

February 14, 2011

## Jobs Program Just for MELPs

If you're in the MELP program, be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, Feb. 25, for a day-long job search program designed specifically for MELPs.

You'll get tips from VLS alums about how to land a job in a challenging job market. And each MELP will be able to participate in a mock interview that afternoon.

This program, hosted by Career Services and the Environmental Law Center, will include alumni who work in watershed management, public interest energy and land trust/conservation easements.

## Working for Uncle Sam

If you're interested in finding a full-time job with the federal government, plan to attend a webinar on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Oakes 007. This program is for 3Ls, LLMs and MELPs. During the session we will highlight a number of positions across the government and show you how to research these openings and to apply.

## Come See Us In Chase on Tuesdays

A career counselor will be available in the Chase Breezeway most Tuesdays this semester from noon-1:30pm. Stop by for quick answers to your quick questions tomorrow and on February 22, March 15, 29, and April 5.

## 3L Check List For February

Here are four things you should be focused on at this point in the year:

1. Meet with your career counselor to discuss revisions to your job-search plan
2. Network with two alumni in the field you hope to practice in -- in person or by phone
3. Line up job interviews for spring break
4. Monitor Symplicity once a day

# Career Strategies

## How to Get Law Jobs in the Community and the World



## Now on Audio

Lawyer Ben Renzo talks at VLS last November about his job advising athletes and celebrities. You can hear his talk at this link:

[http://www.vermontlaw.edu/For\\_Students.htm](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/For_Students.htm)

The recording is in the sidebar on the upper right of the page.

## Job Summit 2011

If you missed the 3L Job Summit on January 29, check our webpage. Audio recordings of the panelists and keynote speaker will be posted there soon.

## Myth Busters: In a Weak Market You Can Still Find a Job

### Rumors Persist That There's No Point in Looking

By Abby Armstrong

We continue to hear rumblings that some students are wondering why they should even bother to look for a summer internship or a job after graduation, given the shape of the economy in general and the legal market in particular.

I am not saying that it is going to be easy but the reality is -- and experience has shown -- in good times or bad (and there have been plenty of both in the past 25 years) that if you are committed to finding an opportunity and keep talking with Career Services, faculty, alumni, etc., ultimately, your efforts will lead to success.

And, you will be glad you made the effort.

That's it.

These days it takes longer than it did four years ago, when the economy was booming, but the hard work pays off.

Now that we've busted this myth, here are some things you should be doing to ensure your success:

1. Regularly meet with a career counselor to fine-tune your plan. Everyone needs a plan, unless they already have a job.
2. Regularly monitor job postings on Symplicity -- they change daily.

*This is the second in a series of occasional articles that will explore some of the myths about Career Services and looking for a job in 2011.*

3. Keep an open mind about what kind of work you want to do and where you want to do it. Go where the opportunities are.

4. Be a relentless networker -- whether it's at events on-campus or off. Never pass up a chance to talk to someone who is a lawyer or who knows a lawyer or might be helpful in finding contacts for you. Informational interviews can open many doors for you.

5. Monitor the on-campus interview schedule. Remember that these are employers who are coming to campus because they want to hire VLS students. You can't beat that.

6. Plan now to make the best use of your spring break -- with at least three options, as described in the February 7 issue of Career Strategies: attend the exclusive VLS Job Fair in Washington on March 7; attend the R.M. Cover Public Interest Law Retreat in Peterborough, NH, on March 4 to 6, or set up informational interviews in the city or region where you hope to work after graduation. Career Services can help you line up contacts, and now's the time to start setting up appointments.

For details on the DC Job Fair, go to Symplicity, and note that the last of the deadlines is today. For details on the Public Interest Law Retreat, here's the link: <http://www.law.yale.edu/news/coverretreat11.htm>.

## Want to be an Environmental Lawyer? Come Meet Jason Hutt

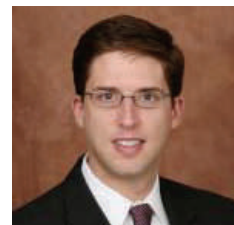
For those of you thinking you might someday want to be in a private firm practicing environmental law in Washington, DC, here's a chance to hear fist-hand what it's all about.

Jason Hutt '98, a member of the VLS Board of Trustees and a partner at Bracewell & Guiliani in Washington, will meet with students in Oakes 211 from 2:00 to 3 on Friday, February 18, to talk about his career path. His practice is devoted primarily to regulatory work under federal and state

environmental statutes. Jason advises manufacturers, energy companies, project developers, investor groups and financial institutions about environmental risks and liabilities associated with regulatory compliance, project development, congressional investigations and corporate transactions.

His most recent work has involved petroleum refineries, LNG terminals and co-generation facilities in California, Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts and Maine. He counsels clients on current and upcoming regulatory develop-

ments at the nexus of environmental and energy policy, with focused attention on natural gas development (including hydraulic fracturing), responses to the Deepwater Horizon incident, and climate change.



## Employers Who Want to Interview VLS Students

Here are just a few of the listings you'll find on [Simplicity](#) today. Pay attention to the deadlines. For full details—and the application requirements—please go to [Simplicity](#).

**Employer:** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (Washington, DC)

**Job Title:** Environmental Education Intern

**Who Can Apply:** 1L, Graduate/Alumni, MSEL, LLM, 2L, 3L

**Deadline Date:** February 18, 2011

**Employer:** Washington Forest Law Center (Seattle, WA) **Job Title:** Summer Legal Intern

**Who Can Apply:** 2L, 3L

**Deadline Date:** February 18, 2011

**Employer:** Connecticut Legal Services (Middletown, CT)

**Job Title:** 2011 Law Student Internships

**Who Can Apply:** 1L, 2L, 3L

**Deadline Date:** February 21, 2011

**Employer:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Austin, TX)

**Job Title:** Law Clerk

**Who Can Apply:** 2L, 3L

**Deadline Date:** February 21, 2011

**Employer:** Massachusetts Applesseed Center for Law and Justice (Boston, MA)

**Job Title:** Legal Internship

**Who Can Apply:** 1L, 2L, 3L

**Deadline Date:** February 21, 2011

**Employer:** Law Offices of Thomas H. Trunzo, Jr. (Lebanon, NH)

**Job Title:** Summer Law Clerk

**Who Can Apply:** 2L

**Deadline Date:** February 21, 2011

**Employer:** American Bar Association (California)

**Job Title:** Diversity Fellowship in Env. Law

**Who Can Apply:** 1L, 2L

**Deadline Date:** February 25, 2011

## Look Who's Coming To Campus

**USCIS, South Burlington, VT**

**Deadline to Career Services:**

February 16, 2011

**Interview Date:** March 2

**Aaron Melville, Esq.,**

St. Johnsbury, VT

**Deadline to Career Services:**

March 21 2011

**Interview Date:** TBD

For full details about these on-campus interviews, please go to [Simplicity](#)

## Unpaid Internship? Here's a Possible Funding Source

If you've landed an unpaid public service summer internship and are looking for a way to get it funded, here's one grant you should consider applying for. The J.W. Saxe Memorial Fund will award grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to law students for the summer. Deadline to apply is March 15. For details: <http://www.jwsaxefund.org/apply.php>

## Contact Us

To make an appointment with a Career Services counselor, stop by (we're above the Book Store) or give us a call: 831-1243.

## Friend Us On facebook

Career Services has started to use facebook and Twitter to get out important job information and to stay in touch with students and recent graduates. All current students, but especially 3Ls, are encouraged to "friend" us and "follow" us to get job postings, details about career-related events, and articles and information about job searching.

"Friend" us at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=295128751297>

And follow us on Twitter @vermontlawjobs

## First-Year Reminder: Leverage Your Strengths

*By Misae Nishikura*

One of the features of 1L Boot Camp last month was the opportunity to take an on-line diagnostic and learn your top five strengths through StrengthsFinder.

This is a nationally recognized tool that helps you focus on your strengths (your 5 out of the 34 basic strengths) and use those strengths to help think about which legal careers might be most appropriate for you.

If you haven't yet taken the StrengthsFinder test -- you do it on-line and it will take about 40 minutes -- it's not too late. Your personal access code and the online link have been uploaded to your Simplicity account: DOCUMENTS/DOCUMENTS/"Strengths Finder Your Access Code & Instructions."

Do it today.

Once you've identified your strengths, the next thing to do is to go on-line to Simplicity (DOCUMENT LIBRARY) and look up the five of the 34 sections that describe your attributes and read what those strengths suggest for possible legal careers best suited to your strengths.

These chapters were made available to Career Services by Deborah Merritt, a law professor at Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, who developed them. Only Ohio State and VLS law students have access to these chapters.

(And since they were developed at OSU, a couple things may be confusing -- for instance, frequent references to "the College," meaning the Moritz College of Law. Don't let that distract you.)

Let's say your No. 1 strength is Activator. Look it up on Simplicity and you will learn that "people especially talented in the Activator theme can make things happen by turning thoughts into action. They are often impatient." And if this is your No. 1 strength, you'll get this career advice in the Activator chapter: "Look for jobs in which you will be active: trying cases, negotiating deals, counseling clients and otherwise achieving results right away."

Possible areas of the law to look at would be corporate practice, criminal work, real estate, insurance defense, advertising and media law, lobbyists and political staff. That's a broad range of choices, which is typical of Strengths Finder. It doesn't tell you the one and only thing to do. What it does suggest for those who have Activator as their No. 1 strength is that they should seek positions in which they will see tangible results of their work.

It gets more complicated, of course, when you read the chapters posted on Simplicity for your other four strengths.

Let's say your No. 2 strength is Relator. For that strength, you will see this summary: "People especially talented in the Relator theme enjoy close relationships with others. They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal." If you dig into the posted chapter on this strength, you will get further guidance on how it connects to your strength as an Activator. And it will give you further insights into the careers that may best suit your strengths.

If you have any questions, please contact Misae Nishikura in Career Services, [mniskikura@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:mniskikura@vermontlaw.edu)