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JURIST Academy Journal

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JURIST Alumni Corner Diversity in the Profession JA Sponsorship Feature 2013 Program Sponsors JA Alumni Articles Recruitment Tips 2014 Preview

Diversity Data

- According to an ABA report on lawyer demographics, 4.8% of attorneys in the U.S. identified themselves as Black during the 2010 national census. This is an increase from the 2000 census which reported that 4.2% of attorneys in the United States were Black.
- The Asian Pacific American population accounts for the fastest growing racial or ethnic minority group in the legal profession.
- In 2011, nearly 6.9% of ABA members responding to an inquiry identified themselves as having a disability.
- In the 2011-2012 academic year, 24.5% of all students enrolled in ABA-accredited law schools were members a racial, ethnic, religious or other type of minority group.

For more facts on diversity in the legal profession, visit http://www.americanbar.org/ portals/diversity.html

JURIST Academy: A Future in Legal Education

JURIST Academy of Widener University School of Law continues to offer cutting edge preparation 4 for college students who envision a future in legal education. According to the American Bar Association Task Force on The Future of Legal Education, law students should obtain more "hand-on training." (Sept. 2013 Draft Report). We are pleased that this recommendation for law schools has been integral to the curriculum design for this pre-law diversity pipeline program.

Module 3 exposes the JURIST Academy students to practical aspects of the profession by introducing them to the "real world" of lawyering and providing "hands-on training."



JURIST Academy Experiential Learning at Rhoads & Sinon

Just as the ABA Task Force noted the need for greater focus on "skills training and experiential learning" in law schools, the design of JURIST Academy meets this key educational objective through its off-campus and on-campus meetings with practicing attorneys, a tour of the Dauphin County Courthouse and a law firm visit to experience the legal practice setting.

Module 3 is also known as "Experiential Learning" because of its emphasis on practical experience that law students need, such as client interviewing and presenting persuasive oral arguments in court.

We hope that you enjoy JURIST Academy Journal as it describes many other ways that Widener Law School prepare students from diverse for a future in legal education!

Widener BLSA Students Mentor JURIST Academy

Volunteers from BLSA the Black Law Students Association - mentored 2013 JURIST Academy students in the annual **Mentoring Moments.** Research conducted by the Association of American Law Schools shows that students

from diverse cultures perform better when they are mentored by successful students. Special thanks to Stephen McLendon, Morgan Davis, Melissa Toaltoan and Pooja Patel for sharing their unique perspectives.



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2013 Official Sponsors

Widener Law Jurist Academy

Law School Prep Program for Rising College Juniors and Seniors

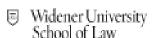








Keystone Bar **Association** 100 n c 100













Widener University School of Law 3800 Vartan Way, P.O. Box 69380 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9382

Dauphin County Bar Sponsorship by Elizabeth G. Simcox, Esquire

The Dauphin County Bar Foundation is pleased to sponsor Widener Law School's JURIST Academy as this program aligns with the mission of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation and with one of the signature programs of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

The Foundation's stated mission is to "advance the science of legal knowledge and research.....and to make gifts for educational and civic purposes of any nature."

The Dauphin County Bar Association sponsors the CAMP 1L Minority Intern Program each summer to place first-year law students look forward to the JURIST from diverse backgrounds into internships in Central Pennsylvania to learn legal practice skills.

With this in mind, the DCBA and the DC Bar Foundation believe in the goals of Widener's JURIST Academy. It is critical to the practice of law that diversity be reflected by those who represent the clients in our community. Widener Law's JURIST Academy is, indeed, a program that creates the opportunity and learning for diverse college students to choose the law as a career path.

Building the pipeline of well-prepared law students begins early, and JURIST Academy is fulfilling this critical need. We are proud to support the Academy and alumni who will participate one day in the DCBA CAMP program when they become 1Ls. We wish them well!

Keanna Seabrooks, Penn State University

the Widener Law School JURIST Academy and it was such as my GPA, a high an experience within itself; JURIST Academy was not what I expected. On many occasions, I have attended forums geared towards preparing college students interested in law school, but none of them gave me such a grand experience as JURIST Academy. Much of their foci are on the "margins" of law - what I

This summer I attended should aim towards to get into a good law school, LSAT score, and how I am going to pay for law school. When comparing JURIST Academy to all of the other resources that I utilized, I must say that Widener really provided insight into what attending any law school would be like. I learned, in a short time, what was to be expected of high expectations of the me, what I should expect in professors and, though it

return, how the professors interact with their students, the course requirements, and how law schools help students gain experience in subjects, that they had very the law with externships.

On the first day of the Academy, I was surprised to brief cases and engage in criminal law and torts discussions. I was even more surprised at the pace of the mini-courses and the Law's JURIST Academy

was a bit frightening, I loved it. I loved that the professors dedicated their time to educate me on new high expectations, that I was educated about the LSAT in depth and that. most importantly, I was practically a Widener Law student for 2 weeks!

Attending Widener was the highlight of my summer!

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Maria Abreu, City College of NY

As the time approached for me to head down to Pennsylvania for JURIST Academy, I was certain law school was the next step for me. I noticed that the professors were not trying to break us down or scare us from our law school goals, but they were there to guide us through the law school application process and the first year of law school experience.

Although Widener Law is one of the law schools I will apply to this upcoming

fall, it was comforting to see that neither the quest speakers nor the professors were trying to persuade any of us to attend Widener Law. In fact, their genuine intentions were to help us get into any law school, be successful students, and become outstanding attorneys.

JURIST Academy made me realize the passion I have for law. I intensely studied and frequently participated

in my classes. It also opened my eyes to the drastic personal changes that needed to take place in order to succeed in all my endeavors.

JURIST Academy went beyond all of my expectations, and has reinforced my desire to become a lawyer. I was saturated with new knowledge that helped answer my questions. I plan to stay in contact as I progress towards my legal career.

JURIST Academy Recruitment Tips:

- Tell your college-aged relatives and neighbors about JURIST Academy.
- Download the new 2014 JURIST Academy Brochure and Application today!
- · Visit us on the web now at http://law.widener.edu/ juristacademy
- Inform your community or faith-based organizations about JURIST Academy.
- · Remind your sorority and fraternity "family" to spread the word about JURIST Academy.





LaTasha Williams, Temple University

When I first learned of JURIST Academy, I was instantly impressed by Widener Law School's commitment to investing in prospective students who could ultimately choose to pursue a law degree from a completely different institution.

JURIST Academy far exceeded all of my initial expectations!

The curriculum was rigorous and each of the to delve into the various compartments of my mind of law school admissions. that I didn't even have an idea existed.

The LSAT instruction was phenomenal. I am confident that JURIST Academy has equipped me with the tools that I professors challenged me may need to proceed very prudently into the process

JURIST Academy Class of 2013:

Maria Abreu, City College of New York Diamond Johnson, Aquinas College (MI) Schneyder Metellus, Penn State University Rowena Rosel, Central Penn College LaTasha Williams, Temple University Mary Greenwood-Drumheller, Central Penn Adrian Dean, Susquehanna University Keanna Seabrooks, Penn State University Marissa Monteiro, Central Penn College Adriana Scotto, Elizabethtown College



Widener University

Widener Law School is pleased to operate a premier diversity pipeline program for the fourth consecutive year on the Harrisburg campus.

We will continue the format of law school mini-courses, KAPLAN LSAT preparation and, of course, development of practical legal skills and tours of a law firm and a courthouse to observe the judicial process.

We will host new speakers on campus for the "Lawyers and Civic Engagement" workshop as we welcome many of last year's speakers, too! Preview of 2014

Kaplan remains our official LSAT preparation tool!

To balance the rigorous academic schedule, JURIST Academy will sponsor a group social outing for the first time. JURIST Academy 2014 will be another exciting, enriching and enjoyable year for law school preparation!

Please contact the Widener Law Development Director Natasha Lewis to support JURIST Academy! nclewis@widener.edu

Adriana Scotto, Elizabethtown College

JURIST Academy was a very influential experience for me. JURIST Academy exceeded all my initial expectations by far and was well worth the two-week commitment. Within the first hour of the program, we were immersed in what life is like as a law student. In order to succeed in the program, we were expected to put the time and effort into everything we did.

It didn't take long to realize that my fellow classmates were from all different walks of life; yet, we all shared one similarity. We all came ready to learn and take full advantage of all the Academy had to offer. Showing up with the same mindset of working our hardest to complete the Academy successfully allowed us to develop an instant bond. Although we are at a range of different points in our lives, we shared the one goal of finding out if becoming an attorney is the path we want to take in life.

It was reassuring that the professors as well as the guest speakers believed in our individual success by their willingness to help us. During JURIST Academy we were provided with the opportunity to take three first-year law school classes along with an LSAT prep

course. The classes included Torts, Legal Methods, and Criminal Law. In each of the classes, we learned the importance of logical reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical reasoning skills. Using these skills throughout my two weeks at the Academy was rewarding for me. I felt I was able to apply the countless hours I have spent studying for the LSAT.

JURIST Academy rendered very realistic expectations of law school by showing the importance of always being prepared. We were expected to be prepared for class, and the Socratic Method was used in each class. At the end of the Academy, we were given exams and granted feedback on how we performed on each.

"Start with the end in mind" is a quote Professor Williams shared with us the first day. I feel that this relates to the journey of becoming an attorney, which Widener Law School's JURIST Academy helped prepare us for. Some of the ways the Academy helped us with the beginning steps of the law school process were providing us with a Kaplan LSAT prep course, personal statement workshops, applying to law schools through LSAC and also

applying for financial aid. Each of these guide us in the right direction towards becoming enrolled in law school. We also learned about a variety of clubs, organizations, honor societies, events, etc. that are available to us once we become law students. The guest speakers as well as our visits to the Dauphin County Courthouse and Rhoads and Sinon law firm, allowed us to begin networking with accomplished attorneys.

Personally, I appreciated how straight forward every professor, attorney, admissions counselor, law student mentor, and guest speaker was. We gained insight on what to expect in law school and the legal profession. A statement Rachel Hadrick, J.D. made that really stood out to me was, "Becoming a lawyer is not meant to be easy or everyone would become lawyers."

The entire program was truly beneficial to me and I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend the Academy. There was no limit to the lengths that the law school did not go in order to provide each of us with a valuable experience. I will carry all the insight from JURIST Academy into law school and the legal profession one day.