

Pre-Law Review

<http://www.bc.edu/bl>

January/February 2003

New Positions Being Filled....

Bellarmino Pre Law Council, 2003-2004

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If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us by e-mail:
BLA@bc.edu

We look forward to hearing from you!

CONGRATULATIONS

We look forward to a successful year ahead!!

SPECIAL THANKS/CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR BPLC SENIORS!!

Nick, Helen, Becky, Amanda and Alicia!

GOOD LUCK!

What's Next?

junior year

Spring

1. Register with LSDAS.
2. Prepare for LSAT (Practice Tests, Course, Prep Book).
3. Plan to take LSAT in June- register by early May.
4. Read the Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools and consider the schools to which you might apply.
5. Think about who might write your faculty letters of reference.

Summer

1. Send transcript to LSDAS.
2. Decide on competitive, safety and long-shot schools to which you will apply.
3. Draft a generic personal statement.
4. If possible, visit the law schools that interest you.

senior year

September - November "Early" Application Period

1. Secure application materials.
2. Talk to potential references about your interests and choices.
3. Consult the members of the Pre-Law Advisory Board.
4. Take or retake the LSAT in October if necessary- register by late August.
5. Attend one of the group presentations on application strategies (sign up in Gasson 109).
6. Complete Law Recommendation Worksheet and submit it to an Associate Dean in Gasson 109 to assist in preparing the Dean's Recommendation.

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- 1 October 15 - December 15 - Visit the Career Center**
 - 2. Explore materials in the resource library on law careers.**
 - 3. Use the SIGI computer program to help define your interests and goals.**
 - 4. Attend Resume and Interviewing Workshops.**
 - 5. Take advantage of the opportunity to videotape and critique a practice interview to help you refine your expression of your interests.**

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- 1 October**
 - 2. Personal Statement Workshops with Dean Carol Hurd Green (sign up in Gasson 109).**
 - 3. In October, the Law School Admissions Council sponsors the [Boston Law School Forum](#) where admissions officers from more than 100 law schools are available to speak with you.**

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- 1 January 15**
 - 2. Send transcript with fall grades directly to law schools.**

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- 1 February 1 - April 1 Wait**

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- 1 April 1**
 - 2. Visit schools to which you have been admitted and send a deposit to one school only.**
 - 3. Update the schools at which you have been waitlisted on your latest GPA, honors, senior thesis, extracurricular activities, etc.**

The Law School Application Schedule was developed by Associate Dean Joseph Burns, College of Arts and Sciences.

So You're Thinking About Law School....

Introduction to Legal Studies

So you are thinking about going to law school? Well at least you think you are thinking about going to law school in that nebulous "what else am I going to do after college?" way. Maybe you have been positive since fourth grade that ESQ will be at the end of your name by age twenty-five. Perhaps you took an legal survey class sophomore year in high school and have been curious about jurisprudence ever since. Whatever your motivation, you will not be disappointed by taking Introduction to Legal Studies. This too often overlooked course is a comprehensive and thought-provoking introduction, as may be assumed from the title, to Jurisprudence, Legal Reasoning, American Constitutional Theory, Federalism, Contracts, Property Rights, Criminality, and Harm and Fault. Almost every topic caused me to reevaluate my assumptions about the terms I had gleaned from years of watching *Law and Order* instead of memorizing Latin vocabulary.

The topics themselves would be enough to keep most droopy eyed students awake at the 8:30am every Monday and Wednesday, but the Professors, Katz and Dowden, create a stimulating environment almost as eye-opening as that first sip of Caramel Mocchiato. Professor Katz is the Libby Professor at Boston College Law School. He holds the only endowed chair at the law school. Professor Katz is obviously very knowledgeable and his passion for legal studies is contagious. Mr. Dowden graduated from both Boston College and Boston College Law School with high honors, is currently working at Boston's Ropes and Gray, and will be a visiting professor at the Law School next year. He animated in the classroom calling on people at random and at times very adding to the reality of a fact pattern by imitating a trip and fall incident.

Katz's and Dowden's goal in this course is to introduce Liberal Arts undergraduates to legal concepts via a study of theory and practice. The course is also shaped to be a preparation for Boston College's program at Pembroke at Oxford in England. Sophomores can apply to this program to go abroad for their junior year and study at Oxford's law school. The program is highly rated by all student who have attended it and a wonderful opportunity for all those interested in pursuing law careers. Even if you cannot make it to Pembroke, Introduction to Legal Studies is an excellent preparation for further legal study. Professor Katz and Mr. Dowden are always available and often act as advisor for those in the class planning to attend law school. Introduction to Legal Studies is a wonderful class taught by enthusiastic and helpful Professors. Even the waking up at seven every Monday and Wednesday morning is not enough to make me think twice about taking this class. In fact, Introduction to Legal Studies reinvigorated my drive to attend to law school. Like a law school class, the Professor(s) call on students randomly and the midterm and final consist on analyzing a fact pattern and applying it to legal concepts and precedents. It is a wonderful preparation for law school and a thought-provoking experience for any Liberal Arts student. I urge anyone interested in law in any respect to register for this class. It may take a little extra effort to find it in the University Courses section of the Registration newspaper, but it is well worth it and I hear it will not be at 8:30am next spring either.

Juliet Mohnkern

WAITING FOR DROP/ADD?

Check out these BC courses to Prepare for Law School

PL 264 Logic F/S

CL 010 Elementary Latin F/S

EN 412 Prose Writing F/S

MA 021 Financial Accounting F/S

MA 022 Managerial Accounting F/S

MF 021 Basic Finance F/S

CO 030 Public Speaking F/S

substantive areas of law and legal reasoning

MA 405 Federal Taxation F/S

MJ 021 Law I - Introduction to Law and Legal
Process F/S

MJ 022 Law II - Business Law F/S

MJ 148 International Law F/S

MJ 152 Labor and Employment Law F/S

MJ 154 Insurance F/S

MJ 156 Real Estate F/S

MJ 161 Corporate and S.E.C. Law F/S

CO 443 Ethical Consideration of the Mass Media
F/S

SC 423 Internships in Criminology II S

courses about law and the legal system

EC 353 Industrial Organization: Competition and
Antitrust S

PL 449 Corporations and Morality F/S

PS 039 Psychological Perspectives on Social
Justice S

CO 249 Communication Law S

SC 022 Sociology of Crime and Punishment F/S

SC 144 Legal and Illegal Violence Against
Women S

SC 030 Deviance and Social Control F/S

So you're taking the LSAT:

Some Advice from the Career Center

Testwiseness - Some Pointers

1. Prepare to concentrate immediately, intensely, steadily, and to your utmost. The passive test-taker gets nowhere. There's no time to reread. Attack the problem actively the first time around. And be in condition to keep this up for 3 1/2 hours.
 2. Take time to understand the directions. You're being tested on following difficult and unexpected directions. Pay particular attention to the exact wording of definitions. Some of these are very strange, too.
 3. Don't misread, don't skim, don't "speed-read." The time pressure comes from the required speed of thinking, not of reading. Read carefully for exact wording, exact meaning. Underline key words.
 4. Never Answer From Your Own Knowledge or Experience-that's not what's being tested. Never answer from your own opinions or prejudices, or because you think one answer is more socially acceptable than another. (You'll often be invited to do that.)
 5. Read Nothing Into Any Problem. Deal only with what has actually been said. Beware of thinking you recognize what's going to be said ("Oh, I know that.") because chances are good that you'll miss the actual point. Don't get involved with what you think must also be true, or must also have happened, unless you've been asked to do that. If "if's" and "but's" come into your mind, forget them.
 6. Omit Nothing From Any Problem. Read all the options. Read every sentence in the stimulus material. It's true you're sometimes given irrelevant material, but don't dismiss it until you've actually assessed it in terms of what you've been asked.
 7. Work With The Test, Not Against It.
 - Work steadily and methodically. Have a method of attack on each type of problem. Avoid galloping off bareback. (Remember the hare and the tortoise.)
 - Use the Four Important Points to Remember listed above. Taken together, they tell you the following: work as fast as possible consistent with accuracy; don't allow yourself to get stuck on any question; don't rush to get the harder problems, thus possibly missing easy ones, since they all count the same; guess where necessary; and Leave No Blanks!!
 - One, and only one, of these options is correct in terms of the question. Accept this; don't fight it. All problems have been thoroughly tested. Every word is there on purpose, and every needed word has been included. Ambiguities are deliberate, and a solution has been supplied.
1.
 - Avoid oversubtlety - don't make the test harder than it is. (People who fight certain questions, as in point c above, tend to be oversubtle.)
 - As you select answers, be aware that one of the benchmarks of the good, professionally written question is the frequent presence of an option that is almost, but not quite, right: the "attractive" distracter.
 - Keep track of time but don't be possessed by it. Resist pressure by working at the fastest pace that is productive for you. Many people don't finish. The score comes from getting questions right, not just from getting them answered, and a correct guess is as good as a right answer, whether you like it or not.
 - Don't waver about guessing. Decide quickly, once you recognize the possibility. Then do it and forget about it. There is no pattern of right answers, so it doesn't matter what option you pick. Don't sit there wondering if you could answer it if you took more time; you've already taken too much time if you worked long enough to get stuck.
 - In general, try to take the questions in order, but that's Not a hard-and-fast rule. Your main concern is maximizing your score by getting questions right, so it often pays to skip around, locating the types of questions you personally favor. Just make sure you get back to the others.
 - Manage the Answer Sheet. Avoid stupid, nerve-wracking mistakes such as getting answers in the wrong column (picking A but marking B) or reversing the wrong number (answering #22 in slot #23). This is more common than you might believe. Have a System. And to insure yourself against panic if you do catch yourself misplacing answers, always mark you answers in your test booklet before transferring them to the answer sheet.
- Finally, do try to keep a sense of proportion. This test is a difficult and important set of games. It's not a final judgment about your worth as a person or your potential as a law student. You're not the only one, by any means, who makes a lot of mistakes or who might not finish all sections. Don't waste time during the test worrying about things like that. Just do your job and take the test.
- Based on material originally prepared by Dorothy Clerk.