

DUKE LAW

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

July 2014

Dear Class of 2017:

On behalf of the Career & Professional Development Center team, I welcome you to Duke Law School. Our mission is much greater than simply helping students “get a job.” Rather, we are committed to helping each of you develop into successful, fulfilled professionals and future leaders in the law.

While there are many paths to fulfilling professional lives, choosing the one that’s right for you will require careful self-assessment. So, even now, it is important that you start asking and answering the question, “What type of life do I want to lead, and what type of professional do I want to be?”

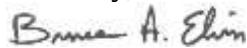
In the months and years to come, my colleagues and I look forward to educating you about the legal economy, specific legal markets, practice area specialties, and the many unique professional paths taken by those in the Duke Law community. Likewise, this fall we look forward to training you in proven methods of job search success, to advising you one-on-one, and to facilitating employment opportunities for the class as a whole.

We encourage you to take ownership of your career by working hard and becoming fully engaged in all that the law school has to offer. During orientation, and everyday thereafter, embrace the reality that meaningful relationships are at the very core of professional success. By coming to Duke, you have given yourself the opportunity to build a tremendous network of these core relationships, but it is up to you to seize that opportunity by investing in others. Integrate outreach into your daily routine and look for ways to meaningfully connect with your classmates, faculty, alumni, the many dedicated professionals throughout the law school, and those at schools across campus.

Make a habit of regularly reviewing the Law School’s events calendar, too, and plan to attend programs of interest. Whether through symposia or student-sponsored events, noted scholars and leading practitioners will be here to meet and talk with you weekly. By your participation in these programs, you will start to define, and continually refine, your professional passion – another crucial step in career success.

Again, welcome to Durham, and welcome to Duke. My colleagues and I look forward to seeing you at our first class-wide program in early September, to getting to know each of you personally, and to supporting you in the exciting years ahead.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Elvin
Associate Dean