



Session Descriptions - Professional Development Day - 2017

Debt Management

If you are graduating with student debt, this is a session for you. While the Financial Aid Office provides federally mandated exit counseling, this session will give you some additional advice on ways to manage your debt. A member of Widener's Financial Aid Office will discuss the following topics: Federal Repayment Plan Options, the Public Loan Forgiveness Program, Widener LRAP (Loan Repayment Assistance Program), Loan Consolidation, Deferment and Budgeting and Managing your Debt. Financial literacy handouts will be provided as a guide through the session.

Speaker:

Paula Lehrberger, Widener University, Financial Aid Office

Hanging a Shingle – What Do You Need to Know

Graduating from law school? Looking for a job? Thinking of “going it alone”? This presentation will provide you information on what to consider before opening your own firm, how to hang a shingle, resources that are available to you, and what realistically to expect. Hear from the Immediate Past Chair of the Solo and Small Firm Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's about what it is like to practice in a small firm, as well as how to ensure you are a success.

Speaker:

Kim Lengert, Managing Attorney, Lengert & Raiders, LLC

Judicial Law Clerks – The How, What, When, Where, and Why

Clerkships provide new lawyers with an opportunity to be involved in an advanced state of litigation and exposed to a wide variety of legal issues in civil and criminal law. Clerkships are available at both the state and federal levels and to students with varying backgrounds and accomplishments. Because clerkships offer a unique opportunity for first-hand insights and understanding of the judicial decision-making process, clerks are attractive candidates to law firms, as well as state and federal agencies.

Moderator/Speaker:

Katie Riggelman-Thomas, Law Clerk; The Honorable Sylvia Rambo, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Speakers:

Erin Burlew, Law Clerk; The Honorable Debora Curcillo, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas; Sharon Williams, Law Clerk; The Honorable Thomas Saylor, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (former Clerk to The Honorable Johnny Butler and The Honorable Rene Cohn-Jubelirer, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania)

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

Are you concerned a friend might be abusing alcohol? Are you worried that a colleague has a mental health issue? Are you feeling depressed? Help is out there! Representatives from Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers will speak about their organization and the work it does. LCL understands these illnesses and the pain, fear, and frustration of the lawyer or judge who is in distress. LCL helps by offering nonjudgmental, discrete, and confidential assistance. For more information, come to this session or visit: <http://www.lclpa.org/>.

Legal Ethics: What Not to Do as an Attorney

You have worked hard to earn your degree and get into practice, but that is not the end of the equation. Each year, countless lawyers find themselves in trouble with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Although some of those cases are due to nefarious conduct, many attorneys who make poor decisions – and who think “not me, I am not a bad person” – that snowball out of control. This session will educate you on the disciplinary process, what to do to stay out of trouble, and what to do if you find yourself in a situation and you do not know what to do.

Moderator:

Jonathan D. Koltash, Senior Counsel, Department of Health

Speakers:

David Schwager, Chairman, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Victoria White, Ethics Counsel, Pennsylvania Bar Association; Robert Davis, Owner, Davis Law Offices

Life in Private Practice

Life in practice is very similar, and at the same time very different than life in law school. You will hear from attorneys from various legal backgrounds and experiences and they will answer questions on how to be successful in practice. Some of the themes we will explore include: Habits to keep and habits to get rid of, time management, marketing and networking, and working for a client and supervising attorney instead of the professor.

Moderator:

Wesley Addington, KBG Injury Law

Speakers:

Ashley Martian, Law Offices of Roy Galloway; Cory Winter, Associate, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP; Tim Salvatore, KBG Injury Law

Networking: What's the point?

You have probably heard a lot about how you should “network”, but what does that really mean? How do you do it? What's the point? Join us for a panel discussion of different ways to get involved as a student and young lawyer and how to use networking opportunities to advance your career.

Moderator:

Alaina C. Koltash, Assistant Counsel, Department of Education

Speakers:

Sarah Yerger, Partner, Post & Schell, P.C.; Missy Leininger, Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry; Jonathan D. Koltash, Senior Counsel, Department of Health

Practice Beyond the Courts of Common Pleas

Many new lawyers, both in civil and criminal practice, quickly find themselves appearing before a variety of courts, hearing boards, agencies and commissions that were barely mentioned in law school. Yet, lawyers' appearances before these tribunals frequently outnumber appearances before the types of courts that students are more familiar with. Social security and unemployment compensation matters, motor vehicle issues, professional licensure, child support and a host of other matters are heard and decided by courts and judges governed by their own rules and procedures. In this session, a District Justice, an Administrative Law Judge, and an Unemployment Compensation Referee will discuss the practices and rules of procedures for their respective offices.

Moderator:

Jonathan D. Koltash, Senior Counsel, Department of Health

Speakers:

Judge Charles Clement, Magisterial District Judge; Elizabeth Crum, Director, Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication, Department of Labor and Industry; Randall Brandes, Administrator, Unemployment Compensation Board of Review, Department of Labor and Industry

Record Access at both the Federal and State Levels – FOIA and the RTKL

This session will focus on how to access records held by the government under federal and state law. You will be provided with an overview of both the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (RTKL), examples of records available under each law, and discuss important cases pursuant to both law. You will also be provided with a compare and contrast of the two laws, helping better understand what records are available under each act.

Moderator/Speaker:

Delene Lantz, General Counsel, Pennsylvania Office of Open Records

Speakers:

William Rozier, Open Records Officer, Pennsylvania State Police; Paul Safier, Partner, Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz, LLP

Resume Preparation, Writing Samples, and Interviews

Do you know how to tailor your resume to the job you are applying for? Do you know what is appropriate to submit for a writing sample? Do you know how to ace an interview? If the answer to any of these questions is no, or you want to brush up on your skills, this is the session for you! Our experienced panelists will be discussing resume writing, tailoring, and formatting for the legal industry, as well as discussion what you should and should not submit when asked for a writing sample. We will also discuss interview prep and interview best practices. Please come prepared with any questions you may have and we will do our best to get to as many as we can!

Moderator:

Niki Carter, TE Connectivity

Speakers:

Rodney Akers, Deputy General Counsel, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office of General Counsel; LaToya Winfield Bellamy, Member, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

The Legislative Process – the Governor's Office and General Assembly Perspective

This session will provide an overview of the legislative process in Pennsylvania and the role the Commonwealth attorneys play during the process – from bill introduction to enactment. The panel will provide insight into the budget negotiation process and common legal issues that emerge during the process. You will hear from a former Secretary of Legislative Affairs for Governor Corbett, who will discuss the development of legislation in the Governor's Office. You will also hear from a member of the Senate, who will provide an overview of the legislative session of the Senate and legal issues that have arisen related to the Parliamentary rules.

Moderator:

Kara P. Scarboro, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP

Speakers:

Christopher D. Carusone, Partner, Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman, P.C.; Megan Martin, Secretary-Parliamentarian, Pennsylvania Senate

Understanding the Bar Examination

Achieving your goal of passing the bar exam the first time you take it requires more than just a determination to work hard; careful planning is crucial. Navigating the complex application process, acquiring a thorough understanding of the exam itself, developing a time-line for preparation, managing stress, and planning your finances can all contribute to your success on the bar exam. After it is all over – and it is not the end – there is still character and fitness. This session will focus on issues related to the application process, the bar exam itself, and the character and fitness portion of the application to ensure that all students are prepared for what lies ahead.

Speaker:

Jessica Holst, Pennsylvania Board of Bar Examiners

What I Wish I Knew?

Are there questions about the law, the legal community, or your career that you would like to ask but don't know how? Are there things about the law that you want to know but are afraid to ask? This is your opportunity. A panel of alumni will be present to answer questions from how to find a job to what to do with your legal degree. Those who register for this program will be able to submit questions anonymously in advance – as well as ask them in person during the presentation.

Speakers:

Jonathan D. Koltash, Senior Counsel, Department of Health; Katie Riggleman-Thomas, Law Clerk, The Honorable Sylvia Rambo, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; Kara P. Scarboro, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP; Tricia Lontz, Associate, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

What's a Government Attorney Really Do?

Please join us for an informative discussion with attorneys who work for the Governor and independent agencies to learn what it is really like to work for the government (here's a clue: they all do really different things!). Panelists include young attorneys who will discuss what it is like to start with an agency right out of law school, as well as experienced attorneys to discuss different career opportunities.

Moderator:

Linda Randby, Assistant Counsel, Pennsylvania State Police

Speakers:

Tom Ballaron, Deputy Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania State Police; Kelly Thompson, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Health; John Dixon, Assistant Counsel, Department of Environmental Protection; Tiffany Raker, Assistant Counsel, Auditor General's Office

Orientation 2.0

This session will primarily focus on resources outside the law school that you will need as you continue in law school, apply to join the bar, and begin your career as a new attorney.