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From: Webster, LeeAnn M.
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 3:08 PM
To: w-chamberlain@law.northwestern.edu
Subject: Idea for 3Ls with Delayed Start Dates

Hello Assistant Dean Chamberlain. I read your article today in the National Law Journal and thought you might be interested in an idea I have for your students with deferred start dates.

I volunteer with a group (Globe Aware) that would be able to take on deferred associates and provide them with a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE opportunity to travel the world and gain hands on experience in dealing with issues such as climate change, infrastructure and sustainability - all of which are increasingly important as emerging markets become more intertwined with the global economy.

Globe Aware is a non-profit organization that develops short-term volunteer programs in international environments that are designed to offer participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local community. Every activity is intended promote cultural awareness and/or sustainability. Currently Globe Aware offers programs in Brazil, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nepal, Romania and Thailand. Activities include working with communities to construct housing, basic infrastructure and irrigation systems, to repairing roads and buildings. They will create programs of varying length to meet the needs of the participants.

All participants pay a nominal fee for the program(s) in which they choose to participate, but all these fees (and air fare to the location) are tax-deductible. I've reached out to some of my law firm contacts in the hopes that some firms will take a look at the program and offer to pay the fees (or at least a portion) for the associates as part of an approved volunteer program, in addition to the local non-profit legal groups with whom they're partnering.

I'm a former attorney and now the Assistant Director of Marketing & Business Development at Mayer Brown, and have personally been involved with Globe Aware for several years. I have taken trips to Central and South America where I improved a village pathway, painted a community center, built stoves, and helped at an orphanage. I will return to Costa Rica this summer to work on a project to help protect the local sea turtle community.

I think your many of your students will find Globe Aware to be a worthwhile project. It creates an opportunity to not only give back to these needy communities, but to also give back to their law firms and future clients with the valuable insight and experience that they gain working with Globe Aware.

Of course many factors affect the resources of the deferred students, but I think this could be a win-win for everyone. I'm happy to provide you with additional details on my experiences and/or to connect you directly with the organization.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks,

LeeAnn

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