Training Tax Lawyers

Preparing law students for tax practice requires more than the standard smattering of JD tax courses.

That’s why we run an extreme tax boot camp. The summer after their first year of law school (or 2L evening), select students complete the equivalent of 4 units of advanced tax accounting, 4 units of corporate tax, and 4 units of partnership tax. They eat, breathe, and sleep tax.

By the beginning of their second JD year, they are ready to take on problems well beyond the reach of many more senior attorneys. In Tax Law Practicum, for example, they structure a complex M & A, preparing the necessary tax documentation and participating in a mock meeting with client and corporate counsel.

They then concentrate in one or more tax specialty areas and put theory to practice in one of our many experiential offerings:

- IRS Small Case Clinic
- IRS Office of Chief Counsel Externship
- United States Attorney Tax Division Externship
- Nonprofit Tax and Transactions Clinic
- United States Bankruptcy Court Externship
- Taxpayer Appeals Assistance Clinic
- Sales and Use Tax Clinic
- California Attorney General Business and Tax Division Externship
- California State Board of Equalization Externship
- California State Controller Externship

This unusual training produces two unusual market responses. First, employers recruit our students for 2L summer tax positions. (This rarely happens elsewhere.) Second, JD students from higher-ranked schools visit at Loyola to study tax.

Graduates of our program practice tax at Skadden, Kirkland & Ellis, Latham & Watkins, O’Melveny & Myers, Munger Tolles & Olson, Mayer Brown, and DLA Piper, among others.

Purpose of this Newsletter

American Lawyer ranks us third among US law schools in preparing students for big-firm practice. This newsletter explains how we do so, one practice area per issue. We hope it will help you make more cost-effective hiring decisions.

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Prior issues can be found at:
http://www.lls.edu/aboutus/practicallearning/

Greg Seto, Loyola ’13
Deloitte Tax LLP

“My ability to apply arcane rules to complex facts and present conclusions in a coherent manner places me in high demand within the group.”

Two months after he started at Deloitte, Greg was entrusted with drafting a memorandum to client documenting the restructuring of client’s Asian operations and subsequent multi-billion dollar sale.

“I have worked with Greg one-on-one quite a bit and am impressed with his ability to handle complex technical assignments. It is unusual to find this in a first year hire.”

– David H. Hemmerling, Partner
Deloitte Tax LLP