

THE PRECEDENT

How Important Are Law School Grades to Your Career? (Part 2)

By Emma Popiolkowski

In the last issue of The Precedent, we explored how law school grades may impact your career at the brand new and junior associate levels according to Harrison Barnes' article Law School Grades and Your Career. New attorneys fresh out of law school can expect their grades to make or break their chances of landing a job with a top firm that does on campus interviews. However, Barnes explained that although important, grades play less of a role in hiring decisions when firms are looking for attorneys with a few years of experience.



As an attorney gets more and more experience, grades become less important. Firms looking to hire mid-level associates generally do still look at law school grades, but more importantly look for skill and potential above all. This could be due to a firm's ability to use mid level associates to do work that is billed at a lower rate than higher ranked attorneys with efficiency, thus keeping clients happy and at the same time profiting the firm. At this stage, if your grades were less than wonderful, the best way to get a mid-level associate position at a top firm is to set yourself apart with your legal brilliance, infinite potential or specialized knowledge. At the senior associate level, firms are generally looking for the same criteria as at the lower levels, including grades. However, at this advanced stage of an attorney's career, firms are less concerned with grades and more concerned with an attorney's "rainmaking" ability and whether they would be a good fit to be partner. Barnes states that a whopping 99% of American law firms will likely deem these criteria more important than grades.

Finally, at the partner stage of an attorney's career, the impact of law school grades is negligible. The most important consideration at this point will be whether the potential partner can generate business for the firm. Although rare, some top firms will still overlook an otherwise qualified candidate for partner because of their low law school G.P.A., but this is the exception. According the Barnes, in roughly 7 out of 10 partner placements, firms do not even look at the candidate's law school grades.

Your good grades may get you everywhere as a law student and new attorney, but as you go forward in your career, they won't carry you far without proven skill and business-generating potential. On the flip side, if your grades do not tell a full picture of your skill and work ethic, as you mature in your career and gain experience, you have the potential to become the big time success you know you were always meant to be.

SOURCE: Harrison Barnes, *Law School Grades and Your Career*, LAW CROSSING, <http://www.lawcrossing.com/article/4638/Law-School-grades-and-your-career/>

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THE PRECEDENT

welcomes contributions from the WSCS student body, administration, faculty, staff, and alumni.

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Congrats to Western State's Faculty Super Lawyers!

Thompson Reuters has published its list of Super Lawyers for 2015, which includes Neil Pederson, Doug Schroeder, and Bill Shapiro, adjunct professors from Western State College of Law. They have all been named Southern California Super Lawyers.



Douglas W. Schroeder



Neil Pederson



William D. Shapiro

This distinction is conferred to select attorneys based on a process that involves peer nomination, independent research and evaluation by the publisher, resulting in only about five percent of all attorneys in the state being named to the list.

Guest Article: International Fashion Law Educational Opportunities in Poznań, Poland

By Kinga Mierzyńska, Public Relations Director for the European Law Student's Association



This semester, The Precedent is proud to be partnering with the European Law Student's Association (ELSA) and their Public Relations Director, Kinga Mierzyńska, a law student at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Ms. Mierzyńska will be contributing articles about ELSA's international programs and events for law students around the world. Check out the information below about ELSA's one-week Fashion Law Summer School program this August, and stay tuned for more news from ELSA!

Design your Summer 2015 holiday and join ELSA in Poznan!

"Your clothes determine how you see the world, especially today, when the contacts are so quick. Fashion is an instant language".

Are you ready to speak that language? Join ELSA in their second edition of Law School under the banner of fashion law, new media law, business aspects, quality of lifestyle and creating image. This summer, Poznan will become the capital of fashion world and a source of amazing inspiration. Don't hesitate! The 2nd Annual ELSA Fashion Law Summer program will be August 2-9, 2015.

About Project

The main aim of this summer program in Poznan is to shape world views among young people interested in international industry. The program is planned for one week – 5 days for a substantive workshop focused on legal aspects, and 2 days for socialization and special events. Participants will listen to lectures every day on a specific topic in fashion law, and then take part in workshops, panel discussions, and training sessions that will allow students to fully explore the issue.

Students from different countries will have the opportunity to meet new peers and indulge in the culture of Poland!

Fashion Law

Fashion law is a fast growing, legal specialization. It's not its own separate branch of law, but a combination of several interdependent legal fields, including: industrial property law, copyright law, civil law, economic & financial law, and labor law. Therefore, the aim of the Law School in Poznan will be bringing issues related to copyright, intellectual property, consumer law and business aspects of fashion law. ELSA will be introducing students with a passion for fashion law to professionals already working in the industry. Every workshop will provide a great source for important and practical information. We encourage the participation of law students fascinated by fashion law. Expand your horizons of knowledge and gain new skills!

Planned Program

Participants can expect substantive and valuable lessons and many remarkable surprises. One of the most interesting attractions planned is an opportunity to meet lawyers who have conducted cases in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Coordinators of the Law School 2015 program in Poznan are working hard to create the best summer program about fashion law!

If you are interested in the fashion law and want to experience the summer adventure of your life in Poznan – don't waste another moment! It's gonna be the best time of your life!

For more information, contact Kinga Mierzyńska at pr@poznan.elsa.org.pl

Or visit: <http://poznan.elsa.org.pl/>



Third Annual Bar Olympics Entertainment & Sports Law Society

By ESLS President of Entertainment, Winnie Jow



ESLS Executive Board Members

Matt Chue, Fred Napoles, Winnie Jow, Paul Domen

Thanks to our volunteers, our hosts Kelly's Korner Tavern in Placentia, and to our Vice President Paul Domen for spearheading the event.

Congratulations to The Plastics on their big win!

Entertainment and Sports Law Society would like to thank everyone for coming out to have a great time with us at our Third Annual Bar Olympics. Attendance this year was the highest it has ever been with ten competing teams. We saw team spirit, great uniforms, and camaraderie between colleagues as teams competed in pong, pool, and darts.



Winning Team: *The Plastics'*

Jordan Hillman, Elizabeth Harrier, Nicole Taubman, George Aloupas, Andrew Wallace, Kevin O'Hara



Mustachia



Little Billy

Entertainment & Sports Law Society



Black's Law "Babes"



Team 'Murica



The Tortfeasors

ESLS hopes you had fun at our events during Fall Semester 2014. During the Spring Semester 2015, we are inviting inspiring speakers to come share their experiences working in Hollywood, Sports Law and much more. Please stay tuned and check out The ESLS First General Meeting on Tuesday February 3 from 5-6M.

ESLS First General Meeting
HAPPY HOUR
 Tuesday, February 3, 2015 @ 5-6PM
 Room 216

ALL PAID ESLS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR. COME ENJOY HOAGIES AND AN ICE COLD BEVERAGE. COMPLIMENTS OF ESLS.



SBA does not advocate or endorse the abuse of alcohol. Anyone consuming alcohol at the event shall do so responsibly.

MEMBERSHIP FOR SPRING \$10
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT!

*Entertainment & Sports Law Society
 Membership Drive & Appreciation Event*

Speaker Panel Events

By Cheryl Bigos

“What Does Ferguson Mean for America?”

On November 20, 2014, the Black Law Student Association hosted a panel discussion concerning issues and racial tensions after the shooting death of un-armed black man, Michael Brown, by white police officer, Darren Wilson, in Ferguson Missouri. The decision, made just five days later on November 25, 2014, resulted in no indictment of Officer Wilson.




The Panel




Panelists included George O’Connor, a former Prosecutor in Ferguson, Missouri, Pete Carr, a Civil Rights Attorney in California , and Western State University College of Law Professors Robert Molko, Stacey Sobel, and Ryan Williams.

Upcoming Guest Speaker and Panel Events



The CLPC, CLA, &
Career Services
Proudly Present
Mr. Michael Becker
Senior Deputy Public Defender



**“An Overview of the Orange County
Public Defender’s Office”**
Tuesday February 3, from 5 – 6:15 p.m.
Room 101
Dinner will be served

Criminal Law Association: “An Overview of the OC Public Defender’s Office”
Tuesday, February 3, 2015— 5:00-6:15 pm
Room 101

“Steps Towards the Bar” featuring Professor Blasser and recent WSCL Graduates
Wednesday, February 4, 2015— 4:00-6:30 pm
Room 102

**Business Immigration Law:
Representing Corporate Clients and High-Skilled Workers in Immigration Matters**
Thursday, February 5, 2015 — 1:00-2:30 pm
Room 413

Latino Student Bar Association: Spanish for Lawyers Forum
Wednesday, February 18, 2015— 5:00-6:30 pm
Room 101

2015 Alternative Spring Break Program Opportunity

The Public Action Law Society of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, invites students from other law schools to participate in their sixth annual Alternative Spring Break Program (ASB) from March 9th to March 15th in Memphis, Tennessee. ASB seeks to serve the community while simultaneously providing students with the opportunity to gain legal experience. Their program is one of the few student-led programs in the country to recruit nationally.

The theme of their program is “Exploring the Legacy: From Civil Rights to Human Rights.” This year’s program includes five different tracks: family law, elder law, immigration, criminal defense, and a research track focusing on drafting legislation on LGBT equality. Students in each of these tracks will be supervised by local public interest attorneys and organizations. ASB will conclude with an awards banquet and keynote speaker address on how civil rights are changed and created through legal processes.

Please visit www.memphis.edu/law/career/asb2015.php for more information on how to apply. They are accepting applications until January 16, 2015. Subject to available funds, a limited number of scholarships may be awarded to help students with hotel costs.

If you have any questions about the program, please Callie Caldwell, J.D., Public Interest Counselor for Career Services, at The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law; 901.678.2424

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