

# THE DECISIVE UTTERANCE

The Newspaper for the John Marshall Legal Community

Volume 56, Issue 2

October 15, 2018

## The Inside Scoop with SBA President

The SBA president, Hannah Johnson, shared with us some insights about the SBA. **Q: Ms. Johnson, please tell us a little about the SBA.**

The SBA is the student governing body at John Marshall and is the first bar association you join in your legal career. We strive to enhance the interactions between students, faculty, administrators, and the legal community, while representing the interests of the student body. The SBA hosts many exciting events during the school year. We host our annual student alumni exchange event where you have the opportunity to network with prestigious and accomplished alumni

from Chicago's legal community. We also host a public interest auction and Barrister's Ball, a student favorite! During the rest of the year, the SBA actively works to ensure the strength, progress and improvement of your student experience.

**Q: Please tell us the direction you're taking SBA this year.**

Our main goal for the SBA this year is to ensure that our students voices are heard and considered during the merger with UIC. While we are all excited about the growth and new changes, we want to make sure that core of what our school stands for continues to ring true.

**Q: What things stude-**

**-ents need to know about SBA?**

Every single students is automatically a member of the SBA the day they enroll at John Marshall. We hold several legislative meetings throughout the semester that are open to all students to come and voice their concerns as well as learn what the SBA has coming up. Our office is located on 2nd floor of the State Street. Visit us!



(Provided by Ms. Johnson)

## Thrive in Your Legal Career

*-Interview with Stephanie Jones '13*

**Q: What was your experience like at John Marshall?**

Busy! I was involved on campus in Mock Trial, Law Review, the Corporate Law Society, and the Student Bar Association. I also had two ex-

-ternships and I worked as a law clerk for a large, national law firm. Somehow, I had to find time to study as well.

**Q: What is your most memorable John Marshall story that you cheri-**

**-sh and would like to share with us?**

My most memorable John Marshall story has to be when my entire family flew out from California to attend my graduation.

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By Jacara Jackson  
DU Editor-In-Chief

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The following student organizations have events in the upcoming months:

**Criminal Law Society (Judicial Panel)**

Oct 17th, 5pm, RM 3East

**Republican Student Association (Guest Speaker Charles Love)**

Oct 17th, 5pm, RM 200

**Chicago Bar Association (Blackhawks Game)**

Oct 18th

**Diverse Law Student Reception**

Oct 24th, 5pm, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

**Federalist Society Event (Lecture on *Grundy v. United States* and the Non-Delegation Doctrine)**

Oct 31st, 5pm, RM 532

**Journal of Information Technology & Privacy Law (Braun Symposium Blockchain and the Law: Risk, Opportunities, Challenges)**

Nov 9th, 10am-4pm, RM 1200

JITPL is currently accepting student research proposals until Oct 22nd. For more information, contact jitpl@jmls.edu.

# Thrive in Your Legal Career

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Getting to see my family, friends, colleagues, and professors mingle and get to know one another was so much fun. I have no other lawyers in my family (with the exception of a very distant relative), so it was a special day for all of us.

*Q: If you had to start all over again, would you choose John Marshall as your law school?*

Sure. I loved my time at JMLS and I truly believe that I was “practice ready” when I graduated. The confidence that gave me going out into private practice has enabled me to excel as a litigator and has also contributed to my overall wellbeing and happiness in my job.

*Q: Where do you currently work? What area of law do you practice?*

I am a litigation attorney at Riley safer Holmes & Cancila LLP in Chicago, Illinois. I am a general litigation attorney, so my practice varies. I handle various types of matters from products liability to mass tort to employment and class action litigation.

*Q: Is this the area of law that you wanted to practice while you were in law school?*

This is not the area of law I originally planned on practicing. I actually wanted to be a criminal prosecutor when I first

started law school, but I was given an incredible opportunity to extern for a state court judge presiding over civil trials, through JMLS’s externship program. That inspired me to continue working in civil litigation.

*Q: How did you become a litigator?*

I think I was born this way! I love being a litigator. But, my true inspiration to become a litigator was my internships during undergrad and post-college in criminal law. I went to law school because of that experience.

*Q: You are a mom, a wife, and a lawyer; how do you manage all of these pretty demanding roles? Is there a secret recipe that you want to share with us?*

There’s no secret recipe! You just have to do what works best for you. For me, organization is key. My father always said: “organize or agonize!” It drove me crazy as a child, but now I live by it. Juggling the demands of being a litigator, having a personal life, and participating in other organizations outside of work can be overwhelming at times. I really try to take it one day at a time and realize that there are only 24 hours in a day; there is only so much that can be done (and done well) in those 24 hours.

Sometimes, you simply must reset, reorganize, and reprioritize as you move through the week, and that’s okay.

*Q: Do you interview law students for legal positions? What qualities do you look for in a candidate for a law clerk, summer associate, or associate position?*

When I interview a candidate, I focus on work history, grades, and personality—and not in any particular order. I believe grades are an important factor because they, first and foremost, set you apart from your peers. They also indicate the level of drive and dedication you have for this profession. I also want to know what jobs you’ve worked in the past. That will often show the potential employer what your interests are, where else you can add value, and how you will fit into the team you’re interviewing for. What is most important to me is that I see passion in a candidate. Being a lawyer is a difficult job. It is not

for the average, the faint of heart, or the weary. I want to hire someone who wants nothing more than to be a great lawyer.



(Courtesy of Stephanie)

*Q: Do you think it is important to publish before graduating from law school? Please explain.*

I think that being published is just one more opportunity to distinguish yourself from your competition. But, it is not necessary. Having other accolades or leadership roles can also help set yourself apart from the other candidates.

To learn more about Stephanie, please check out her website at: <https://www.rshc-law.com/attorneys/attorney/stephanie-f.-jones>.

## The Decisive Utterance

- Editor-In-Chief.....Jacara Jackson
- Senior Editor.....Shanna Assenzio
- Senior Editor.....Robert Reategui
- Social Media Director.....Alice McElroy
- Layout Editor.....Zike (Ariel) Yang

Contact us at [decisiveutterance@jmls.edu](mailto:decisiveutterance@jmls.edu) if you would like to contribute.