadline is November 9)

Details about the competitions, as well as online entry forms and a PDF of the Competition Poster, can be found on the Competitions website at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/competitions/>.

### **Other Member Benefits**

A \$25 annual membership in the ABA Law Student Division will enable you to stay ahead in law school and build a network to launch your career. Joining the 51,000 other law student members from across the country is a smart decision and your dues pay you back time and time again throughout the year. (<http://www.abanet.org/lawstudent>)

Here's how...

- Help make our voices heard on Capitol Hill by joining the 51,000 other law student members from across the country in our student loan relief advocacy efforts.
- Student Lawyer Magazine and ABA Journal. A subscription to both magazines is included in your \$25 annual membership fee. Information on Student Lawyer and ABA Journal is available at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/studentlawyer/> and <http://www.abanet.org/journal/redesign/home.html>.
- Kaplan PMBR bar review course tuition discounts of \$70 to \$100 (<http://www.kaplanpmb.com/>).
- One free Legalines study guide (coupon included with your membership card) and Bar/Bri bar review course scholarship opportunity.
- Home and Auto Insurance offered through Liberty Mutual and American Bar Insurance. Policies available include home, auto, and renters insurance. For great rates and a free quotation, call 800.955.3379 or visit <http://www.abiins.com/>.
- Health Insurance offered through United Healthcare Student Resources. Call 800.237.0903 x6292 or visit <http://www.uhcsr.com/aba>.
- Opportunities to participate in competitions, writing contests and the Awards Program--many with cash rewards. <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/competitions/>
- Leadership Opportunities as a national, regional, or local representative (<http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections/>).
- Access to membership of specialty Sections, Divisions, and Forums within the ABA (<http://www.abanet.org/abasource/sdf.html>).
- Hertz Car Rental to members under the age of 25 without a surcharge.
- Public Service opportunities such as VITA and Work-A-Day (<http://www.abanet.org/lsd/work-a-day/home.html>).
- Complimentary subscriptions to your circuit list serve.
- Access to ABA Online Travel with Travelocity Business for great rates on airfare, car rentals, and hotels.

To join the ABA Law Student Division, please visit <http://www.abanet.org/lawstudent> or call the ABA Service Center at 800.285.2221.