

# CHECK IT OUT

Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library Newsletter  
Cumberland School of Law of Samford University



No. 563

February 2017

## Some Recent Articles for the Legal Job Hunt

by Ed Craig,  
Reference Librarian  
[elcraig@samford.edu](mailto:elcraig@samford.edu)

Finding a clerkship while in law school or a permanent position after law school graduation is more than a challenge. See the articles below for advice on how to prepare for the job search experience:

Badia, Erik. How to Resist the Allure of a Traditional Practice, *Student Lawyer*, Jan./Feb. 2017, at 14. Author provides advice on looking for legal employment that will fit what you want to do with your life rather than entering the traditional legal career path.

Badia, Erik. Job Hunting: What to Do, *Student Lawyer*, Sep./Oct. 2016, at 10. Article explores mistakes that are commonly made by applicants for employment to law firms. They include lack of knowledge about the firm itself, informality, poor attitude and inappropriate dress.

Cover Letter Tips, *National Jurist*, Winter 2017, at 7.

Several job search experts were consulted in helping to improve a resume. You can see the resume, as well as the recommendations, from the consultants.

Hermann, Richard. Data Law: The Brave New World, *National Jurist*, Fall 2016, at 6. Author discusses the demand, the necessary qualifications and the pay range of cybersecurity lawyers.

Hermann, Richard. Energy Fuels Dynamic Legal Career, *National Jurist*, Winter 2017, at 6. Author discusses the reasons why energy law is a vibrant legal area at the moment, and who is doing the hiring in this area.

Hermann, Richard. Health Law: Hot and Getting Hotter, *National Jurist*, Back to School 2016, at 8. Author states that health care attorney positions are some of the most abundant because of various factors including the spike in health care costs, fraud and abuse enforcement, provider relationships and telemedicine licensing and credentialing.

See *Job Hunt* Page 2

---

---

### In This Issue:

**Recent Acquisitions. . . 3**  
**Back Up Your Data!. . 3**  
**Director's Briefs . . . . 4**

---

---

Law Library **Easter, Spring**  
**break**, and **exam hours** will  
be posted on the kiosk and  
also available on the  
[Law Library Hours web page](#).

---



---



---

**LAW LIBRARY SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
**7:00 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT**

**FRIDAY**  
**7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.**

**SATURDAY**  
**9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY**  
**1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT**




---



---

**Job Hunt** from Page 1

Hermann, Richard. Job-Hunting Tips for 2016...and Beyond, *National Jurist*, Spring 2016, at 15. Because the job market has changed, it is critical to distinguish yourself from other candidates; this article discusses ways of doing that. Author goes into detail about listing and exhibiting various competencies important in the legal market as well as networking, references, the writing sample, and interviewing.

Hermann, Richard. 10 Hottest Alternative Legal Careers, *National Jurist*, Winter 2016, at 12. Author discusses legal careers that fall outside of the commonly considered legal positions. The top three include compliance, legal technology, and risk management.

Hot Practice Areas for J.D.s, *National Jurist*, Winter 2016, at 14. Article discusses legal careers in real estate law and environmental law.

Jaeger-Fine, Desiree. How to Start Your Job Search, *International Jurist*, 2016, at 15. Article discusses the means to find a legal position after attaining an L.L.M. degree, including building professional relationships, developing a job search strategy and being proactive.

Kreitzer, Matthew L. Leverage Your Tech Skills Into a Legal Job, *Student Lawyer*, Mar./Apr. 2016, at 11. Author discusses the need to be adaptable to new technologies in the law firm, being open to doing nontraditional research, and learning the law firm software.

Mantis, Hillary. How to Keep Fall Interviews in Perspective, *National Jurist*, Back to School 2016, at 9. Article discusses an applicant's needed perspective when interviewing in the fall for clerkships.

Mantis, Hillary. Six Ways to Beef Up Your Resume, *National Jurist*, Fall 2016, at 8. Article discusses the problem of law students having little to put on their resumes. Author mentions options that can add impressive experience to such resumes, such as taking a leadership role in a law school organization, working in the legal clinic, joining a bar association committee, writing a legal blog,

or volunteering for a legal organization.

Mantis, Hillary. 4 Ways to Make Your Resume Stand Out, *National Jurist*, Winter 2017, at 8. Suggestions include tailoring your resume for the specific job offering; don't use the same heading for all of your experience listings; give more detail on experiences pertaining to the job you are applying for; even if you do not have the opportunity for job experience in an area, you might be able to join a student bar association committee covering the topic—if so, include that under "professional affiliations."

Mantis, Hillary. What is J.D. Advantage Career?, *National Jurist*, Winter 2016, at 46. Article discusses the J.D. advantage career, that is "one in which the employer is seeking an individual who has a J.D., but the position itself does not require admission to the bar or a law license." Examples of such a career include contracts administrator, regulatory analyst, and compliance analyst.

The Perfect Resume, *National Jurist*, Back to School 2016, at 10. Article provides example of a typical law student resume and several consultants provide a critique of it.

Resume Tips, *National Jurist*, Fall 2016, at 9. Several consultants critique a typical resume and provide advice on improving it.

Tucker, Lynae. Is Politics Your Passion?, *Student Lawyer*, Jan./Feb. 2017, at 18. Article provides an interview with a law graduate, who became a legislative aide in Washington, as well as advice on what

considerations must be made in choosing a public service career in the political arena.

Tucker, Lynae. Must I Conform to Get a Job?, Student Lawyer, Sep./Oct. 2016, at 13. There is a wide difference of opinion in answering the question of the title. Some practitioners say that you need to be yourself and a unique appearance can be an advantage. Others say that you must dress knowing your potential employer's culture. Article states location and size of the firm will tell you a lot about the degree of individual expression that is permissible.

Tucker, Lynae. Put Your J.D. Advantage to Its Greatest Advantage, Jan./Feb. 2017, at 11. Article explores several attorneys' career paths to non-traditional legal careers. Author also provides some advice on how to narrow a non-traditional career search.

When Do Law School Graduates Receive Job Offers?, National Jurist, Fall 2016, at 7. Article points out that the timing of a job offer typically depends upon the size of the practice and the type of legal employer.

(Issues of National Jurist can be found at:

<http://www.nationaljurist.com/content/back-issues> .)

## Recent Acquisitions

(The titles listed below are treatises on Alabama law. Each copy is shelved in Reference.)

ALABAMA CIVIL PROCEDURE.  
KFA530/.H655/2017.

ALABAMA ELDER LAW.  
KFA91.A3/A153/2016-2017.

ALABAMA PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS, CIVIL.  
KFA542/.A9/2016-2017/v.1-v.2.

Fernambucq, Rick. FAMILY LAW IN ALABAMA : PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE.  
KFA94.5/.A65/F35/2017.

## Back Up Your Data!

by Grace Simms,  
Information Technology Librarian  
[glsimms@samford.edu](mailto:glsimms@samford.edu)

If you care about something, you should have it stored in at least two places. You should also backup your data to protect yourself from hard drive crashes, viruses/malware, theft, and damage to your computer (liquid, etc.).

There are so many ways to store data – USB drives, backup hard drives, and cloud services. With physical drives – remember that they have a life span. I don't like to keep any backup hard drives longer than four or five years. I recommend putting a "birth date" sticky note on the drive so you'll know when to start thinking about purchasing a new one. When a hard drive, USB, DVD, etc. fails, please don't throw it away. Bring any recyclables to me and I can have them destroyed.

Backup hard drives come in a variety of size options. Some are wireless while others need to be physically connected to the computer. I personally prefer the Western Digital brand of backup hard drives. Best Buy has a good selection to choose from for your backup needs.

CDs and DVDs also fail over time. I don't recommend them as a solution for long-term storage.

With the cloud, there are numerous choices. This website goes over many of them:

<https://www.lifewire.com/online-backup-services-reviewed-2624712>.

Most of these services will have a free option with a restricted amount of GB. After that there will be monthly or yearly fees. I have used Mozy, Carbonite, and iCloud. Each work well and are easy to access. With cloud services – you may need to be concerned about security and lifespan of the company where your data is stored.

My advice is to keep your data in at least two places and stay on top of the integrity of the data. Even if you have printed your photos – you need to select the correct photo paper and the best method to preserve them. [NBC News had an informative article](#) about storage methods and how they may fail in the future.

If you need help with any of the above – including choosing and using a backup drive, etc. – please email me at [glsimms@samford.edu](mailto:glsimms@samford.edu).

**Don't miss the March issue  
of CHECK IT OUT!**



**Director's Briefs**  
**From Greg Laughlin**  
[glaughlin@samford.edu](mailto:glaughlin@samford.edu)

The following is a summary of the responses we received to our annual survey. We also received a number of individual comments which are not included here, but which we have reviewed and will act upon, as appropriate. Thank you again for participating. Your replies help us make the law library more responsive to your needs.

When you visit the law library, are you able to find what you're looking for?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Always	50.0%	21
Frequently	42.9%	18
Sometimes	4.8%	2
Seldom	0.0%	0
Never	0.0%	0
No Opinion	2.4%	1
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with the overall services of the law library?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	47.6%	20
Very	38.1%	16
Somewhat	14.3%	6
Not very	0.0%	0
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How helpful is the law library staff?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	59.5%	25
Very	31.0%	13
Somewhat	9.5%	4
Not very	0.0%	0
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with the information resources (books, periodicals, online databases, etc.) available through the law library?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	52.4%	22
Very	40.5%	17
Somewhat	0.0%	0
Not very	2.4%	1
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	4.8%	2
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with law library's reference services?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	47.6%	20
Very	38.1%	16
Somewhat	7.1%	3
Not very	0.0%	0
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	7.1%	3
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with law library's information technology services (computer labs, support, etc.)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	69.0%	29
Very	31.0%	13
Somewhat	0.0%	0
Not very	0.0%	0
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with law library's hours of operation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	19.0%	8
Very	23.8%	10
Somewhat	40.5%	17
Not very	7.1%	3
Not at all	9.5%	4
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How satisfied are you with the resources available through the law library to locate information which you need (the online catalog, digests, indexes, etc.)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	33.3%	14
Very	40.5%	17
Somewhat	7.1%	3
Not very	2.4%	1
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	16.7%	7
answered question		42
skipped question		0

How easily can you find the books and journals you need in the library catalog?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	22.0%	9
Very	43.9%	18
Somewhat	17.1%	7
Not Very	2.4%	1
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	14.6%	6
answered question		41
skipped question		1

How do you typically access the library catalog?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I use the Search Box on the Law Library web site	65.0%	26
I use the Library Catalog link on the Law Library web site	22.5%	9
Other (please specify)	12.5%	5
answered question		40
skipped question		2

Have you used a subject Research Guide on the Law Library web site?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	22.0%	9
No	75.6%	31
Please suggest subjects for which you would like law library Research Guides on the Law Library website:	2.4%	1
answered question		41
skipped question		1

How satisfied are you with the law library's physical space and furnishings?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely	28.6%	12
Very	42.9%	18
Somewhat	26.2%	11
Not very	2.4%	1
Not at all	0.0%	0
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0

While funds are not currently budgeted for the purpose, the law library is considering converting the lower level reading room into a learning commons area. This would provide a space specifically designed for collaborative work in an area that is audibly isolated from the rest of the law library. The space would include more soft seating, tables and chairs arranged for better collaboration, and technology to facilitate such collaborative work. Please select the response that best reflects your opinion.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I strongly favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level	36.6%	15
I somewhat favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level	24.4%	10
I somewhat oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level	14.6%	6
I strongly oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level	22.0%	9
No opinion	2.4%	1
answered question		41
skipped question		1

It has been suggested that if space becomes available within a room which could be audibly isolated, that the law library should add a coffee kiosk. Should such a space become available, please select the response that best reflects your opinion.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I strongly favor the creation of a coffee kiosk	83.3%	35
I somewhat favor the creation of a coffee kiosk	7.1%	3
I somewhat oppose the creation of a coffee kiosk	0.0%	0
I strongly oppose the creation of a coffee kiosk	9.5%	4
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		42
skipped question		0



One more issue of **CHECK IT OUT** will be published this semester. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact **Becky Hutto** via e-mail at [rmhutto@samford.edu](mailto:rmhutto@samford.edu).