

Information on Applying to Law Firms this Summer – 3/11/20

To all students in the JD Class of 2022,

I am writing with some updates and to inform you of some measures we have recently adopted designed to streamline the process for those of you planning on applying this summer to large law firms for positions as summer associates in 2021.

-Before turning to those new measures, let me begin by stating that our traditional recruiting program, beginning with our August Job Fair in New York City, *remains fully in place*. Employer registration for our recruiting events is on track with past years and as of this writing, we plan to proceed in the usual fashion. We will of course keep you informed should any changes occur.

-As I discussed during our group meeting this past February, in addition to participating in our formal recruiting events, it has become common place for students to apply early (typically, in June or early July) to firms of the greatest interest to them. Last year, through this early application process, over 60 of our rising 2L students secured at least one offer prior to the end of July.

In order to assist those of you who wish to apply early this year, we are instituting a “2L Early Resume Collection Service.” This will allow you to submit resumes to up to 10 employers through Symplicity in early June once spring grades have become available. Those students wishing to submit more than 10 early applications will be free to do so by sending them directly to the law firms. More specific instructions will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

-In terms of acceptance deadlines for offers resulting from early interviews, in the past, our guidelines have requested that employers give a consideration period of 28 days from the beginning of our recruiting program in August. Thus, a student receiving an offer in June did not need to make a decision on that offer until the end of August. Several other top law schools have recently adopted a more flexible approach. In order to avoid disadvantaging our students, we, along with several peer schools, have altered our guidelines. We are requesting that law firms give our students an offer consideration period no shorter than the period given by that employer to students from any other law school. We do not anticipate that this change will result in a need for “on the spot” decisions. However, we do anticipate that offers, depending of course on when exactly they are made, may need to be accepted prior to the end of July and thus prior to the beginning of our formal job fair program in August. Although not ideal, we think this new approach is the best one for our students, all things considered.

We will continue to keep you updated – in the meantime, please feel free to contact any of us in the Career Services Office with any questions.

Best,

John R. DeRosa, Esq., ILR '89  
Associate Dean for Career Services &  
Adjunct Professor of Law  
Cornell Law School  
128G Hughes Hall  
Ithaca, New York 14853  
607-255-9982