

## Kristin Flierl - University of Mississippi's Director of Career Services

By Donna McGill

**With a no-nonsense and realistic approach to the legal field, Kristin Flierl has earned the respect of law students who attend the University of Mississippi School of Law as well as the faculty and administration. She is dedicated, sincere and compassionate - and she pulls it off in the way only a true leader can. She tells it like it is and offers a no "sugar coated" approach. Keep reading as we showcase the law school's Director of Career Services.**



After holding more than a few leadership positions with the National Association of Legal Professionals, Kristin Flierl focused on the country's up and coming lawyers by accepting a position with one of the country's best law schools. She came on board with the University of Mississippi School of Law in July, 2008, and within a year, she was named the institution's outstanding staff member for 2008-2009. To be sure, Flierl is

focused, dedicated and certainly a leader. With more than twenty years of legal placement experience, she brought with her the perspective of a seasoned professional who understands the intricacies and concerns of today's graduating law student.

After graduating with a business administration degree from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California, she also understands the challenges many law students feel in an uncertain economy. As she explains, "...my main task is to scour the country for viable job opportunities". She keeps that focus, even as she also manages her staff and maintains the school's career services blog. She and her staff coordinate mock interviews, job fairs and also meet with potential employers to ensure each knows of the 92% pass rate for

first-time bar exam takers. It's impressive and she's proud of a student body that takes such pride in their individual efforts.

She and her staff also work with graduating seniors as they put together their resume, some for the first time in their lives. She understands the intimidating uncertainty and works to put concerns at ease. This is what every law school hopes to find in its director of career services and she is certainly what others aspire to.

In her blog, she provides valuable information and helpful tips on everything from alternative careers, interviewing tips, loan repayment options, networking and public interest. Some of articles include "Using Westlaw and Google in Your Job Search" and "Stimulus Money and Jobs in Government". She reminds students to never send out a generic cover letter and offers ways to keep an interviewer interested and focused, among other things.

There's certainly much to do these days at Ole Miss. With several various ongoing projects throughout the campus, along with the excitement of a new Dean (Richard Gershon took over in mid-2009), along with a controversial decision to retire the long-standing Ole Miss Rebel (Colonel), Director Flierl is likely putting in more than a few long evenings. Still, you can be sure that it's exactly the way she likes it.