Insiders’ Guide to Gaining Admission and Receiving Scholarship Aid at US Law Schools

Our webinar will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m., EST. You are invited to type in questions prior to the start of the webinar.

PRESENTERS:
Eamon Ladewski
Charles Roboski
Michigan State University College of Law
**Tonight’s Presenters**

**Charles Roboski**
- Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, Michigan State University College of Law
- Has served as a director or dean of admissions at five law schools prior to Michigan State, including Notre Dame Law School and The Ohio State University College of Law

**Eamon Ladewski**
- Associate Director of Admissions, Michigan State University College of Law
- Has served as admissions professional at three law schools and has counseled thousands of prospective law school students
What We’ll Cover

- Timeline and Typical Application Requirements
- Factors Considered by Admission Committees
- Recommendations for Assembling Your Strongest Application
- Review of Law School Scholarship Opportunities
- Q and A
August –
October 1: Law Colleges begin to accept applications
November: First round of decisions made
February 1: Priority application deadline for scholarship consideration
March: Visit Programs hosted for prospective students
April 1: Deposit due for candidates admitted through March 1
April: Committee begins to extend admission offers to candidates on the Wait List

*Most law schools operate on a “rolling admission” basis, so applying early is recommended*
Components of a Typical Application

» The application form
» CAS Report, including LSAT score(s), writing sample, and copy of undergraduate transcript(s)
» Personal Statement
» Resume
» Letters of recommendations (2)
» Optional/additional documents
» Application fee or fee waiver (be sure to check!)
1. Does this candidate have the ability to be academically successful?

2. What qualities, skills, or experiences does this applicant possess that we consider to be important to the study/practice of law?

3. How does this candidate compare to others?
Assessing Academic Potential

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

- Predictive value (performance in first year)
- A common measure

College Performance

*No preference* in terms of undergraduate major, but instead gives consideration to:

- Overall performance and grade trends
- Rigor of courses and college attended
- Extenuating Circumstances/activities
- Length of time since graduating
- Graduate work, if applicable
Preparing for the LSAT

Methods of Study

- Preparation Course
  - Offers structure
  - Classroom versus Online
- One-on-one coaching
- Self-Taught

Prep Time

- Plan to commit 3 – 5 months

Re-take?

- December
- February
Personal Statement Recommendations

- Treat it as your interview with members of the Admission Committee
- Set the goal of writing a compelling opening paragraph
- No need for creativity, but strive for authenticity
- Make it a quality piece of writing and ensure that it is error free!
- Include one paragraph that describes your reason(s) for applying to the law school
- Circulate to others (prelaw advisor, career service staff, friend, family member)
Your Law School Resume

» Give appropriate space and placement to relevant accomplishments, employment, ECs, etc.

» Include relevant specifics (e.g., hours worked during academic year, skills developed)

» Minimize academic information that can be readily found elsewhere in the application

» Format in such a way that draws the reader’s attention to especially significant information

» Does not need to be limited to one page
Soliciting Letters of Recommendations

• Most schools accept either LoRs or Evaluations…but be sure to consult schools of choice

• Faculty LoRs are generally preferred for college students and very recent graduates

• The best LoRs are written by individuals who know you well and who wish to support your candidacy

**TIP:** Provide the letter writer with a copy of your resume and Personal Statement

**TIP:** Allow the letter writer as much time as possible to write the LoR

**TIP:** Ask the potential letter writer: “*Do you believe you have enough information to provide me with a strong letter of recommendation?*”
Used to explain:

- Diverse personal/professional life experience
- Significantly lower grades
- History of poor standardized test taking
- Noticeable gap in education/employment
- Health issues
- Rigor of courses/program
- Character and Fitness issues
Interest in Legal Education

ABA-APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS
1968-69 THROUGH 2012-13

Tests, Applicants, Students

Tests Administered

ABA Applicants

First Year Law Students

68-69 71-72 74-75 77-78 80-81 83-84 86-87 89-90 92-93 95-96 98-99 01-02 04-05 07-08 10-11
2015: the national pool for 2015 could be 0-10% smaller than 2014.
Sources of Information

- ABA-LSAC Official Guide
  - Bar Passage—states/percentage
  - Placement Data—states/foreign countries
  - Judicial Clerkships—number/percentage
- National Association of Law Placement
- Rankings
- Prelaw Advisor
- Graduates who are currently enrolled
16-10 Months Prior to Enrollment

- Prepare for and take (or re-take LSAT) (spring/summer/early fall)
- Research law schools (academics, admission standards, scholarships, etc.)
- Formulate list of 8-12 law schools where you will apply and then submit applications (summer or early fall)
- Draft, circulate, and revise Personal Statement and resume (summer and early fall)
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty (early fall)
- Submit applications in fall (prior to January 1)
Sources and Types of Law School Financial Aid

Scholarships and Grants
- Institutional (from Law School)
- External (local bar association; national organization)
  - NO federal grants

Loans: Stafford; GradPlus; Private

Other Resources
- Family
- Savings
- Budgeting

Work-Study or Employment Income
Researching Scholarships and Grants

Law School Admissions Council: [http://lsac.org](http://lsac.org)

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<th>Grants and Scholarships (from prior year)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Full-Time</th>
<th>Part-Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of students</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # receiving grants</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 1/2 tuition</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half to full tuition</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full tuition</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than full tuition</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median grant amount</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>$3,941</td>
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</table>
Academic Awards
- 40 full-tuition awards ($105,000 over three years)
- 50 partial-tuition awards (up to $75,000 over three years)

Intellectual Property and Indigenous Law Awards
- Up to 10 full-tuition awards and 10 partial-tuition awards

Trustee Awards
- 10 full-tuition awards ($105,000 over three years)
- 15 partial-tuition awards (up to $75,000 over three years)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>25%/75% UGPA</th>
<th>25%/75% LSAT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>3.31-3.76</td>
<td>156-162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>3.27-3.71</td>
<td>152-159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syracuse University</td>
<td>3.06-3.45</td>
<td>152-156</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Competition for Admission

25%/75% UGPA  25%/75% LSAT

St. Louis University  3.15-3.66  151-158
Duquesne          3.21-3.64  150-155
Golden Gate       2.74-3.41  147-153
Upcoming Webinars

Legal Careers Panel
June 24, 7:30 p.m., EST

Law School 101: View from Current Law Students
July 23, 12:00 p.m., EST

To receive invitations to these upcoming events email admissions at admiss@law.msu.edu.
Upcoming Events

Spartan Law Visit Day

Friday, July 25, 2014: 9:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., EST
Please RSVP by email to admiss@law.msu.edu or by phone: 517-432-0222.
Thank you for joining us....

Please type in any questions you would like to ask!