Gaining Exposure to the Legal Profession Through Work, School or Volunteerism

If you are considering a career in law, you should gain exposure to the legal profession in order to make an informed decision about attending law school. Many opportunities exist for students wanting to gain exposure to "law in action," but you should spend time searching and researching for the right position. Begin looking for positions months in advance. Start your search early and apply to several positions.

Decide when you want to work. How much time can you commit? A summer job, a part-time job during semesters, an internship where you earn college credit, etc. Some students gain experience through volunteer work or by simply sitting in courtrooms. Many academic departments can arrange internship credit for their students. Becoming a CoOp student or PPIP intern requires you to commit for several semesters, but may yield career benefits later. For some positions, you may receive academic credit; check with your academic advisor about opportunities within your department.

Decide whether you expect to be paid for your work and what proportion of your income you must earn in the position. Your choices in positions are greater if you can forego the income. However, many students find paying jobs in firms, courts and offices.

Decide where you want to work. Determine whether you are restricted geographically in your job search. Some students find positions in towns where they can live with relatives or friends, thereby saving money on rent. Others get away from it all and travel to D.C. or New York City. The Andersen Library, 2nd Floor Koldus Building, keeps multitudes of books of internship possibilities located all over the world.

Decide where to start your search. Make a list of possible leads and begin sending resumes and letters of interest. Let your fingers do the walking through the Yellow Pages and/or contact your county bar association. Many legal aid societies would be grateful for your volunteer hours. A partial listing of some volunteer opportunities appears on the back of this page. Remember, the earlier you start, the greater your chance of success! You could begin your list by contacting the following:

- Law firms in your hometown
- Courts - municipal, county, district, state and federal
- Your state Senators and Representatives
- U.S. Senators and Representatives
- Legal Aid Societies
- Governmental agencies (federal, state and local)
- Public interest groups
- Texas Aggie Bar Association

Prepare a resume. Campus resources to aid you in your search and resume preparation include the Andersen Library in the Career Center, your academic advisor, the Writing Center, and the Office of Professional School Advising.
Summer and Volunteer Opportunities

Texas Attorney General’s Office
Child Support Enforcement
4001 E. 29th Street Suite 102
Bryan, TX 77802
979-823-0080
512-358-3215—State-wide office
Act as legal assistant through volunteer or intern opportunities. Positions available throughout the state, including Brazos County.

College Station Municipal Court Internship
Judge Edward Spillane III
(979) 764-3850
www.cstx.gov
Contact the court to request information

Brazos County Juvenile Services
Mentoring Program
Sara Herbst or Yves Raeolina
1904 West SH 21
Bryan, TX 77803
(979) 823-5544 ext. 278
Work with juveniles currently on probation in either school or extra curricular activities.

Brazos County District Attorney’s Office
300 E. 26th St., Suite 310,
Bryan, Texas 77803
979-361-4320
Work with an investigator from the DA’s Office. Requires a minimum commitment of 15 hours per week.

Lone Star Legal Aid
219 N. Main, Suite 509
Bryan, TX 77803
http://www.lonestarlegal.org
Provide assistance to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney

Sponsors of Educational Opportunity
23 Gramercy Park South
New York, NY 10003
(212) 979-2040
http://www.seo-usa.org
Minority Corporate Law Program for students starting law school in the fall. Provides stipend.

Texas A&M Public Policy Intern Program
203 Jack Williams Building
979-845-3210
http://www.tamu.edu/ppip
Assists Aggies with internship opportunities, including funding and housing, in Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas.

Council On Legal Education Opportunity
740 15th St NW 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
(866) 886-4343
http://www.abatanet.org/cleo or http://www.cleoscholars.org
Summer program for minority or disadvantaged students. Programs for each level, freshman through senior.

Florida State University College of Law
Summer for Undergraduates Program
Nancy Benavides
Florida State University College of Law Office of Student Affairs
425 West Jefferson
Tallahassee, FL 32306
Provide experience for students who are underrepresented in the legal profession. Provides room and board, course material, and stipend.

National Endowment for the Humanities
Christine Kalke
Internships Coordinator
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 606-8843
http://neh.gov
Introduce college students to the programs and operations of the federal agency charged with promoting scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities.

Summer Law School Preparation Academy
University of Texas San Antonio
Richard Gambitta, Ph.D.
6900 N Loop 1604 W
San Antonio, TX 78249
(210) 458-5883
http://utsa.edu/ilpa/

Oxford-Ohio State Summer Pre-law Program
Michael E. Moritz College of Law Ohio State University
55 West 12th Avenue Columbus, OH 43210-1391
http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/oxford/prelaw/index.html
Spend the summer in Oxford, England learning about the British and American Legal Systems.

City of College Station Municipal Volunteer Program
Mike Mullen
Community Programs Assistant
City of College Station
(979) 764-6372
Teen Court, local boards, city government, law enforcement.

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