

Career Chat: VLS Alumnus From NOAA

Mike Mastry, a VLS alumnus who works at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will be the featured speaker at a brown bag lunchtime program on Thursday, October 6, from 12:45 to 2. He will talk about the work of the agency -- he's based in St. Petersburg, FL -- the different careers available in the agency and his own career track that took him from VLS to NOAA.

If You're a 3L

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

- Meet with a career counselor to map out a preferred career plan
- Develop a back-up plan
- Register for a bar review course
- Attend Career Services workshops

If You're a 2L

Here are 3 things you should be doing this fall:

- Check [Symblicity](#) for the latest job and internship postings
- Meet with a Career Services counselor to develop a plan for next summer
- Watch for programs and special events aimed at your class

How to Get VLS Business Cards

If you would like to have business cards that use the official VLS fonts, logo and template, Whitman Communications is the vendor. The cost is \$24 per 100. You can do it at <http://whitman.myprintdesk.net/DSE/storefront.aspx?6xni2of2cF1YUEEghOfualseALis-EviqYuAjsiN2Th4W0RLzES/1JWZaDfxhyqP09xMgY7YjOTtySoKUG1rBfLP2Egba9CZgeWYyVLiirYQ=>

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- A sample of job listing
- On- campus interviews
- Helpful job websites

Career Strategies

How to Get Law Jobs in the Community and the World



The Power of Informational Interviews

Talking to Lawyers In Your Field Can Open Many Doors

By *Abby Armstrong*

It's not easy to approach strangers to ask for advice. But we have found, time after time, that informational interviews are invaluable in a job search, whether for a summer opportunity or for post-graduate employment.

It's important that you think of informational interviews as long-term investments, not something you necessarily do for an immediate return.

And it's also important to keep in mind that you are not calling or e-mailing Attorney X to ask if his or her firm has a job opening or knows of job openings elsewhere.

You are talking to Attorney X to ask specific questions about his or her practice, career and career path and steps you might want to take along your career path.

To get the most out of each informational interview, you have to be specific about what you want to accomplish. Plan ahead and develop a list of specific topics that apply to your situation. Be sure to research each attorney you will be contacting. They will be happy to talk with you, but it's very important that you have done your homework.

If your interview is conducted skillfully, it can be an incredible source of networking leads, knowledge and perhaps even "inside information" on employer hiring criteria and decision-making.



Professor John Echeverria speaks at the Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship on September 23, 2011

To get started, identify individuals you'd want to interview. Consult friends, faculty, alumni and former employers.

Here's an example of how the process worked for one student:

She planned to talk with two lawyers in her preferred practice area, but each gave her additional names, so she actually talked to many more. These "advisers" suggested how she could tailor her cover letter and resume. She was able to use the

names of some of the contacts in her cover letters.

Tailoring the letters led to interviews, during which she was able to talk in more detail about the field than most other entry-level applicants. That was because she had so thoroughly done her research through the informational interviews. And when it was time to negotiate her offer, she already knew about the current market and salary standards.

Yes, it was a lot of work -- and it paid off.

Top 5 Skills Sought by Employers

A survey of lawyers in 30 different practice areas came up with the top five skills most valued in people they planned to hire:

- Sound legal analysis
- Creative problem solving
- Excellent communications skills
- Good judgment
- Passion/sincere interest/enthusiasm

The key, according to the work done by Lisa Abrams in "The Official Guide to Legal Specialties," is to be able to develop

or enhance these skills while in law school and to get the kinds of jobs and volunteer opportunities that will help you showcase these skills.

Then you will want to stress your version of these skills in your cover letter.

And, if you are selected for an interview, be sure to provide persuasive examples. How does this position fit into your career path? Why does this particular opportunity excite you? You will want to be as specific as possible.

An employer recently on campus to inter-

view students for a summer position mentioned to the Career Services office at the end of the day that he was struck by the disparity among students in preparing for their interviews. Some, he said, knew the workings of his office well. They had obviously done their "homework" and were able to make the case that this job was exactly what they were looking for -- and that they had the skills required.

Others, though, knew little about the job and talked vaguely about their interest and their qualifications. They, of course, were not among the finalists.

Employers Who Want to Interview VLS Students

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

Employer: California Coastkeeper Alliance
Job Title: Executive Director
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 7, 2011

Employer: Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal
Job Title: Summer Law Clerk
Who Can Apply: 2L, 3L
Deadline Date: October 15, 2011

Employer: Latham & Watkins
Job Title: Diversity Scholars Program (Scholarship)
Who Can Apply: 2L
Deadline Date: October 14, 2011

Employer: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
Job Title: Summer 2012 Honors Law Program
Who Can Apply: 2L
Deadline Date: October 14, 2011

Employer: Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
Job Title: Spring Externship in the Sierra Club
Who Can Apply: 2L, 3L
Deadline Date: October 14, 2011

Employer: Council of the District of Columbia
Job Title: Legislative Counsel Position
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 3, 2011

Employer: Vermont Trial Court
Job Title: Judicial Law Clerk
Who Can Apply: 3L, Grad/Alum
Deadline Date: October 5, 2011

Employer: Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI)
Job Title: Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship
Who Can Apply: 3L

Deadline Date: October 14, 2011
Employer: U.S EPA Region 1 Honors Attorney Fellowship
Job Title: 2012-2014 EPA New England Honors Attorney Fellowship
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 14, 2011

Employer: Delaware Supreme Court
Job Title: Judicial Clerkship
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 17, 2011

Employer: Southern Environmental Law Center
Job Title: Summer Intern
Who Can Apply: 2L
Deadline Date: September 30, 2011

Employer: U.S EPA Region IX Office of Regional Counsel
Job Title: Summer Law Clerk
Who Can Apply: 2L
Deadline Date: October 15, 2011

Employer: Maine Bar Foundation
Job Title: Coffin Fellow
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 14, 2011

Employer: U.S EPA Region 10
Job Title: EPA Honors Attorney Fellowship, Region 10
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 15, 2011

Employer: Oregon Department of Justice
Job Title: Honors Attorney Program
Who Can Apply: 3L
Deadline Date: October 6, 2011

Look Who's Coming To Campus

Sirotkin & Necrason,
 Montpelier, VT
Deadline to Career Services: October 4, 2011
Interview Date: October 25, 2011

Windham County States Attorney,
 Brattleboro, VT
Deadline to Career Services: October 5, 2011
Interview Date: October 21, 2011

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Legal Division,
 Waterbury, VT
Deadline to Career Services: October 4, 2011
Interview Date: October 25, 2011

Federal Public Defender,
 Burlington, VT
Deadline to Career Services: October 13, 2011
Interview Date: TBD

U.S. Army JAG Corps,
 Fort Drum, NY
Deadline to Career Services: October 5, 2011
Interview Date: October 14, 2011

Vermont Natural Resources Board,
 Montpelier, VT
Deadline to Career Services: October 3, 2011
Interview Date: October 17, 2011

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

Key Online Job Links

Here are links to some of the most often used job search sites:
<https://law-vermont-csm.symplicity.com/students/index.php?cck=1&au=&cck=> to sign on to VLS's Symplicity pages

www.nalpdirectory.com for larger law firms

www.pslawnet.org for public interest jobs and fellowships

www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm for federal, state and local governments (user name is snicker and password is doodle)

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.

Helpful Web Sites For Your Job Search

In addition to the many jobs posted on Symplicity -- and new listings are added almost every day, here are some other sites and links you should check regularly:

- VLS is a member of the Intercollegiate Job Bank, an on-line job newsletter exchange with law schools nationwide. To access these job listings, go to: https://www.law2.byu.edu/Career_Services/jobbank/ (a link to this site is also available on our Symplicity home page). The user name is jobbank; password: postings.

- We subscribe to Environmental Career Opportunities, which lists a range of environmental jobs. The site is password-protected and can be accessed by going to our Symplicity homepage where you will find the link and the password.

- Access the State-by-State Online Resources, under the Resources Section of the Career Services homepage – <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Documents/career%20services/STATEXSTATE.pdf>

- For information on jobs with the federal government, see the guide located at <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Documents/career%20services/FindingEntryLevelFedJob.pdf>

- Access the International Online Job Resources and Judicial Clerkship Resources under the [Resources](#) section of the Career Services homepage.

- The American Bar Association provides information on a range of topics, including job postings, at <http://www2.americanbar.org/careercenter/Pages/Careercenter2.aspx>. In addition, there are articles on how to find a job—<http://www2.americanbar.org/careercenter/Pages/ArticlesResources.aspx>—and advice that is specific to this tough economy -<http://www2.americanbar.org/economicrecovery/default.aspx>.

- Follow us on Twitter @vermontlawjobs and join our Facebook Group at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=295128751297> for up-to-date job postings, programs, information and articles.