

**Professional Development Day
October 30, 2012
List of Sessions**

1. DEVELOPING A PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE

Time: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Location: A180

“First impressions Last Forever” might be a phrase that is overworked but it takes on importance when conducting your job search and, after obtaining your job, within your work environment. Potential employers, clients and co-workers often form lasting opinions of others based largely on their dress. In this session experts from Brooks Brothers will discuss and demonstrate fashion appropriate in a professional setting to help you make continuing positive impressions on those around you. They will provide practical tips, general wardrobing guidelines and discuss the elusive “business casual” standard.

2. CULTURAL DIVERSITY: BEYOND BLACK AND WHITE

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Location: L203

Diversity is no longer defined in strictly racial terms but now incorporates factors such as age, culture, gender, sexual identity and orientation, religion and socio-economic background. People who pass through the legal system are becoming increasingly diverse as are the lawyers, judges and professionals who interact with them. For many new lawyers this demographic shift can present both opportunities and pitfalls. This important session will highlight the multiplicity of issues beyond black and white that we all face both as members of a diverse society and as members of an increasingly diverse profession.

3. PRACTICE BEYOND COMMON PLEAS

Time: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Location: L202

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.

4. CIVILITY IN LITIGATION

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Location: L202

One of the main areas of concern expressed by members of the bar and, more important, by the judiciary, is the need for increased emphasis on civility in the practice of law. Although this is frequently discussed in relation to the courtroom, it has broader implications in the area of litigation. It is important for us to understand what is expected of us by the bench and bar when we are litigating a case. This session will explore and explain those expectations when we communicate with the court and other counsel, engage in the discovery process, and actually try the case in the courtroom.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE JOB SEARCH AND BEYOND

Time: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Location: L203

Learning to harness the power of technology and social media to find employment opportunities is an essential skill every law student should develop and maximize. The reason is simple; social media is not the wave of the future – it is now and here to stay. Employers use it to reach potential employees so positioning yourself to stay ahead of the pack amidst the host of job seekers in the current job market is key. From LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter to blogs and other online mediums each has its own rules of engagement with a list of “must do’s and “never do’s. Add to that the value of online “virtual law practice” portals and you have a whole new world of options and opportunities at your fingertips, literally!

Attend this lively and engaging session to learn about these options and opportunities. This session will include a general overview of the types of social media available, how technology is being used to practice law; i.e., the use of virtual law firms, and the best (and worst) practices of social media. Get ready to bring your job search into the 21st century and turn your search into success!

6. JOB SEARCH CORRESPONDENCE

Time: 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Location: L204

Your résumé and cover letter send powerful messages to potential employers. They can create an image that distinguishes you as someone genuinely enthusiastic about the position or reflect an apathetic job-seeker. The speakers will use real student résumés to demonstrate a variety of techniques that can help you produce crisp, clear, and persuasive communications that will help create a positive image that can make the difference in your job search. So that the speakers may provide more personal advice and techniques during the

session, attendees must email their résumés to either Prof. Anthon (deanthon@widener.edu) or Prof. Hussey (mhussey@widener.edu) by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 22. No résumés will be used in the session without prior notice to you, and all names, addresses, and phone numbers will be redacted from student résumés used in this session.

7. UNDERSTANDING BAR ADMISSIONS (Required for 1RD & 1ED students)

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: A180

This session will provide an overview of the Bar Examination and an introduction to the requirements to be licensed to practice law. The process is complex and the time to begin planning is in your first year of law school. The classes that you choose to take, your law school grades, your conduct as a law student, and even your credit score are all related to your success on the bar exam and admission to practice. Patti Bednarik, Director of Character and Fitness for the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners will provide an overview of the bar examination and the requirements for bar admission. This session is required for all first-year students. Second-year students who are not familiar with the bar examination requirements for admission to practice are urged to attend.

8. PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN LAW SCHOOL: DOING WELL ON ESSAY EXAMS (Recommended for 1RD & 1ED students)

Time: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Location: L202

Success on college exams does not always prepare students for success with law school exams. Your first law school exams will test not only how well you have learned the law, but also your skill in solving legal problems and your ability to communicate that skill in writing. Professor Mary Kate Kearney will offer suggestions on how to best prepare yourself for your upcoming exams. She will provide insight into the nature of law school exams and guidance on the development of the skills necessary to write strong exam answers. This session is recommended for all first-year students.

9. POSITIONING YOURSELF FOR THE JOB SEARCH

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: L202

Successfully landing a satisfying job in today's difficult market requires a thoughtful, well-ordered and persistent effort that begins in law school. While law school grades remain important, both law school graduates and their potential

employers are reassessing their criteria and their approaches to the hiring process. Employers are increasingly seeking law school graduates who have demonstrated their interest in practicing law by working (including volunteering) in a legal setting while they were in law school. In this session, the panelists will discuss how you can distinguish yourself from the myriad of other job applicants.

10. AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR YOUR JOB SEARCH

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: L204

The ability to market and distinguish yourself to employers is key in this job market. Ed Sonnenberg, Brent Johnson and Susan Giusti will guide you through tools that can help you target potential employers. This session will walk you through ways to identify potential employers in a number of ways including practice area, geographic location or connections such as educational background. Susan, Brent and Ed will also give tips on tools you can use to learn about potential employers such as key clients and news about a firm or company. Resources such as Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg Law, the internet and social media will be covered.

11. WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING IN LAW SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: L204

Is it possible to make time in your busy lives to take care of yourself? Attorney Tim Shollenberger of the firm Shollenberger & Januzzi is a firm believer that it is essential to maintain your well-being while in law school and continue to do so throughout your life. Mr. Shollenberger is eager to share the knowledge he has gained through the years with students. He teaches a Pilates course at the law school and has recently become certified as a centeredbeing coach. In this session Mr. Shollenberger will introduce participants to the centeredbeing approach to well-being. Centeredbeing is a unique and innovative system that links healthy and therapeutic movement with breath strategies and eight principles for more centered, stress-free living. Through a combination of movement and empowerment, centeredbeing helps you to fight the growing risks of sedentarism, and to be stronger and more stress-free in your body, your mind and your life.

12. THE BAR EXAM: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS (Recommended for 3RD & 4ED students)

Time: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Location: A180

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. Professor David Raeker-Jordan, Coordinator of our Fundamentals of Law program, and Lisa Goldman, a bar preparation professional, will offer practical suggestions for best positioning yourself to pass the bar the first time that you take it. Patti Bednarik, Director of Character and Fitness will discuss issues related to the Bar Exam. This session is highly recommended for all graduating students.

13. IS SOLO OR SMALL FIRM PRACTICE FOR YOU?

Time: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: L202

This session is for students who are considering careers in a small firm or as a solo practitioner. Lawyers who have successfully managed the challenges of starting a solo practice or who have flourished in a small firm will candidly discuss their successes in practice as well as some pitfalls to avoid. Topics include marketing yourself and your firm, staffing issues, effectively using assistants and delegating work, interacting with clients, managing billing, using economical research tools, and maintaining a work-life balance.

14. IMMIGRATION LAW

Time: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: L204

Interest in immigration law has exploded in recent years because of the increasing complexity of the field and the ramped-up policy debate being played out in media, government, and public forums. In this session, an Immigration Law Judge, a lawyer from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center and a private practitioner will provide insight into what you can expect from a career in immigration law and what you should be doing in law school to build your immigration resume. If you are intrigued by this hot topic or have thought about pursuing a career in immigration law, this is a program for you.

15. JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Time: 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Location: L203

Clerkships provide an opportunity to be involved in advanced stage of litigation otherwise unavailable to new lawyers. 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. Learn about the application process, the value of a clerkship, and the types of work that clerks actually do.

16. CAREERS BEYOND THE LAW FIRM

Time: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Location: L204

Many law students and lawyers believe that a law degree leads only to work in a law firm. A law school degree doesn't simply prepare you to work in a law firm: law firms are only one part of a diverse legal universe. There are many different types of law jobs. This panel will explore some of the non-traditional law jobs that are part of our present system.

A legal education can also make you marketable in a variety of other fields. If you're interested in law-related work in education, media, business, or politics or if you want to use your degree in a non-legal career, this session will help you explore your options and plan your strategy. The panelists will discuss the opportunities and challenges you'll face when pursuing a non-traditional career, and the steps you should be taking in law school to position yourself for success.

17. DEBT MANAGEMENT

Time: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: L204

If you are graduating with student loan 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. Kara Wealand will discuss the following topics: Federal Repayment Plan Options, Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, Widener LRAP (Loan Repayment Assistance Program), Loan Consolidation, Deferment and Budgeting and Managing your Debt. Financial literacy handouts will be provided to help guide you through the session.