



# OCPD NEWSLETTER



## Dean's Corner

What's New in the Nest?

Welcome back Legal Eagles! The Office of Career Services and Professional Development has revamped our office and the newsletter here at NCCU School of Law. This year we are fortunate to have Dean Sandra English back at the helm joined by Director Kristen Covington, Career Services Manager Gregory Raymond and Career Services Specialist Nichelle Carroll.

Stay tuned for the weekly updates and resources that we will be sharing with you.



James E. Shepard, Founder

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## CONTACT US

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(919) 530-7701

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 9AM-5PM  
Tuesday - 9AM-7PM  
Wednesday - 9AM-5PM  
Thursday - 9AM-5PM  
Friday - 9AM-5PM

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## Rianah Alexander, 3L

Rianah spent this past summer at Herrmann & Murphy, PLLC which is a plaintiff-side employment law firm in Charlotte, NC. The highlight of her summer was being in-person at her internship. She stated, "I started at NCCU Law during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, so most of my legal experiences have been remote." When asked what recommendations she has for fellow students looking for summer opportunities, she advised, "My recommendation to fellow students looking for summer experiences is to network, be authentic, and be kind to people. It may sound cliché, but most of my experiences thus far have been through referrals. Grades are very important, but your reputation can take you far." Rianah plans to take the NC Bar and practice labor and employment law in North Carolina, and we can't wait to see this eagle soar.

## Faith Moss, 3L

Faith interned with Reed Smith in their Chicago office working primarily within their corporate group. When asked about noteworthy highlights she told us, "The highlight of my experience was the guidance I gained from attorneys not only at my firm but also from the networking events I was fortunate enough to attend. I've been extended an offer return to Reed Smith after taking the Illinois 2023 Bar exam." We are very excited for her. Some advice she has for her fellow classmates would be, "For fellow students looking for summer positions do not be afraid to put yourself out there. Know your worth and your abilities. Opportunities follow confidence."



## Diamond Humphrey, 3L

Diamond, recently worked at Legal Aid of Los Angeles as a summer law clerk in the Restoring Community workgroup. When asked to expand upon the experience she said, "The highlight of my summer was getting direct client experience. This internship allowed me to become comfortable spearheading cases and engaging with clients. My recommendation to students looking for summer employment opportunities is to apply early!" We endorse her advice, and we in the OCPD are very excited to see what she will do next. After law school, she plans to work in the public sector for a few years. She hopes to relocate outside of North Carolina.





# AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION™

## Tips from the ABA on OCI

### What types of employer participate in the fall interview program?

- **Large Law Firms:** These employers are able to establish their hiring needs a year in advance. Occasionally, a mid-size or small firm will participate. In general, smaller law firms do not. Instead, they recruit when they need to fill immediate openings.
- **Government Agencies:** Federal, state and local government agencies recruit for their summer intern programs, graduate honors programs, or for entry-level attorney positions.
- **Accounting & Consulting Firms:** Sometimes accounting firms are interested in law graduates with accounting backgrounds for their tax departments. They are generally interested in third year students.

### What types of credentials are OCI interviewers seeking?

Generally, employers seek students with a high class rank (top 10-15 percent) and/or other distinguishing academic credentials such as law review or moot court. Patent firms want a technical background. Government employers generally seek students who are committed to the work of the agency. Because employers often interview at many campuses across the country, the competition for positions is extremely high.

Why do recruiters interview more second year students than third year students?

Large and mid-size law firms tend to fill most of their first-year associate needs from their previous year's summer associate class. Therefore, they focus on hiring second year students to fill future hiring needs.

### What criteria do employers use?

Employers determine their required or preferred hiring criteria. Know the employers' qualifications before bidding. If an employer requires the top 15 percent and you are ranked at 16 percent, unfortunately, you may not bid on that employer. If an employer's hiring criteria are listed as "preferred," this means that the employer will typically hire from within this class rank or just outside it. Students should be realistic in their bidding selections. What should I expect when interviewing begins?

Interviews are generally scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A few recruiters schedule only half-day schedules. Interviews are usually 20 or 30 minutes long.

### If I get no interviews through OCI, what should I do?

About 90 percent of the nation's law graduates do not get hired through OCI. OCI is just one avenue to legal employment and, depending on your academic credentials, career goals and practice interests, it may not be the appropriate avenue for you. If you are uncertain whether this is a program in which you should participate. You can also consider out-of-state employers. If you are interested in an out of state employer, your cover letter should address why you wish to relocate to that city. Also, these employers will take your request more seriously if you tell them that you plan to visit their city on a certain date and that you would appreciate the opportunity to meet with them while you are in town. Keep in mind that if you want access to information about legal employers in other states, you can often gain the information by getting reciprocity to another law school career services office.

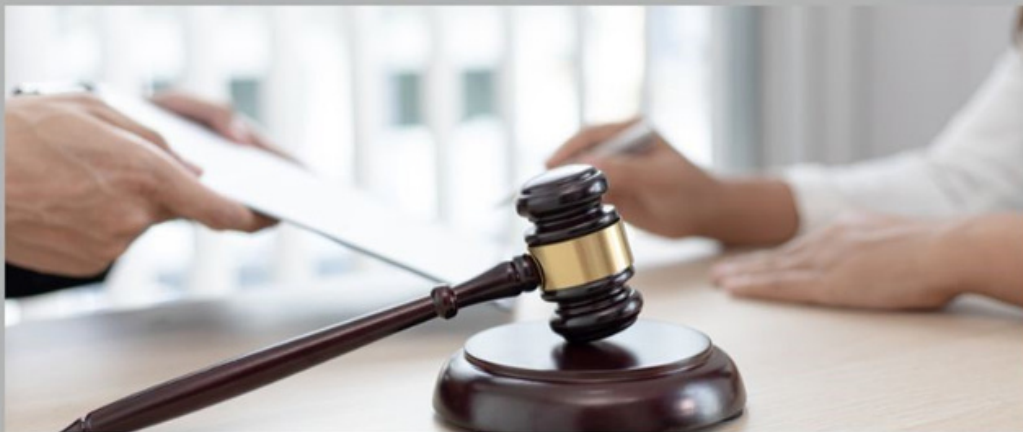
### If I receive multiple offers for summer associate positions, how should I decide which offer to accept?

Focus on the work each firm engages in. What is each firm's core business? How will work be allocated? Will you rotate through practice areas as a junior associate or stay in just one? If you don't know what work you are interested in, choose a firm that will keep doors open and expose you to a number of practice areas. Be honest with yourself about your personality and genuine interests. What vibe did you get with your interviewers? Who did you really click with? Find out about the day-to-day structure of the summer program including what practice areas you will be exposed to. Speak to current and former lawyers at each firm, though bear in mind that experiences of the same firm can vary dramatically and things may be different in two years' time.

# OCI (ON-CAMPUS) INTERVIEWS IS HAPPENING!

*now*

**AUG. 16TH-SEPT. 16TH**  
**NCCU LAW STUDENTS**



**LAW CAREER SERVICES**

Did you know that there  
are over  
1 million lawyers  
on LinkedIn?

Career Services and  
**LinkedIn** Present:

# ROCK YOUR PROFILE

AUGUST 22ND

5:00PM

Rock Your Profile is a virtual workshop presented by experts from LinkedIn's Legal and Public Policy team. Attendees will learn tips and simple steps to take their profiles from basic to All-Star.



NCCU

For zoom link, Click [HERE](#)



HOW DO YOU GET YOUR PROFILE  
TO STAND OUT  
SO THAT YOU LAND YOUR  
NEXT INTERNSHIP OR JOB?

What does your  
LinkedIn profile say  
about you?

Please register for this  
event:





**ATTENTION**  
**2LS, 3LS, 3LES, & 4LES**  
**TWO PART EVENT!!!**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE (DOJ)  
HONORS AND SLIP  
PROGRAM  
WORKSHOP**

AUGUST 25TH 4-6:30  
AUGUST 29TH 4-6:30

**Great Hall**



AUGUST 25TH HAVE YOUR  
APPLICATION DOUCMENTS  
REVIEWED AND RETURN  
ON AUGUST 29TH FOR  
FINAL REVIEW

**RSVP BY SCANNING  
THE QR CODE OR  
CLICK HERE**

