

CPC CORNER

COMBINING YOUR J.D. WITH ANOTHER CAREER INTEREST

BY: KIMBERLY KASS ♦ ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER PLANNING

Are you interested in using your law degree in a field other than the traditional practice of law? More and more lawyers are actively seeking jobs outside of the traditional legal field because they want to combine their J.D. with another career interest.

The New York State Bar Association hosted a panel discussion for lawyers curious about legal careers beyond traditional practice. The panelists identified Compliance, Legal Information Providers (Lexis, Westlaw and Bloomberg Law), Corporate Business and Legal Affairs, and Government Affairs as four broad careers areas beyond traditional practice where a law degree is highly marketable. While these careers are frequently referred to as “alternatives,” the truth is that they simply represent the range of professional opportunities available to attorneys. In fact, the skills learned in law school and developed in legal practice can be applied to almost any profession or industry.

Another growing area of opportunity for those that have earned a J.D. is law firm administration. There are several career paths for lawyers seeking non legal positions in large law firms. Some of the more popular options according to the article, *Exploring Nontraditional Career Paths in Law Firms*, by Hilary Mantis, featured in the February

issue of The National Jurist Magazine include:

Legal Recruiting: These are the staff members in law firms who coordinate the firm’s on-campus recruitment program and summer associate program, and often manage the firm’s lateral hiring needs.

Marketing/Business Development: As competition to attract clients and develop business has grown significantly, law firms have continued to develop marketing departments. Often staffed by lawyers, the marketing team assists lawyers with client development, speaking and writing opportunities, as well as preparing for client pitches.

Professional Development: The professional development department at large law firms provides in-house continuing legal education and training opportunities for their lawyers. They also plan orientation programs, mentoring programs, retreats, and sometimes work on the lawyer review process, and other human resource matters.

Pro Bono Program Director: Many large law firms help connect their lawyers with organizations that need pro bono legal assistance. The Pro Bono program director manages this for the firm.

Students often stop in at the Career Planning Center and inquire about career opportunities beyond the traditional practice. The Career Planning Center, SELA & PAD are co-hosting a panel discussion and networking reception next month geared to those of you that are interested in

exploring these career opportunities. The panel will consist of lawyers that have combined their law degree with another career interest. Be sure to take advantage of this informative event:

Legal Rebel Panel Discussion and Networking Reception

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30pm—Harre Union- Brown & Gold Room

Please RSVP for the Legal Rebel Panel Discussion and Networking Reception through Strategy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss combining your J.D. with another career interest, please contact kim.kass@valpo.edu.

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FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

VALPOSCHOLAR: THE UNIVERSITY’S DIGITAL ARCHIVE AND SHOWPLACE

BY: JESSE BOWMAN ♦ DIGITAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about your professors’ work outside the classroom? If so, take a moment to visit ValpoScholar! ValpoScholar, available at <http://scholar.valpo.edu>, is the University’s digital storehouse for faculty publications. In particular, the Law School’s portion of the site, available at <http://scholar.valpo.edu/law>, houses an ever-growing collection of published papers authored by members of the Valpo Law Faculty, available for free, full-text download. To browse these publications, either follow the link for “Law Faculty Presentations and Publications” (available at http://scholar.valpo.edu/law_fac_pubs/) or,



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In addition to faculty publications, ValpoScholar contains a free, full-text PDF of every article published in the Valparaiso University Law Review, from its inception in the Fall of 1968 to the current issue. The site offers a similarly comprehensive collection of articles published in Third World Legal Studies, an influential journal published annually at the Law School from 1983-2002. Next, ValpoScholar hosts a digital collection of Valpo Law alumni magazines, published intermittently from 1988-2006. Finally, streaming video of Law School events, such as this past October’s Tabor Lecture, is currently being added to the system.

ValpoScholar is an open-access initiative administered jointly by the Law Library and the Christopher Center University Library. The mission of the project is provide a centralized, online home

for the creative output of the University and, in so doing, make it available to a worldwide audience, free of charge. This mission is partly rooted in the altruistic notion that removing financial barriers and making scholarship available to the largest audience possible contributes to the greater good. In addition, an intended corollary of making this scholarship available to a worldwide audience is that doing so will increase readership and, in turn, bolster the University’s impact and reputation.

If you are interested in learning more about your professor’s scholarship or the creative output of the University, in general, I strongly encourage you to visit ValpoScholar!

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The Forum

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