gleaned from both expanded access to job postings and the
legal project bank (see pages 6–7) and specific outreach done
by CSO advisors on behalf of students.

Faculty, senior administrators, and alumni are also integral to
reaching employers and other alumni who may have or be aware
of potential job openings. In an expanded networking effort,
fondly known as The Becker Project, the school developed a
system for enhanced outreach to alumni to better engage them
in the job prospect process. In all of these efforts, law school
representatives—CSO advisors, administrators, alumni, and
faculty—frequently target employers to introduce individual
students and tout their specific strengths.

“Along with the CSO professionals, faculty members are
excellent resources for information since many are distinguished
practitioners and/or researchers in their respective fields,” notes
Steve Chiang, JD ’11, now an associate at Oliff & Bertridge PLC
in Alexandria, Virginia. “They are genuinely interested in helping
students and will refer them to colleagues, peers, and friends who
may be able to provide further assistance. When working with
the CSO and faculty for my own job search, I found it immedi-
ately evident that they truly focus on each and every student as
an individual.”

Growing Network of Contacts

Although networking has always been an important tool in a
job search, it has become paramount in the current market. The
CSO has expanded networking opportunities, providing students
with access to 3,000 professionals from across the country during
the past academic year alone. Almost 300 attorneys visit campus
each year, and students can meet and talk with them at events
like Corporate Counsel Day, Small Firm Day, Pro Bono Day,
Women’s Law Day, the Employer Showcase, and the Govern-
ment and Public Interest Job Fair, as well as Skype-based infor-
mational sessions and career-focused iChats.

“The Career Services Office helped me network when I
moved to a new and unfamiliar city,” notes Harry Dorcy,
JD ’11, who clerked for the 18th Judicial District Court after
law school. “They put me in contact with other Washington
University alumni, and they helped me land a clerkship in my

Help Wanted!

Legal Project Bank Links

Students, Attorneys

TWO CONSTANTS of the legal profession are that law students
could always use ways to gain real-world experience, and practic-
ing attorneys could always use help managing their case loads.
A few years ago, the Career Services Office (CSO) launched an
innovative program to meet both needs—the Legal Project Bank.

“The Legal Project Bank helps attorneys get excellent legal
assistance without committing to hiring a permanent intern or
attorney before they are sure about their future needs,” says
Katherine Scannell, assistant dean of career services. “At the
same time, it helps students get hands-on experience using the
skills they are learning in class.”

The process is simple. Attorneys who need help post to a
confidential online job board describing their projects. Students
then submit cover letters and résumés for consideration. Once
selected, students can work remotely. The CSO will also help

CSO Services

Advice from the Pros/
Small Group Discussions
Advising and Custom
Job Search Strategies
The Becker Project
Brown Bag Discussions
with Attorneys
City Connect Employer/
Alumni Receptions
Database Search Engines
Free CLE Events

iChat and Instant
Messaging
Job Postings
Legal Project Bank
Mock Interviews
Off-Campus Interviews
On-Campus Interviews
Peer Mentoring Lab
Virtual Networking

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district of choice. The CSO opened doors for me in Denver that I wouldn’t have been able to find by myself.”

Among its tailored efforts, the CSO sends out more than 1,200 résumé books each semester to firms in 10 cities across the country. The networking and direct contact initiatives are coupled with more traditional programming, including on-campus interviewing, off-campus interviewing, and employer events in key cities.

“The law school’s Career Services Office is probably the most responsive, friendly, and just plain helpful placement office that I have worked with in my many years of entry-level legal recruiting,” says Kim Magee, a recruiting officer at Hunton & Williams LLP in Richmond, Virginia. “I appreciate the open line of communication. The insight that the CSO provides is invaluable to not simply finding a job for each student, but also the right job for each student.”

Dean Syverud acknowledges that while the school is proud of its innovative work partnering with students to place them in meaningful careers, much work is yet to be done. “We will continue to seek improvement in our student and graduate placement efforts,” he stresses. “We welcome ongoing input and support from our students, our faculty, our alumni, and all of our key stakeholders.”

International Opportunities

For decades, the law school has acknowledged and embraced the globalization of the practice of law. The school has developed faculty and student programs around the world, including semester-long student exchange programs, stipend summer

(above) Washington University law students benefit from a diverse set of classmates composed of traditional JD students and international attorneys studying U.S. legal systems.

The experience was great not only because it led to my first job out of law school, but also because it provided opportunities to work with different attorneys and law offices, ranging from the very small to the very large,” says Mendez, now a second-year associate at Brown & James PC’s St. Louis office. “The relationships I developed are valuable to me. I still keep in touch with the attorneys I worked with through the program. They serve as references and have helped me develop my reputation as an attorney.”

One recent satisfied user was Adam M. Goffstein of Goffstein Law LLC. “The Legal Project Bank helped me get immediate trial assistance with research for a motion in limine,” Goffstein says. “Washington University law students also conducted research on multiple insurance coverage issues to help me resolve a case in mediation for more than $800,000, and they helped me prepare responses to complex federal motions. In all cases, the students have been reliable, professional, and skilled.”

For more information about the Legal Project Bank, call the CSO at (314) 935-6451, email careerservices@wulaw.wustl.edu, or visit law.wustl.edu/legalresearch/projectlist.asp.

—Timothy J. Fox