

William Mitchell

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On the Job

*Five 2005 graduates
talk about finding
their first jobs out of law school
and beginning
their new careers*

by Elizabeth Warmka

Nothing is certain but...tax law

Sara Reisdorf is no stranger to working in a corporate environment with some of the country's largest and most prestigious companies.

A certified public accountant working for five years with one of the world's leading accounting firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Reisdorf was working on her master of business taxation degree at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management when she realized that she really wanted to expand her repertoire beyond the business of tax and financial advising.

"While I wanted to keep using my tax background, I didn't want to be limited by it," she says. "So law school seemed like a good fit to be able to expand my opportunities."

So while continuing to work on her master's degree, she enrolled at William Mitchell. To test her interests and her skills further, Reisdorf took a full-time position as a law clerk for a year and a half with the Edina

firm of Johnson & Condon. "I assisted with workers' compensation cases and civil litigation matters," she says. But the experience also led her back to her original love - taxes.

"It was really great because it took me out of my business and tax comfort zone. I learned so much, and it also confirmed that tax law and corporate transactions are really where my interests are best suited."

After spending the summer as a pro bono intern with one of Minnesota's largest law firms, Fredrikson & Byron, known for its expertise in business law, the Iowa native says she knew she had found the perfect fit. "At Fredrikson & Byron I will be able to apply my tax and accounting background to general business and corporate matters," says Reisdorf, who is now an associate with the firm's tax and business group. "I will be able to use my tax background in ways I never even considered before going to law school."

Her new office overlooks downtown Minneapolis and the surrounding picturesque suburbs and parks from the 40th floor of the U.S. Bank building. And while she enjoys the advantages associated with a large company, Reisdorf says it was the friendly, small-firm atmosphere that really drew her to Fredrikson & Byron. ■

