

mock interview prep

Why law school?

- a lot of reasons
- I think being a lawyer has the possibility of being stimulating...
- uses all my skills:
 - As a computer programmer, i felt like I wasn't putting to use the verbal & writing skills that worked had to develop studying classics
 - but i also wanted to employ the analytical and mathematical skills that I enjoyed learning through studying physics and computer programming
 - and law is a good synthesis b/c how lawyer's job includes analyzing rules and organizing facts, as well as communicating persuading people
- ...and satisfying
- I also thought law school itself would be an enriching experience
 - I'm interested in politics in a general sense of the word, i.e. how we organize society and how that influences are interactions
 - i thought that studying the law would give me a new lens & language for understanding that
 - so I was attracted to the intellectual challenge of law school
- in that vein, one class that was really enlightening was local government law

- participating in civic life

best & worst part of law school

- worst:
 - a little disorienting, adjusting from work & 9–5 to constant responsibilities, always a new writing assignment, reading that's due whether you're ready or not
 - it's been tough but i don't complain b/c it's also exciting, stimulating, my whole efforts/task/responsibility is learning & etc.
- best:
 - local gov law class, learning about local gov. etc.

Favorite class or thing about law school

- local gov law
 - thinking in terms of structures
 - we talk about how power is distributed through different levels of government & pros & cons of empower local governmental entities
 - it's easy to form an opinion on a particular policy & then see which governmental actors are furthering that policy
 - e.g. read cases about cities passing non-discrimination ordinances, or own minimum wage laws
 - but professor insists that systems have to be general
- so have to look for more abstract principles

to...?????

- local gov law
 - reading a bunch of interesting cases about local governments, not just cities
 - how law distributes power between state & local levels
 - recently, process of suburbanization, & now how cities relate to each other & other governmental agencies

4. What practice areas are you interested in?

- the short answer is "real estate."
- I'm keeping an open mind, but I've always been interested in city planning, so I've tried to use that as a starting point for exploring practice areas.
- I went to port authority looking for general introduction to transactional work, and some more specific experience w/ land use and real estate. beyond that, i've also looked at tax questions arising in a real estate transaction & general procurement and leasing contracts.
- I think transactional work is a good fit for my personality and skills: I'm detail-oriented and good at close reading and being very precise in my writing. That said, we had to do a 1L moot court exercise, with oral arguments, and I actually found that I enjoyed it a lot, enjoyed marshaling the facts and squeezing the best argument out of them, so I would open to trying some litigation assignments, too.

Why real estate?

- I gravitate towards transactional work
 - good fit for my skills: close reading, understanding of details & contingencies
- longstanding interest in city planning, led me to Port Authority & land issues
 - I like that it's tangible. That you can see the results.
 - cf. coding: I did front-end development & design b/c I liked seeing the results.

What are the most important rewards you expect in your law career?

- expertise & mastery of a subject, producing top-quality work
- feeling consistently challenged, like I'm fulfilling my full potential
 - unlike computer programming, where I wasn't using all my skills

Tell me about yourself

- I'm a person with diverse interests. In college I majored in classics and almost went to grad school in comp lit, but I also minored in physics and ended up working in computer programming. one of the things I like about studying law and reading cases is that each case has a story, with characters and conflict, but I also appreciate how law is tool for answering big questions about how

society should work.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

- advice
 - making a contribution to a firm
 - doing work that you like
 - in an environment that you enjoy
- in general, at a firm
 - not gonna comment on 20 years, but in 5 years, definitely
- developing expertise:
 - in just five years, it might be a narrow subject, but i want to feel like i have mastery over something
 - before law school my goal was to sample different things, so i came to law school with the goal of finding something to focus on and explore deeply
- want to be surrounded by smart colleagues whose strengths complement mine
 - somewhere where people are friends
 - i've worked in a few different offices, some better in this respect than others, and i think it's important to your long-term satisfaction at work

Greatest weakness?

- too detail-oriented, look at details before i see the big picture
- i find it easier to evaluate things in terms of the rules, rather than questioning the assumptions behind those

rules

Tell me why you think the lifestyle of this job is right for you.

- i know working at a law firm is a demanding job, that it takes a lot of hours & close attention
- the best comparison i can make is going through the first year of law school
- the size of the assignments, the fact that it all requires close attention, at least at first, & that the next assignment is coming whether you're ready or not
- the time i invested in it was in a different category from what my last job had asked
 - or, what counted as a very busy week in my last job was every week in law school
- but at the same time, i found it exciting that i was learning new things every single day, and stimulating, even when i was tired
- so the long hours of working in a law firm are not a deterrent, they're a motivation to make sure that i find the right firm and the right kind of work that will keep me excited about the stuff i'm learning and creating

Tell me about your grades

- My grades are typical for HLS
 - mostly Passes, which is what ~two thirds of students get
 - also got two High Passes in civ pro & property, and a

lower pass in torts

- before law school I had a 4.0 at Penn and a 3.7 in college
- My grades in general reflect the fact that I'm a dedicated student but I also believe in challenging myself, so I've never picked a class because I thought it would be an easy A
- why did you get a low pass in torts?
 - two reasons: first, that professor grades for length. My 3-hour essay was "only" 3 thousand words. the highest grades go to people who write 6 or 10 thousand.
 - my style, in exams & in general, is more utilitarian and too the point.
 - second, that professor was a philosopher and the class focused almost exclusively on stuff like philosophy behind strict liability & tertiary costs. I'm not a philosopher; I appreciate a practical approach. & since I knew that, I studied harder for Civ Pro. B/c that class starts with rules but gets creative when you have to analyze the facts and ideas that motivate them. so it was philosophical in that sense, but much more grounded. & it's one of the hardest exams at HLS, according to TAs, so I decided to focus there.

Questions to ask:

- firm structure
 - How does the firm determine what type of work a new associate is assigned?
 - How rigid is the organization into practice groups? How often do you work with people in other practice groups?
 - Do associates work for individual partners or entire groups?
 - Does the firm require its attorneys to specialize?
 - When does the decision to specialize occur? Is the decision made by the new associate, the firm or both?
- training
 - How is an associate trained? Are there formal in-firm training programs? Are new associates encouraged to attend outside seminars?
- associate work
 - How soon can a new associate expect to get direct client contact and substantial responsibility?
 - Is there a sufficient variety of cases – i.e., larger and smaller cases – to afford young attorneys a greater variety and depth of experience?
 - How many years, on the average, does it take to become a partner?
 - What are the criteria for advancement? To what extent is the development of new clients a prerequisite to advancement? Hours?
- Howard Block
 - recent case? worked with first-year associate?
 - i see you left and came back. what about Willkie made you come back here?

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL - STUDENT SELF SERVICE

Unofficial Transcript

Thomas Eliot Carroll

6/18/2016

1L, Section 2

Fall 2015 Term: Sep 2 - Dec 22

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
1006	First Year Legal Research and Writing 2A	Lin	P	2.00
1000	Civil Procedure 2	Greiner	H	4.00
1001	Contracts 2	Okediji	P	4.00
1002	Criminal Law 2	King	P	4.00
1005	Torts 2	Sargentich	LP	4.00
Subtotal:				18.00

Winter 2016 Term: Jan 4 - Jan 22

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
1007	Problem Solving Workshop F	Rakoff	CR	2.00
Subtotal:				2.00

Spring 2016 Term: Jan 25 - May 13

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
1006	First Year Legal Research and Writing 2A	Lin	P	2.00
1003	Legislation and Regulation 2	Manning	P	4.00
1004	Property 2	Singer	H	4.00
1009	Law and the International Economy	Wu	P	4.00
2181	Local Government Law	Frug	P	3.00
Subtotal:				17.00

Fall 2016 Term: Aug 31 - Dec 20

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
2234	Taxation	Brennan	~	4.00
2036	Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers, Federalism, and Fourteenth Amendment	Parker	~	4.00
2069	Employment Law	Sachs	~	4.00
Projected Subtotal:				12.00

Winter 2017 - Spring 2017 Term: Jan 3 - May 12

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
2195	Negotiation Workshop	Mnookin	~	4.00
Projected Subtotal:				4.00

Spring 2017 Term: Jan 23 - May 12

Course Code	Title	Primary Instructor	Grade	Credits
2048	Corporations	Spamann	~	4.00
8008	Environmental Law and Policy Clinic	Jacobs	~	4.00
2842	Environmental Law and Policy Clinical Course	Jacobs	~	1.00
Projected Subtotal:				9.00

Projected Total: 62.00

THOMAS ELIOT CARROLL

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EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D. Candidate May 2018

Activities: *Harvard International Law Journal*

Reading Group: "Controlling Cyberspace"

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Certificate in Classical Studies 2012

HAVERFORD COLLEGE, B.A., Classical Languages and Physics 2010

Honors: Comfort Prize in Latin (for outstanding thesis and coursework)

Activities: Student Council, Senior Class Representative

Origami Club, President

Varsity Squash and Intramural Tennis

EMPLOYMENT

PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ, New York Summer 2016

Intern, Law Department

Researched issues relating to commercial leases and real estate finance.

RECOMBINE, New York 2014–15

Software Developer

Led front-end development through complete redesign of public-facing website. Built large-scale web-based apps to help clinics manage their patients' genetic testing and support laboratory data processing workflows.

GEOCAPITAL MICROFINANCE, Republic of Georgia Jul.–Nov. 2013

Business and IT Analyst

Analyzed and mapped loan origination and collection processes. Designed and programmed workflows to generate documents and track late payments.

KRAFT & KENNEDY, INC., New York 2012–13

Business Analyst

Helped law firms identify technology investments to serve business goals.

Collaborated with subject matter experts to communicate technical advice to clients in clear written reports. Drafted and published articles on technology issues relevant to the legal field.

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, Miami Jan.–Jun. 2011

Case Manager, Foreclosure Master Calendar

Managed 3500+ foreclosure case files. Attended court sessions to field questions on case histories and coordinated scheduling database.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW, Oakland, CA Summer 2009

Communications Intern

Researched and wrote for *Youth Law News*, including feature article on juvenile justice. Studied compliance with state law mandating disclosure of abuse and neglect deaths among foster care children.

LANGUAGES

Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian (basic), CSS, Ruby, Javascript

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