**RUMOR HAS IT…. 2L JOB SEARCH MYTHS**

**MYTH:** All my friends have jobs already.
**TRUTH:** Very few students have summer jobs lined up this early in the year. Many 3Ls will tell you that at spring finals, they still did not have a job for the summer. The summer job search can be a long process for many reasons: smaller firms and businesses may not know their hiring needs yet; organizations may not be able to predict future demand for services; some nonprofits may be waiting for funding. The key is to be patient and methodical. Keep checking in with your contacts. Don’t give up!

**MYTH:** I want to work out of state but can’t get anything without connections.
**TRUTH:** There is a big difference between “connections” and “contacts.” Yes, it’s nice when a parent or family friend can put you directly into a job, but this is unusual. You are far more likely to succeed by making contacts in the legal community in which you want to work. Join the local bar association. Call local alumni and ask their advice. Attend a career fair in that state.

**MYTH:** I want to stay in NC but I’m not from here so no one will hire me.
**TRUTH:** You’re already in school in North Carolina—this means something! Employers want to see that you are committed to the state, so give them reason to believe this. Emphasize your involvement in the community, your knowledge of current local and state events, your interest in remaining here. You are not the first Wake Forest student who has come to NC and decided to stay.

**MYTH:** I didn’t get an offer through OCI so I’m out of options.
**TRUTH:** Only a small percentage of students get summer jobs through OCI, because employers participate in OCI. There are numerous other avenues to pursue. This is where networking is key—contact firms and alumni who practice the type of law you are interested in. Consider seeking out judicial externships, government internships, volunteer work with nonprofit organizations. OCPD updates Symplicity regularly with job postings. Your OCPD career advisor can help you identify resources to find options in your area of interest. (cont. on p. 2)

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**IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

* OCI Bid Deadline for OCI Session 5 is **12:00 pm on Friday, September 16.**
* Final day to register for the Equal Justice Works Conference & Career Fair is **Monday, September 19.**
**2L Job Search Myths (cont.)**

**MYTH:** There are no advertised jobs that interest me.
**TRUTH:** Don’t limit yourself to posted job listings. Plenty of firms and organizations do not advertise positions. Networking is essential. Talk to lawyers, alumni, anyone you know. Let them know you are looking and what you’re interested in. Some firms have work to be done, and would be happy to have a competent student available. Your willingness to work is a foot in the door, and your quality of work may mean a future job.

**MYTH:** Networking is useless. People won’t respond if I just call them up off the blue.
**TRUTH:** There is one universal truth in networking: people love to talk about themselves. Success is all in the approach. Be polite. Ask if this is a good time. Offer to take them out for lunch or coffee. Have a list in mind of what you want to learn from them. Show your appreciation with a written note. Follow up if you can—mention a CLE or recent article that relates to something you discussed.

**MYTH:** I'm just going to wait tables and enjoy one last summer of freedom.
**TRUTH:** Your 2L summer is an important opportunity to get valuable work experience. Not only are you building professional skills for your resume, but you also have an opportunity to “test the waters” in different practice areas, types of work, and even locations. Use this opportunity, it will benefit you in long-term career planning.

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**Key Job Search Strategies**

**Research, research, research**

* Identify resources relevant to your interest areas
* Research employers for targeted mailings
* Attend job fairs and conferences
* Attend CLEs and programs related to your interest areas
* Find a mentor through bar association programs – NCBA has a [law student mentor program](#), many states have something similar

**Network**

* Attend young lawyer meetings, alumni gatherings, CLEs, lunches, after-hours functions — anything at which you may meet attorneys
* Join the bar association in the city where you want to work; contact Wake Forest alums, ask if you can attend a bar meeting with them
* Take advantage of on-campus programs and events
* Set up meetings with alumni and employers in the area where you want to work

**Use your career advisor**

* Discuss strategy; review options for expanding search
* Get advice on resume and cover letters
* Find new resources

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**Additional Resources**

For government, public interest, and fellowships:  

For nonprofit internships:  
[www.philanthropyjournal.org](http://www.philanthropyjournal.org), [www.ncnonprofits.org](http://www.ncnonprofits.org)
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday, October 5
Sports & Entertainment Law Panel
12:00-1:30pm

Friday, October 7
Criminal Law Roundtable Panel
12:00-12:50pm

Monday, October 10
OCPD Pre-Fall Break Marathon Day
Quick Questions for 2Ls and 3Ls

Tuesday, October 18
Pathways to Academia with Prof. Jonathan Cardi
12:00-12:50pm

JOB LISTINGS

The U.S. Department of State is accepting applications for its 2012 Summer Internship program. More information is available at http://careers.state.gov/students/programs. Application deadline is November 1, 2011.

Earthjustice's Northeast regional office (in New York City) is hiring full-time legal interns for the summer of 2012. Earthjustice is a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment. Legal interns work under the direct supervision of attorneys in the development and prosecution of environmental litigation and other advocacy. Detailed job posting available on Symplicity.

Summer Internship, Wake County Public Defender's Office (Raleigh, NC): Work with attorneys to provide outstanding defense services to our many clients. Your duties will include interviewing clients, witnesses and police officers, negotiating deals with the district attorney, and research. If you are certified under the Third Year Practice Rule you will also have the opportunity to enter pleas in front of judges and possibly try a case. See job posting on Symplicity.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

◊ Six Networking Coups to Win Jobs
◊ NALP Report: Law Firm Associate Salaries Changed Little from Last Year
◊ The Rise of the Non-Firm Firms
◊ Are You Beer-Worthy?

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.
- Mark Twain

Check Symplicity regularly for updated listings!
The Office of Career & Professional Development partners with students and alumni during the career planning and job search process. We help you identify and pursue your own career path through one-on-one advising and career-related programming; access to job search resources and job listings; and organized interview programs.

Visit our blog!
http://career.law.wfu.edu/blog/

Keep your Symplicity profile and resume up to date! Practice area and geographic preferences in Symplicity are located under the “Profile” and “Academic” tabs. We will be relying on this information more heavily in the coming months as we talk to employers about you and your geographic interests. As your preferences change throughout the year, be sure to keep this information current.

If you have a video conference interview request: Be sure to contact Ed Raliski (raliskes@wfu.edu) BEFORE scheduling a date and time for the interview. We need to coordinate with the Business school for use of the equipment, so we want to make sure it’s available for your use.