

CAREER JUMPSTART: WASHINGTON D.C.

If you're planning a move to Washington, DC with the hope of finding work in the government or non-profit sector, here are a few ideas for action:

First, contact the BC Law Alumni Chapter. Make connections while you have some free time right now. Contact the Chapter Representatives to get involved and meet fellow alumni.

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Second, check the following websites periodically:

www.hillzoo.com for job postings on Capitol Hill
www.pslawnet.org for public service/government law jobs
www.usajobs.opm.gov for federal job postings

Any public or private agency or organization you wish to work for will likely post openings on its own website as well.

Third, subscribe to *Legal Times* (www.LegalTimes.com), the local newspaper for lawyers and *The Washington Post*, which many agencies and organizations also use to advertise legal positions.

Fourth, join the Washington Council of Lawyers (<http://www.wclawyers.org/>), a voluntary bar focused on public interest and *pro bono* issues. Their website contains volunteer and paid public service opportunities. You can also attend their educational and networking events. There are many other voluntary bar associations in DC that cover a wide range of practice areas and affinity groups.

Fifth, do you have campaign/political organizing experience and/or aspirations? Consider www.politemps.com, a temporary service agency for campaign workers and managers.

Sixth, between January and July, we can help you obtain reciprocity with participating DC law schools to visit their office and look at their job postings. Reciprocity is good for 3 months and expires in August. If you are moving to DC, let Career Services know and we can apply for you to visit the law schools at Georgetown, George Washington, Howard or American.

Seventh, keep engaged and active in areas that matter to you. If Washington, DC is completely new to you, or you've been away for some time, consider systematically contacting every one you know in the area. Invite each person for coffee and conversation, and talk to them about something other than your job search – like good places to live, opportunities to volunteer in the community, places to work-out or eat-out. Let people give you advice and feel useful to you, and begin to build an interesting, enjoyable life while you look for your job.

Starting Salaries* in Washington, DC:

Government Positions: Median: \$55,706 Mean: \$60,044

* Jobs & J.D.'s Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates, 2007 NALP

Important:

Please note that in June 2005, the D.C. Court of Appeals issued a decision prohibiting attorneys in the DC area to do substantive legal work unless they are DC Barred or DC Bar-pending. You need to pass a State Bar, obtain a Certificate of Good Standing from that state and submit the DC Bar Application before you become eligible for any contract *attorney* work.