

Frequently Asked Questions:

The JD Job Search During COVID-19

1. How can I find alumni of the Law Center in a specific city, country or firm?

We suggest that you set up a LinkedIn profile if you do not already have one. [Through LinkedIn](#), you can search for Georgetown Law alumni or alumni from your previous universities and filter by practice area, employer, and location. We also recommend setting up an account with [Hoya Gateway](#) if you have not yet done so. Hoya Gateway is a recently-launched networking platform, exclusive to Georgetown students and alumni. This hub is a one-stop-shop for discovering new career opportunities and for professional development. It gives you access to a global network of law alumni and students, and there are more than 1,500 alumni from Los Angeles to Hong Kong who have already joined.

2. How do I network when it's not possible to schedule an in-person meeting or coffee chat?

We suggest that alumni continue networking by setting up informational interviews over the phone or through video chats. Take a look at OCS's [resource on remote networking](#) for guidance. Networking for long distance jobs has often occurred through telephone conversations. Not being able to meet in person should not be an impediment to developing your professional connections. Again, be patient if you do not hear back from a contact right away. This [article](#) on effective virtual communication skills can help you prepare.

3. Is the Office of Career Strategy reaching out to employers and alumni regarding their hiring plans?

Yes. Our office is communicating with employers and alumni regularly and job postings will be added to Symplicity so be sure to continue to monitor the entry-level positions.

4. If I can't apply to jobs because firms or organizations that I am interested in have implemented a hiring freeze, what can I do right now so that I am a strong candidate when hiring resumes?

- *Network, network, network!* Reach out to contacts you have made through family, friends, former colleagues, professors, etc. while being mindful that while some may be eager to talk, others may be struggling during this time of uncertainty. This is also a good time to build your long-term professional connections. Stay in touch with your contacts. Many people are eager to reconnect right now.
- Revise your list of references. Consider asking former professors and supervisors.
- Update your LinkedIn profile, linked contacts, and your resume.
- Explore free webinars or other forms of professional education to gain skills that may make you more marketable. Many bar associations are offering free Continuing Legal Education during this time.
- Broaden your intended job search both geographically and by practice based on your qualifications and interests. For ideas on how to expand your search while staying focused on your long-term goals, check out [OCS's Job Searching in Uncertain Times: Private Sector Resource](#)
- Get published, if possible. Legal employers look for strong research, writing, and analytical abilities; having publications demonstrates those skills.
- Continue to develop your legal skills either before or after you have taken the bar exam by participating in the [EIP](#) program.

5. Should I continue my job search while I study for the bar exam?

Many students continue applying and networking in connection with their job search until a few weeks before the bar exam in order to focus entirely on exam preparation during those crucial final days. Because many states have delayed the bar exam, there may be unique considerations for when you start or stop your individual job search. Ultimately, we recommend that you give the bar exam your total focus during the last few weeks before the exam date and avoid time-consuming distractions.

6. Are there any programs or resources on the job search process during COVID-19?

OCS has spoken with attorneys and recruiters to glean insight on the job search during COVID-19. We will add programming here as it is developed and would like to provide you with relevant links from outside programs and internal programs that may be helpful for your search.

- [Job Searching in Uncertain Times: Private Sector](#)
- [Recording of Now What? Career Planning in a Time of Uncertainty](#)
- [Accelerate Your Networking in Minutes](#)
- [What Should Associates Be Doing during COVID-19? \(NALP\)](#)
- [Your Summer Internship Has Been Canceled—Now What? \(Vault\)](#)

7. What if I haven't found a position after I graduate? Will I still be able to receive career advice from OCS and meet with a career advisor this summer?

Yes! OCS remains open during the summer and the career advisors will be available to meet with students and recent graduates to discuss their job search. You can set up an appointment [here](#). We will also continue to publish our Bar Banter newsletter over the summer to update you with current information on the bar exam, and as well as a Post-Graduate Newsletter that will go out to all recent alumni (L'20) still seeking positions.