

THE PRE LAW INSTITUTE

Pre Law Orientation

Fall 2011



Agenda

- **Pre Law Institute**
- Becoming the best law school candidate
- **Preparing for Law School NOW!**
 - Specialized and Preparatory Programs
 - Resumes/ Personal Action Plans
 - Getting on track for law school
- **Resources**
- Timetables

PRE LAW INSTITUTE (PLI)

Umbrella Office for all Pre Law Activities



- **Pre Law Mailing List**
- Pre Law Resource Center
- **One-on-One Advisement**
- Facebook Fan Page
- **Pre Law Boot Camps**
- LSAT Prep Program & Scholarship
- **Free Practice LSATs**
- Advisement Guide
- **Law Student Shadowing Program**
- Law Day
- **Pre Law Prep Programs**
- Graduate & Professional School Fair
- **Law School Visits**
- Speakers' Series

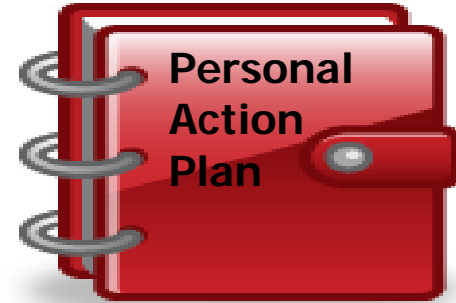
Become the Candidate Law Schools are Seeking



Organize your Life Around your Goal of Becoming a Lawyer

- **Academic**

- Plan your curriculum from now until graduation
- Take courses that will support your career goals



- **Employment**

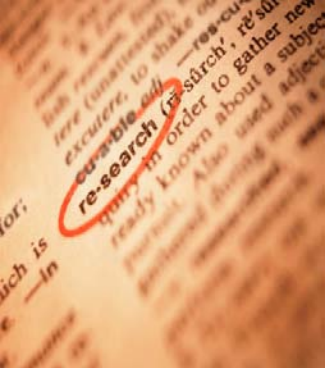
- Investigate legal career options
- Pursue jobs and internships that relate to law practice areas of interest

- **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Enjoy writing? Investigate and blog about law school and legal careers
- Plan an event with your on- or off-campus group involving legal careers: The PLI will be your resource

- **Reach out to others with Accurate Information (Info Interview)**

- Seek out professors, lawyers, and programs, like the Pre Law Institute, the Latino Justice Education Department, and PALS, that can provide you with accurate information, advise and mentor you. DO NOT RELY ON THE RUMOR MILL.



What You Can Do Now to Prepare?

Take Courses that Strengthen

Research, Writing, Reading & Critical Thinking Skills

These Majors, Minors and Special Programs offer this preparation:

Majors:

**English, History, Political Science,
Humanities & Justice Studies, Economics**

Writing Intensive Courses

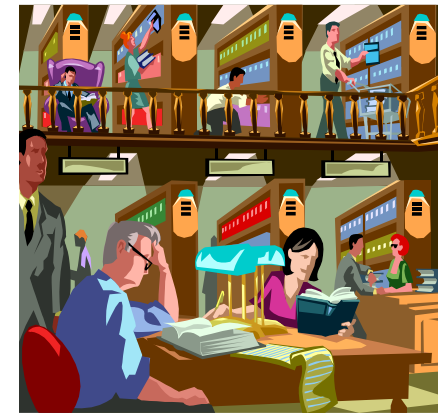
Philosophy Courses including Logic and Reasoning

Minors:

**Honors Minors such as English Honors or
Philosophy**



Apply to Specialized Preparatory Programs



Other Organizations:

- CLEO Summer Institutes and Programs:
 - [Road to Law School Program November 19th @ Fordham](#)
- Latino Justice/Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund: *LawBound*
- LEO, New York State Legal Education Opportunity Program
- LSAC PLUS Programs, Pre Law Undergraduate Scholars Program: www.lsac.org

Law School Programs:

- Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Program
- Trials Program, Partnership of NYU and Harvard Law Schools
- American Indian Law Center, Inc. Pre-Law Summer Institute
- Chicago-Kent College of Law Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program
- Cornell University Pre-Law Program
- Northwestern University Pre-Law Summer Institute
- University of California Davis King Hall School of Law Outreach Program & Pre-Law Boot Camp
- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law Law Fellows Outreach Program
- University of Iowa Law School Preparation Program

Apply to Specialized Preparatory Programs

John Jay Programs:

– Pre Law Institute

Boot Camp I, II and III, January and June 2012

Critical Reading & Writing,

Analytical Skills,

Logical Reasoning & Use of Precise Language

LSAT Prep Program



– Dispute Resolution Certificate Program @ John Jay

Room 520T, 212.237.8692



– Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

African American Studies Department, 3220 North Hall, 212.237.8760



Enhance Your Résumé

- Internships, Externships & Cooperative Education
 - Career Development Center, 3400 North Hall, 212.237.8754
 - Pre Law Institute, 3110 North Hall, 646.557.4804
- Fieldwork Opportunities Available from Academic Departments
- Extracurricular Activities with an Academic Focus
 - Debate Team. Moot Court, Model UN Programs, Student Government
- Study Abroad Programs
 - Apply for a Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students Grant (STOCS)
- Community and Volunteer Services
- Scholarships
 - John Jay College Office of Honors, Awards and Special Opportunities
Pre Law Institute Website & Bulletin Boards





Getting on Track to Law School

Steps on Your Path

Research Law Schools

- Investigate which is “Right for You”
- Review websites and visit schools
- Aim high but be realistic
- Apply to a broad range of schools: Out-of-State, Private, Public, Large, Small

Understand the Application Process

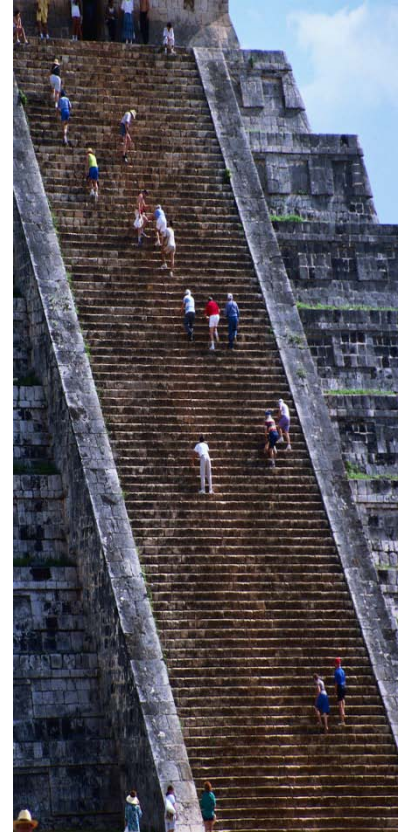
- **Timing:** Plan Ahead
- **GPA:** Includes GPA from all schools
- **LSAT:** Long Term Preparation; Prep Courses Necessary
- **Personal Statement:** Begin it Now as a Contract with Yourself
- **Recommendations:** Need 3; Ask the Right People in the Right Way

Learn about Financing your Education

- DiscoverLaw.org
- PLI website
- Contact law school admissions offices for information
- Research scholarships and grants – Foundation Center

Next Steps in the Process

- ❖ **Identify the GPA your Target Law Schools Want**
 - » All GPAs are averaged together
- ❖ **Identify the Range of LSAT scores for Target Schools**
 - » LSAT scores are good for 5 years
 - » Identify schools' response to taking LSAT more than once
- ❖ **Identify When the LSAT is Offered & When to Take it**
 - » June (Junior Year) and October (Senior Year) are usually best
- ❖ **LSAT Study: 3 - 4 months & 20 – 30 Hours a Week, Every Week**
- ❖ **Identify the Best LSAT Prep Course for You**
 - » Different target groups for each course





Next Steps (cont'd)

- ❖ **Register with CAS Early: During the fall of your Junior Year**
- ❖ **Calendar your Application Process**
 - Identify how much time you will need to complete your applications
- ❖ **Determine How Many Schools to Apply to**
 - Identify their Fees

Apply for Application Fee Waivers from LSAC and Law Schools!

- ❖ **Rolling Admissions?**
 - If so, you will have to finish your application before November
 - Remember: Timing Makes a Difference!

Resources

- **Pre Law Institute**

3109 and 3110 North Hall, 646.557.4804, PLI@jjay.cuny.edu

- Erin Ackerman, Ph.D., Faculty Pre Law Advisor
- Stephanie Cabrera Esenwa, J.D., Pre Law Advisor
- Vielka Holness, J.D., Director of the Pre Law Institute
- John Staines, Ph.D., Faculty Pre Law Advisor
- Diana Vasco, M.P.S., Administrative Assistant

- **Law School Admissions Council**

www.LSAC.org

- **Sample Test Prep Classes**

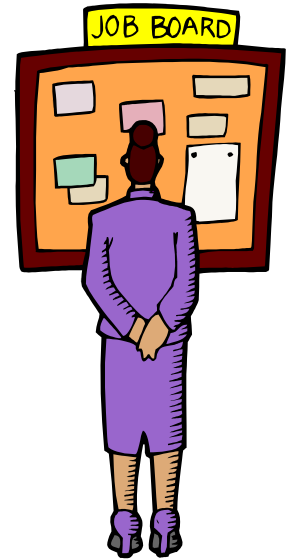
PLI Kaplan Nelson Test Prep Princeton Review Knewton

- **Association of American Law Schools**

www.aals.org Links to all accredited law schools

- **US News & World Reports**

www.usnews.edu includes a ranking of law schools



More Resources



- **National Association of Law Placement**
www.nalp.org includes information about areas of law practice
- **American Bar Association**
www.aba.org includes information about law school accreditation
- **Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO)**
www.cleoscholars.com information about many free pre law support programs
- **LatinoJustice PRLDEF**
www.prldf.org, support programs, scholarships, low cost LSAT prep
- **NAACP LDEF**
www.naacpldef.org, Earl Warren Legal Training Program Scholarships
- **New York Legal Education Opportunity Program (LEO)**
www.courts.state.ny.us/attorneys/leo/program.shtml





Money Should Never Prevent you from Applying to Law School!

- A cost benefit analysis will reveal that you will be able to finance your education
- Fees waivers and reduced-cost LSAT prep courses are available
- The CAS has fee waivers for costs (see PLI) and many schools will use the CAS fee waiver to waive their application fees
- Kaplan and other test-prep programs have tuition assistance programs to provide discounts to low-income students. **Ask Early! Timing makes a Difference!**
- Most law schools will grant waivers for application fee for documented hardship cases. Prepare a standard hardship letter.
- Look for low cost/high quality prep courses—e.g., Nelson Test Prep, PRLDEF
- **Keep your GPA High!**
This will help you get into law school and increases your chances of getting a scholarship.

Establish a Timetable

Sample Law School Application Timeline

Freshmen & Sophomores

- Choose an Appropriate Major
- **Meet with Pre Law Advisor**
- Visit LSAC Website
- Apply to Boot Camps & Specialized Prep Programs
- Become Familiar with LSAT Prep Courses
- Take LSAT Practice Tests
- Begin Personal Statement as a Contract with Yourself
- **Use Courses and Academic Programs to Develop Analytical, Writing, and Reasoning Skills**
- Apply for an Internship or Job Related to your Legal Interests

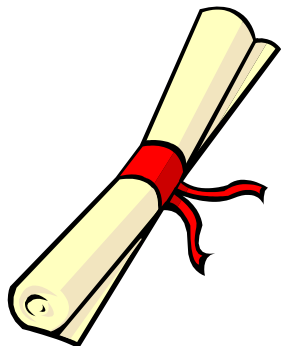
Juniors

- **Register with CAS by middle of junior year (Valid 1 year)**
- Take LSAT Prep Course
- Begin Studying for June LSAT
- Take June LSAT or begin Studying for October LSAT
- **Attend the LSAC Forum, October 14 – 15**
- Complete Personal Statement and have it Reviewed
- Request 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Visit Law Schools
- View Law School Applications
- Contact Admissions Offices
- Continue to Focus on your GPA

Seniors

- Take the October LSAT, **December & February are TOO LATE**
- Create Applications Timeline with School Deadlines in Mind
- **Finish Applications No Later than Mid-November**
- Apply Earlier for “Early Acceptance” Programs
- Research and Apply for Scholarships and Grants





Resources for Joint Law and Graduate Degrees

Graduate Record Examinations

www.gre.org

For Business School: GMAT

Note: GRE is Computer-Based

General Test is given year-round at computer based test centers

Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis



Joint-Degree Programs

Ask schools if you can substitute GRE with LSAT that you have already taken

www.GradSchools.com





Graduate School

John Jay College Resources

McNair Program

A program to prepare first generation, low income students from underrepresented groups for graduate studies.

Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Director
Mr. Earnest Lee, Associate Director
Department of African American Studies
212.237.8760
Room 3220 North Hall
elee@jjay.cuny.edu

BA/MA Program

Joint Degree Program
Dr. Chitra Raghavan, Director
212.237.8417
bamadirector@jjay.cuny.edu

THE PRE LAW INSTITUTE

North Hall Rooms 3109-3110

Office Hours: Monday –Thursday 9am-6:00pm

Drop-In Hours: Thursday 1:30pm-4:30pm

Website: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/centersinstitutes/prelaw>

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