

Top 10 Tips to Consider When Applying to Law School *Advice from Top Law School Admissions Officers Across the U.S.*

- 1. Don't feel you have to know someone "important" when applying to law school.** It is not necessary to know a lawyer or a judge or anyone in the field of law. Many applicants to law school have no "direct connection" to anyone affiliated with law and they are amazing applicants and students.
- 2. You are valued, and you are welcome - law schools need students.** Be your own advocate. Asking questions and seeking assistance to law school admissions officers reflects positively on you as an applicant. It is a myth that applicants are "supposed to know" all the relevant information. Most don't. We can't support you if we don't know what you need, so please engage. We are happy to help you with the law school admissions process and beyond.
- 3. STUDY FOR THE LSAT.** This means more than picking up a book a couple times each month. You should treat it like a class, because most law schools award scholarship offers based on merit credentials - cumulative undergraduate GPA and your LSAT score. Plan to commit to studying for at least 3 months, 5 days a week, for 1.5 - 2 hours each day, (give or take) and take full, timed practice exams each weekend. Statistically, you will lose 3-5 points from your AVERAGE practice exam, not your one-time high score, so plan for that when setting your "target" score. Study like you can only take the LSAT once so that you know you did everything you could - no regrets. Your work can greatly determine your scholarship.
- 4. DO YOUR RESEARCH.** Apply to your top schools, because you never know until you try. However, be practical and realistic about admission and potential scholarship. If you are admitted to a school but see that you are below the 25th percentile on LSAT/GPA, then it is not realistic to ask for a full tuition scholarship or just short of one. Comprehensive research on your schools will help in a variety of ways and will make you more confident in your final decision.
- 5. Seek help from others.** Once you have your application materials put together, use a campus writing center, career center, or pre-law advisor to help review your personal statement and resume for grammar and content. If you do not have access to such resources, have a friend or colleague help. Even the most polished applicants cannot spend too much time looking at final application documents because inevitably they will miss an error or typo.
- 6. Attention to detail is essential, especially when attaching documents to your digital application.** Most candidates apply to multiple schools, even if you say that School X is your first choice. If you mention a "particular" school in your personal statement or optional documents, be sure to upload the correct file. A personal statement that references another law school can derail an otherwise solid application.
- 7. Plan, strategize, and allow ample time for each step of the application process - there are no shortcuts.** Complete the application and attach everything that is required of you. Provide complete explanations when required in the form of an addendum. And, lastly, study for the LSAT - don't take it to see how you might do - it never turns out well.

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8. Present yourself professionally throughout the entire process. Law is a profession and individuals should not be applying with the email address: e.g.: “hotsexybod@.....com.” Wish that wasn’t a real email address on a former application, but it is... Obviously the advice goes way beyond email address. It extends to all interactions with admissions offices and all contents of the application. Your professional reputation is solidified quickly when applying and matriculating to law school – guard your reputation.

9. Keep an open mind when it comes to determining your best fit for law school. Many times, students think one school is what they want on paper, only to be introduced to another option and it being an even better fit – sometimes your best fit for law school is not the first law school you ever considered!

10. Great law schools exist across the United States – 203 ABA (American Bar Association) Accredited Law schools in total. Choose a law school where you like the culture and community where you think you can thrive, can do your best work, feel supported, and you sense the law school will help you reach your professional goals. Be driven by the right things and not the wrong things when ultimately making your law school selection.