July Market Updates and EIW Advice

In a land before pandemics, Early Interview Week would be starting a week from today. This evening we’d be releasing the final schedules to employers and you’d be in your final stages of preparation. You would have spent the last eight weeks furiously researching firms, meeting with alums, attending scores of law firm receptions and meeting with OCP to finalize your bid list. In that time you’d also have updated your resume, completed one or more mock interviews, finalized your writing sample, connected with faculty and colleagues about serving as a reference, made plans to return to Ann Arbor this coming weekend, and laid out your professional attire for the week.

If that sounds exhausting, I agree.

Now imagine if you had to do all of that, plus reading for class, plus showing up for student org commitments, plus working on a journal, plus keeping yourself mentally healthy, plus navigating all of the other things that we can’t yet know might come up this fall. That too sounds exhausting.

This is why we are encouraging students to do what you can, now. There is no single thing that you must do today in order to prepare for EIW, but procrastinating may have extreme costs here.

At this point in the summer, you should definitely be well into researching firms and be engaged in the process of thinking/learning about your geographic and practice area interests. You may also be beginning the process of reaching out to alums and having 1:1 conversations to learn more about geographies, practice areas, or particular firms. If your summer internship is over, you might also be thinking about updating your resume with the new experiences.

Just a reminder that there are a bunch of resources to help you through this process on the EIW Student Site. A number of students had asked for a list of firms that came to EIW last year assuming (correctly) that this list would be a pretty good proxy for who we expect to come this year. We’ve now posted that information on the Student Site.
If you are looking for the "BigLaw Hornbook" to get started, there are many (again, see the Student Site), but the Chambers Associate Student’s Guide is pretty good and available to you online (here). Also remember that the short webinars we’ve done this summer (e.g., the networking webinar from last week) are all available to you in Symplicity under Resources > Document Library.

Please don’t wait until the last minute to start. Preparing for EIW is not a memorization exercise; it is an acclimation exercise. Cramming for it is not all that effective.

**Any advice on journals? How to I choose between multiple offers?**

Journals are going to be looked on pretty favorably by most employers, but they are not a mandatory prerequisite at most firms (they are for a few of the fancier firms). That said, for those of you interested in doing post-grad clerkships, journals are becoming an increasingly important element of your candidacy for all judges and pretty much required for the fancier judges.

In terms of choosing between journals, other than the Law Review, generally speaking employers and judges aren’t going to view any one journal as being more prestigious than another. If you have a choice, the first step is to ask whether there is one journal that you are more excited about than the other. My recommendation is to follow that interest, if it exists. Journals can be a significant time commitment and the value of the journal experience will be lost if you are not interested in any of the substance. If all other things are equal, you might then ask how the various journals fit your emerging professional narrative. Does one signal an interest in an area of law that isn’t otherwise apparent on your resume? There is no wrong answer here.

The only thing you cannot do is sign up for a journal only because you think it is going to improve your resume and then flake out on your obligation after the interview season is over next term. That’s really unprofessional and puts your peers on the journal in a really tough position.

**And, finally …**

There are about six weeks before classes start so if you have not yet scheduled an appointment to see an OCP counselor, I’d encourage you to do so. **You should absolutely have an appointment with an attorney-counselor before the start of the school year.**

I hope you are all keeping safe and healthy.

Best,

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Pronouns: he, him, his

p.s. apologies in advance for any typos.
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Preparing for EIW, August edition: Interview Prep
SESSION START: Aug 12, 2020, 12:00 PM
SESSION END: Aug 12, 2020, 1:00 PM
LOCATION: Via ZOOM video conference

Info Sessions

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS:

DLA Piper (San Francisco, CA)
START DATE/TIME: Jul 28, 2020, 3:00 PM
END DATE/TIME: Jul 28, 2020, 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Via ZOOM video conference

Harrity & Harrity (Fairfax, VA)
START DATE/TIME: Jul 29, 2020, 4:00 PM
END DATE/TIME: Jul 29, 2020, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Off-Campus (see event description)

DLA Piper (San Francisco, CA)
START DATE/TIME: Jul 30, 2020, 8:00 PM
END DATE/TIME: Jul 30, 2020, 9:00 PM
LOCATION: Via ZOOM video conference

Bain & Company, Inc. (Boston, MA)
START DATE/TIME: Aug 05, 2020, 6:00 PM
END DATE/TIME: Aug 05, 2020, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Off-Campus (see event description)

Hogan Lovells (Silicon Valley, CA)
START DATE/TIME: Jun 22, 2020, 3:30 PM
END DATE/TIME: Jul 29, 2020, 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Off-Campus (see event description)