ESSAY TOPIC

Jane Doe is in the middle of interviewing during her second year of law school for a job. Jane has had a page on Facebook since she was in undergrad and uses it to keep in touch with family and friends. Given the recent economy, there is a lot of competition for employment and she has also turned to LinkedIn as a professional networking tool. Jane Doe includes a lot of personal information on FB page, including: pictures, her religious beliefs, her political views, and her relationship status. Jane Doe also allows her friends and colleagues to comment on her profiles and tag her in photographs. The line between her personal and professional identities have begun to blur. Jane Doe has been on numerous interviews and a few potential employers have asked her if she is on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn. One potential employer presented Jane Doe with a photo of her drinking alcohol that she was tagged in on Facebook and another potential employer showed Jane Doe comments she wrote criticizing her last employer. Jane Doe did not get either job.

Following proper Blue Book citation format, prepare a 3-5 page memorandum, supporting your position with relevant case law, statues and/or public policy considerations, answering the following questions:

(1) Has Jane Doe given up her right to privacy since she regularly uses social and professional networking sites to post personal and professional information about herself? Explain why or why not? Does your answer change if Jane makes her page “private” restricting access without her permission? Explain why or why not?

(2) What information, if any, can a potential employer consider when interviewing an applicant? Must employers let employees know from the beginning of the interviewing process that social networks may be accessed and considered in the hiring process?

(3) Identify at least three social media and privacy best practices for managing personal and professional networking sites?

ELIGIBILITY

- 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls are all eligible to enter.
- Must be in enrolled and in academic good standing at an accredited Illinois law school, as evidenced by an official transcript or a letter written on law school letterhead from the Registrar's Office or the Dean of Students Office.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

- Essay must be 3-5 typewritten pages.
- Essay must be typed in black ink, 12-point font, double-spaced on white 8½ x 11 inch paper with 1-inch margins on the entire document.
- Each essay page must be numbered and include the name of applicant.
- Essay must be accompanied by a Cover sheet (see specifications below).
- Essay must be accompanied by a Resume that includes current community service activities (such as professional organizations, student groups, and non-profit activities).
- Essay must follow Blue Book citation rules.
Essay must cite legal authority in support of arguments including but not limited to, case law, statutes or public policy.

Entries will be judged on the appropriate use of legal and non-legal information sources; content (spelling, grammar, organization and logical thought); originality (creativity and persuasiveness); and clarity of argument.

Entries will also be judged by the applicant’s commitment to community service (current involvement in community or professional organizations as demonstrated on Resume).

Entries must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing.

COVER SHEET: Each applicant must attach a cover sheet which includes the following information:

First and Last Name, Mailing Address, Email Address, Phone Number, Name of Law School, Year in Law School, and Number of Submitted Pages (including cover sheet). Each page of the essay must also include the applicant’s name.

DEADLINE: All submissions must be received by **February 15, 2011 at 6:00 pm CST.** You must submit essay, cover sheet and resume to Suheily Natal via email to scholarship@bwla.org. If applicants have any questions about the application or submission, they may contact Suheily Natal at scholarship@bwla.org.

INTERVIEWS: The Scholarship Committee will choose the top five (5) applicants based on the above-stated criteria and invite them for an interview with the Scholarship Committee. Those chosen for an interview will be notified by email in early March 2011. The interview may include questions regarding the applicant’s interests, career goals, and the submitted essay.

PRIZES: Winners will be chosen based on the essay, resume, and interviews and winners will be notified via email and via U.S. Mail. The grand prize award will be worth no less than $3,000, but the actual amount of all prizes will be determined by the amount of donated funds received by BWLA. Prizes will be distributed at the BWLA Spring Fundraiser in April 2011.

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