

PRE LAW INSTITUTE

Pre Law Orientation

Fall 2012



**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

**CU
NY** The City
University
of
New York

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
- **Free Practice LSATs**
- Speakers' Series
- Advisement Guide
- **Law Student Shadowing Program**
- Law Day
- **Pre Law Prep Programs**
- Graduate & Professional School Fair
- **Law School Visits**

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

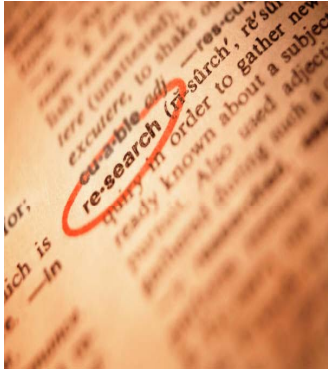
- **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- 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**

- Conduct Informational Interviews
- 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 and advise.
- 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 and Minors are Recommended:

**Economics, English, History, Law & Society,
Philosophy, Political Science,
Humanities & Justice Studies**

Writing Intensive Courses

Philosophy Courses including Logic and Reasoning

Honors Minors such as English Honors



Apply to Specialized Preparatory Programs



Other Organizations:

- CLEO Summer Institutes and Programs:
 - **Road to Law School - November 17th @ Fordham Law**
- 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
- 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 2013**

Critical Reading & Writing

Analytical & Argumentation Skills

Logical Reasoning & Use of Precise Language

LSAT Prep Program



- **Dispute Resolution Certificate Program @ John Jay**

Room 520 Haaren Hall, 212.237.8693



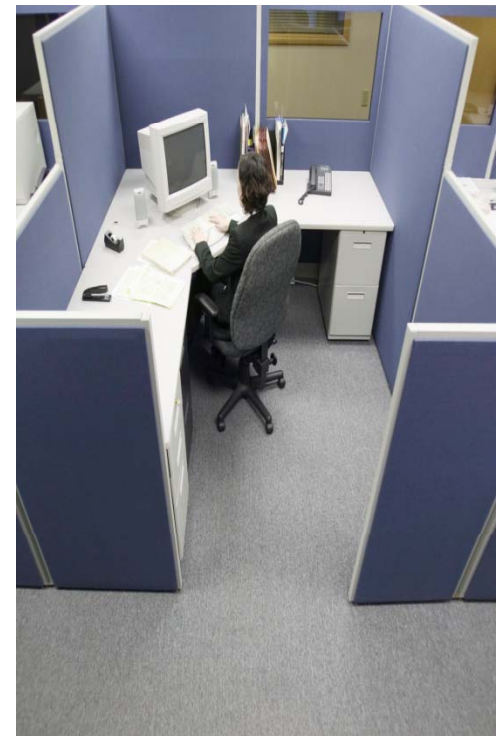
- **Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program**

Africana Studies Department, 9.63.00 NB, 212.237.8760



Enhance Your Résumé

- **Internships, Externships & Cooperative Education**
 - Career Development Center, L.72.24 NB, 212.237.8754
 - Pre Law Institute, 1100 North Hall, 646.557.4804
- **Fieldwork Opportunities with Academic Departments**
- **Extracurricular Activities with an Academic Focus**
 - Debate Team, Moot Court, Model United Nations Team
- **Study Abroad Programs**
 - Apply for Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students Grant
- **Community and Volunteer Services**
- **Scholarships**
 - John Jay Office of Scholarships
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

Understand the Application Process

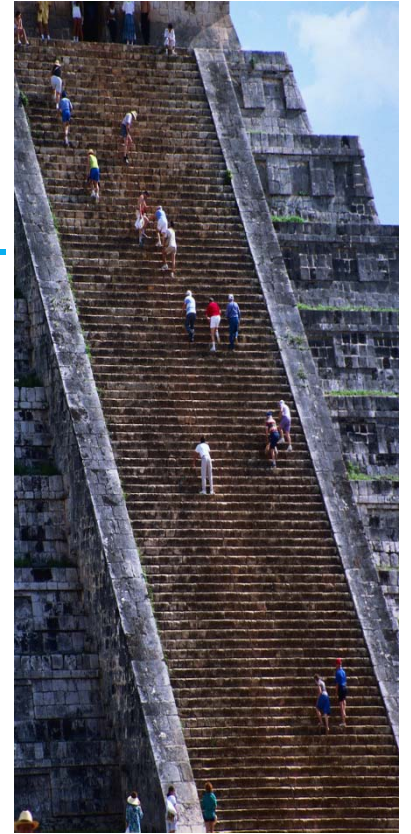
- **Timing:** Plan Ahead – 18 Active Months
- **GPA:** Includes GPA from ALL schools
- **LSAT:** Long Term Preparation
Prep Courses Necessary
- **Personal Statement:** Begin it Now as a Contract with Yourself
- **Recommendations:** Need 3 Faculty Letters
Ask the Right People the Right Way

Learn about Finan\$ing your Education

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

Next Steps in the Process

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





Next Steps (cont'd)

- ❖ **Register with CAS Early: Fall of Junior Year**
- ❖ **Calendar your Application Process**
 - Identify time you will need to complete your applications
- ❖ **Determine How Many Schools to Apply to**
 - Identify their Fees
- ❖ **Apply for Fee Waiver\$ from LSAC & Law Schools!**
- ❖ **Rolling Admissions – Early Decision?**
 - If so, you will have to finish your application before November
 - Remember: Timing Makes a Difference!

Resources

- **Pre Law Institute**

1100 North Hall, 646.557.4804, PLI@jjay.cuny.edu

- Vielka Holness, J.D., Director of the Pre Law Institute
- John Staines, Ph.D., Faculty Pre Law Advisor
- Joshua Wilson, Ph.D., Faculty Pre Law Advisor
- Kristina Nazimova, Administrative Assistant

- **Law School Admissions Council**

www.LSAC.org

- **Sample Test Prep Classes**

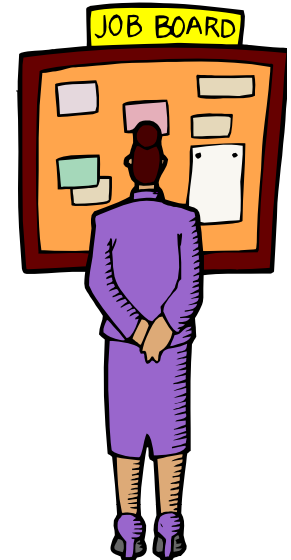
PLI Kaplan Nelson Test Prep Princeton Review Knewton

- **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 law practice information
- **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.prldef.org, scholarships and low cost LSAT prep
- **NAACP LDEF**
www.naacpldef.org, Earl Warren Legal Scholarship
- **New York Legal Education Opportunity Program**
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

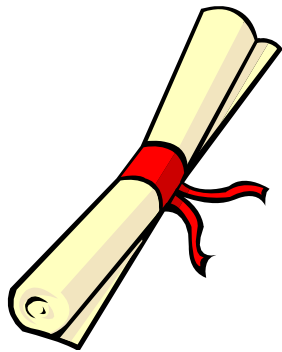
Juniors

- Register with CAS fall of junior year (Valid 1 year)
- Take LSAT Prep Course
- Begin Studying for October LSAT
- Attend the LSAC Forum, October 12 – 13
- 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 Africana Studies

212.237.8760 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 Room 1100

Office Hours: Monday –Thursday 10am-3:00pm

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

Website: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/5147/php>

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646-557-4804