



Baruch COLLEGE

The City University of New York

MAX BERGER PRE-LAW PROGRAM

Pre-Law Handbook

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Written By:

Professor Sandra Mullings

Law Department

Zicklin School of Business

Edited By:

Theresa Conway

Associate Director / Internship Coordinator

STARR Career Development Center

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INTRODUCTION

This prelaw handbook is intended to give answers to some basic questions about considering and applying to law school. A number of resources for further information are also given. (Should you discover any errors or changes in web site addresses, please inform the STARR Career Development Center.) At any point during your Baruch career or after graduation, please feel free to meet with the Max Berger Pre-Law Program Advisor. You may come to the STARR Career Development Center located in room 2-150 of the Newman Vertical Campus to schedule an appointment.

Also, watch for announcements of pre-law workshops and other events of interest by logging onto Starr Search at <http://baruch-csm.symplicity.com/students>.

In addition, Baruch has a student club, the Pre-Law Society that you may want to join. You may also enroll yourself on the PLS Blackboard site.

MAKING THE DECISION ABOUT LAW SCHOOL

I. Deciding on a Career in Law

Unless you are one of the few people who has “always” known that you want to be a lawyer, the decision about law school is one to which you will have to give a great deal of thought. Do not go to law school by “default.” Law school requires too much effort and expense to go simply because you cannot think of anything else to do. Moreover, it would be unfortunate to find yourself in a career that ultimately does not meet your expectations.

If your impressions of what lawyers do come from popular movies and television shows, it is likely that those impressions are inaccurate. Court TV, which televises actual trials, will give you a more realistic view of one aspect of one type of legal practice, i.e., trial work, primarily in the criminal area. Recognize, however, that this is only one type of legal practice. Many lawyers never do trial work and many more never work on criminal matters. There are many areas of law: contracts, securities law, real estate, family relations, tax, civil rights and public interest law, to name just a few. New areas of law, such as health care law and intellectual property issues relating to technology such as the Internet, are constantly developing and growing. Moreover, jobs in law are not limited to private practice. Many lawyers work for government entities, including the judicial system, for business organizations or for nonprofit groups.

How can you make an informed choice about whether law school and a career in law are right for you?

- **Read:** At the end of this section there is a list of resources, including books, web sites and videos, from which you might choose to start your exploration of a career in law. The list includes fiction

and nonfiction books about law and law school. Some are available at the Newman Library, as indicated. Others may be available at other CUNY libraries, public libraries or at bookstores.

- **Talk to Lawyers:** Use whatever contacts you may have to speak to lawyers about what they do. For instance, all of the full time and adjunct faculty members of Baruch's Department of Law are attorneys, who were or are currently engaged in a variety of practice or scholarship areas. The Prelaw Society has a list of alumni who are willing to act as mentors. Make an appointment and speak to a lawyer about what she does on a day to day basis, what her satisfactions or dissatisfactions with her career are, the personal attributes she believes are necessary to be a good lawyer and the impact of her practice on her personal life.
Also watch for announcement of events, usually during club hours, at which lawyers from various practice areas are invited to talk about their careers or to discuss a legal issue of current interest.
- **Talk to Law Students:** The Pre-Law Advisor has a list of some Baruch alumni who are currently in law school or are recent graduates, who are willing to talk to Baruch students about their experiences. Many law schools allow undergraduates to visit and tour their schools, sit in on classes and talk to current students.
- **Try it:** Seek out internships, summer jobs or volunteer positions that give you exposure to attorneys and what they do. These might include jobs with private law firms, government or public interest groups. Also consider volunteer opportunities or internships with other types of nonprofit organizations to help develop the values of public service and promoting justice. (See Section II. A. below.) If you do not plan to go to law school immediately after graduating from college, you might consider working as a paralegal for a year or two to gain some exposure to the legal world.
- **Take Courses:** You can gain knowledge about the American legal system and the role of attorneys in that system by taking courses. Although you do not have to take any law courses in order to be admitted to law school, any of the courses offered by the Department of Law will be helpful in this regard. The Political Science Department also offers a number of courses dealing with the legislative and judicial systems, including courses focusing on particular areas of the law such as Constitutional law and civil liberties. You might also consider a course such as Black Studies 1013, *The Administration and Process of Justice*. See Appendix E, "Law-Related" Courses at Baruch.

RESOURCES

* = At Newman Library

** = On reserve in Newman Library under Law 0000, Professor Mullings

Other materials may be available at other CUNY libraries, at public libraries or at bookstores

Books

- **American Lawyers** (Abel, Richard L.)*
- **The Official Guide to Legal Specialties** (Abrams, Lisa)**
- **Running From the Law: Why Good Lawyers Are Getting Out of the Legal Profession** (Arron, Deborah)
- **What Can You Do With a Law Degree?** (Arron, Deborah)**
- **The Legal Profession: Is It For You?** (Anderson, Wayne L. and Headrick, Marilyn, J.)
- **Law v. Life** (Bachman, Walter)
- **Full Disclosure: Do You Really Want to Be a Lawyer?** (Bell, Susan, ed.)
- **Lawyers in Transition: Planning a Life in the Law** (Byers, Mark)
- **Yankee from Olympus** (Bowen, Catherine Drinker)*
- **Attorney for the Damned** (Darrow, Clarence)*
- **Women in Law** (Epstein, Cynthia Fuchs)
- **Everything You Need to Know About Being a Legal Assistant** (Estrin, Chere)*
- **The Paralegal Career Guide** (Estrin, Chere B.)*
- **Crusaders in the Courts: How a Dedicated Band of Lawyers Fought for the Civil Rights Revolution** (Greenberg, Jack)*
- **A Civil Action** (Harr, Jonathan)
- **Poor People's Lawyers in Transition** (Katz, Jack)*
- **The Life of the Law: The People and Cases That Have Shaped Our Society** (Knight, Alfred)
- **So You Want to Be a Lawyer: A Practical Guide to Law as a Career** (Law School Admission Council)**
- **Thinking About Law School: A Minority Guide** (Law School Admission Council)*
- **The Betrayed Profession: Lawyering at the End of the Twentieth Century** (Linowitz, Saul M.)
- **Rebellious Lawyering: One Chicano's Vision of Progressive Law Practice** (Lopez, Gerald P.)
- **At the Bar** (Margolick, David)
- **The Lawyers** (Mayer, Martin)*
- **Law School Confidential** (Miller, Robert H.)**
- **The Lure of the Law: Why People Become Lawyers and What the Profession Does to Them** (Moll, Richard)
- **Careers in Law** (Munneke, Gary)
- **The Student's Guide to Legal Internships** (National Internships)
- **Turning Right: The Making of the Rehnquist Court** (Savage, David)*
- **Should You Really Be a Lawyer: The Guide to Smart Choices Before, During and After Law School, 5th ed.** (Schneider, Deborah)**
- **Some Makers of American Law** (Schwartz, Bernard)
- **My First Year As a Lawyer** (Simenoff, Mark)
- **Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944** (Smith, J. Clay)
- **Rebels in Law: Voices in History of Black Women Lawyers** (Smith, J. Clay)
- **The Buffalo Creek Disaster: How the Survivors of One of The Worst Disasters in Coal Mining History Brought Suit Against the Coal Company and Won** (Stern, Gerald M.)
- **The Partners: Inside America's Most Powerful Law Firms** (Stewart, James, B.)*
- **One-L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School** (Turow, Scott)
- **Majoring in Law: It's Not Right for Everyone. Is It Right for You?** (Underhill, Stefan)
- **The Brethren** (Woodward, Bob and Armstrong, Scott)

A series of books from the American Bar Association explores careers in different areas of the law. These books may help you to understand the variety of options available. A number of these are available at Baruch and other CUNY libraries.

- **Careers in Civil Litigation** (Bay, Monica)
- **Lawful Pursuit: Careers in Public Interest Law** (Fox, Ronald W.)**
- **Careers in Entertainment Law** (Henslee, William D.)
- **Careers in Natural Resources and Environmental Law** (Luney, Percy)
- **Nonlegal Careers for Lawyers** (Munneke, Gary A. and William D. Henslee)**
- **Careers in Sports Law** (Shropshire, Kenneth)**
- **Careers in International Law, 2d ed.** (Swartz, Salli A. and Mark W. Jannis)**
- **Now Hiring: Government Jobs for Lawyers** (Thorner, Abbie Willard)
- **Careers in Labor Law** (Wayne, Ellen)

The following publications from The Association for Legal Career Professionals (NALP) may also be of interest.

- **Going In-House: A Guide for Law Students and Recent Graduates****
- **Job & JD's: Employment Salaries of New Law Graduates - Class of 2003****
- **Starting Salaries: What New Law Graduates Earn****

Videos/DVD's

- **Short Stories from the Real World of Law (V)** (Law School Admission Council)**
- **Believe and Achieve: Latinos in the Law (V)** (Law School Admission Council)**
- **Becoming a Lawyer: A Video Collection(DVD)** (Law School Admission Council)**

Web Sites

- **American Bar Association** (www.abanet.org/careercounsel/profile/profession.html) This area of the ABA website contains profiles of attorneys practicing in numerous areas, and includes each attorney's advice and career path.
- **Findlaw** (www.findlaw.com)
- **Internet Legal Resources Guide** (www.ilrg.com)
Both of these are meta indexes of legal materials, with links to law related sites. Each has a prelaw or academia section with links to sites of interest for students considering a career in law.
- **Idealist** (www.idealists.org) A project of Action Without Borders, this site allows you to search for jobs and volunteer and internship opportunities and to post your own Volunteer Profile that can be searched by nonprofit and community organizations.
- **MS-JD** (www.ms-jd.org) An online community serving women in law school and the legal profession.
 - **Prelaw Insider** (www.prelawinsider.com) (see below)

Periodical

- **PreLaw Insider** Contains articles of interest to those considering law school. Free copies of recent issues are available in the offices of the Department of Law and the Prelaw Advisor.

II. Undergraduate Preparation

A. What should I major in? What courses should I take?

Unlike some other graduate programs, law schools do not require that a student have particular majors or take specific courses to gain admission. The American Bar Association, the organization responsible for accreditation of American law schools, has stated that it “does not recommend any undergraduate majors or groups of courses.”¹ The ABA has, however, tried to identify the skills and values and significant bodies of knowledge that will “provide a sound foundation for a legal education” and that might be acquired through your undergraduate education, self-learning, in the workplace and through various life experiences. An examination of those lists provides a good starting point for thinking about your undergraduate education.

Skills and Values:

1. Analytic/Problem solving skills
2. Critical Reading
3. Writing Skills
4. Oral Communication/Listening abilities
5. General Research Skills
6. Task Organization and Management Skills
7. Public Service and Promotion of Justice

Knowledge:

1. A broad understanding of history, including the various factors (social, political, economic and cultural) that have influenced the development of our society in the United States.

¹You can read the complete text of the ABA statement at www.abanet.org/legaled/prelaw/prep.html.

2. A fundamental understanding of political thought and of the contemporary American political system.

3. Some basic mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics and an ability to analyze financial data.

4. A basic understanding of human behavior and social interaction.

5. An understanding of diverse cultures within and beyond the United States, of international institutions and issues, of world events and of the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities within our world.

A reading of the ABA statement suggests that an undergraduate program that prepares you for law school has the same qualities as one that gives you a good college education. Your program should give you exposure to different fields of knowledge, give you a depth of knowledge in at least one area, your major, and should be rigorous.

You should take courses in a variety of disciplines. Even if you are a business major, you will necessarily take some courses in different fields in order to fulfill your common core curriculum and business base requirements. Regardless of your major, you can use your choice of electives to expand your knowledge or to develop knowledge in areas you have not explored. Moreover, you should take courses, both within and outside of your major, that develop and strengthen your skills, particularly your communication, reasoning and analytical skills. Look for courses that will involve research and writing that will be critiqued, and that will challenge your abilities to analyze material and to think logically.

Although you do not need to take any law courses, taking courses offered by the Department of Law may help to give you an understanding of the legal system and the role of lawyers in that system. Those courses should also help to develop your reasoning, analytical and communication skills. You might also consider a Tier III Interdisciplinary concentration in Law and Policy and/or a minor in Law (see Appendix D). Undergraduate law courses, however, are not equivalent to law school courses and your performance will not necessarily indicate how you will do in law school. Also see Appendix E, "Law-Related" Courses at Baruch.

The bottom line is that there are no particular majors or courses (even law courses) that you must take to get into law school. In choosing your major, you should choose an area that interests you, in which you will be motivated to do well, and which is consistent with a career path you would choose if you eventually decide not to pursue a career in law.

B. What do I need to get into law school?

You must complete a bachelor's degree to be admitted to law school. A strong GPA and a good score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) will mean that there will be more law schools where you have a good chance of being admitted. (The LSAT is discussed in Section IV.) However, do not assume you have no chance of going to law school if you are not a straight A student.

C. What about jobs, internships and extracurricular and community activities?

Law schools generally seek students from diverse backgrounds, who have interests beyond school. Your activities outside the classroom may help law schools to see what abilities you have in addition to your academic skills. For instance, your other activities may demonstrate such qualities as leadership, initiative, organization, problem solving and working cooperatively. Membership in a long list of organizations, however, is unlikely to impress an admissions officer. Choose activities that interest you and in which you are likely to take an active role, but not at the expense of letting your schoolwork suffer. Extracurricular activities are not substitutes for strong academic performance. Also, do not assume that any or all of your experiences must be "law-related," as such positions may be difficult for undergraduates to find. If you are interested in such a job or internship, do check the listings of the STARR Career Development Center. Also see Idealist (Section I, Resources).

D. A word about finances

Whether you choose a private or public school, law school is expensive and it is highly likely that you will need to obtain loans to finance at least part of your law school education. Protecting your credit rating is something you can do now and throughout your years in college. Resist the urge to sign up for credit cards and, if you do succumb, use them wisely. Getting into credit difficulties now may impact your ability to borrow later.

E. Prep Programs

There are a few programs for undergraduates, including summer programs that are intended to help prepare undergraduates for law school and the application process. Most target disadvantaged students or students who are members of groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession and are free and may even offer a stipend.

- **CLEO** (<http://cleoscholars.com>) - CLEO has a number of programs, including a sophomore Summer Institute, Prelaw Seminars and a seminar on the application process.
- **PLUS Programs** - LSAC sponsors a few summer programs around the country aimed at preparing undergraduates for law school. One such program is at the University of Santa Clara (www.scu.edu/law/admissions/plus-program.cfn).
- **Sponsors for Educational Opportunity** (www.seo-ny.org) - SEO is a wide-ranging program that offers mentoring for high school and college students of color. The Career Program provides college undergraduates with orientation, training and substantive internships.

III. Determining Where to Apply

You will not be applying to law school until your senior year (see Timetables and Checklist, Appendix A), but during your junior year, at the latest, you should start considering which law schools are of interest to you, so that by the fall of your senior year, you will be ready to make informed decisions. You can find a great deal of information, including admission criteria, costs, student body and faculty statistics in the **ABA LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools** (Law School Admission Council and American Bar Association). A searchable version is available on the LSAC web site. You can also use the Internet to begin exploring, as virtually every law school has a web site. Also, take advantage of events such as forums, open houses and information sessions sponsored by the Law School Admission Council or the law schools themselves. The Law School Forum in New York, attended by most law schools, takes place in the fall and is an excellent way to get information on several law schools at one time and to attend presentations on a variety of issues.

You should also consider visiting any schools to which you are going to apply, if at all possible. A visit will give you a chance to sit in on classes, talk to students and see the physical environment. Also check with the Prelaw Advisor to get a list of Baruch alumni who are in law school or are recent alumni and are willing to talk to current students about their experiences.

A. To how many law schools should I apply?

The LSAC reports that nationally the average number of schools to which applicants apply is between 5 and 6, although this reflects a range of 1 to 20 applications per student. Applying to more schools may increase your chances of admission, but there is a cost in time and expense. No matter how many schools you apply to, you should include some schools that are “a good possibility,” some at which you will be “competitive,” and one or more schools which are a “reach” (see below).

A number of schools offer “early decision,” for which the application deadlines vary. Some schools require a commitment that you are not applying for early decision elsewhere and that you will withdraw all other applications and will attend the school if admitted. Accordingly, you should only apply for early decision at such a school if you are sure it is the school you want to attend, and that you would attend regardless of the size of the financial aid package that might be offered.

B. Considering “the numbers”

Although LSAT scores and GPA's are not the only factors in law school admission decisions, they are very significant factors. In choosing the law schools to which you will apply, you must understand how your “numbers” stand up to those of students a school has admitted. Each accredited law school reports to the ABA every year, the 25th and 75th percentile and median LSAT scores and GPA's of students admitted

in that year's entering class. You can find these numbers in the *Official Guide* and other sites. The Boston Law School Locator uses these figures to group law schools into a grid according to LSAT scores and GPA's.

If your scores fall at or below the 25th percentile numbers, it does not mean you have no chance of being admitted, since 25% of the students admitted had these numbers or a lower GPA or LSAT score. However, that number might have been "offset" by a higher GPA or LSAT. To get a better picture of whether that is the case, see the *Official Guide*, which, for many schools, contains a grid showing the numbers of students who applied and number who were admitted for particular ranges of LSAT's and GPA's. If you fall at, near or below the 25th percentile, however, you should consider such a school a "reach."

The schools at which you may consider yourself "competitive" are those where your numbers fall within the 25th to 75th range reported by the school.

The schools which are "a good possibility," i.e., at which you have a better likelihood of admission, are those where your numbers fall near, at or above the 75th percentile.

Be aware that although the numbers are a significant factor, they are not the only criteria in admissions decisions and neither should they be the only factors you consider.

C. Other factors to consider

Once you have identified groups of schools where you might apply, there are a variety of other factors you will want to consider. Remember that you will be spending at least three years at a law school as well as making a significant financial investment. The following list is definitely not exhaustive and ultimately, only you can determine which factors are most significant to you. Some of the factors are statistics that you can check in the Guide, on the Web, in law school bulletins or other places. Other information might be obtained from visiting the school or talking to students who have attended the school.

1. Student Body

Does the school recruit nationally or is the student body primarily regional?

What is the diversity of the student body?

What is the average age? The oldest student?

How many students are in each class?

What is the atmosphere, i.e., is there a high competitiveness level or is it more friendly?

What are the attrition rates?

2. Faculty

What are their backgrounds and outside experience?

Is there diversity?

Is there a high level of scholarship, reflected by publications?

What is the ratio of faculty to students? Of full time faculty to adjunct faculty?

3. Programs

Does the school offer joint degree programs in which you may be interested, such as JD/MBA programs?

What is the availability of clinical programs, in which, as a law student, you can gain practical experience?

In addition to the Law Review, does the school have other journals, which might increase your opportunity to do scholarly writing and editorial work?

Although you do not choose a “major” in law school, as you do as an undergraduate, an increasing number of schools are touting the availability of “specializations” or “concentrations” in particular areas. This may not be a significant criterion for several reasons. Legal education does and should provide a broad exposure to many areas of law. Your interests may change over the course of the three years. Moreover, a few courses are unlikely to really prepare you for practicing law in a particular area, although this does not mean you should not take a concentration in an area in which you find you have an interest.

On the other hand, a few schools have an overall “mission.” For instance, CUNY Law School has a mission to train lawyers to practice public interest law. If you are certain your goals are consistent with a school’s mission, that mission might be a basis for decision.

If you are fairly certain that you will want a career in public interest law, you will particularly want to evaluate the strength of the commitment to and programs in public interest law at the schools to which you apply. The Equal Justice web site has suggestions for making such an evaluation. The ABA’s *Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs* provides information about each school’s programs. (See Resources.)

4. Facilities

Is the law school affiliated with a university, at which you might take other courses?

How extensive are the library facilities?

How well is the school equipped with technology?

Is there on campus housing available or assistance in finding off campus housing?

5. Alternative Programs

Do you have special requirements, such as a school which allows midyear entry or has an evening or other part time program?

6. Financial Factors

Law school will involve a significant financial investment. Generally, a public school will be less costly than a private one, particularly for residents of the state. (New York has two public law schools, CUNY and

SUNY/ Buffalo.)

For any given school, you will want to look at its financial aid statistics.

What percentage of students are receiving financial aid?

What is the average amount of grant versus loan?

What is the average debt load of students on graduation?

If you want to pursue a career in public interest law, you will want to know if the school has or participates in special fellowships, internships and loan assistance or forgiveness programs. (See Equal Justice web site and *Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs*.)

7. Location

Is the school located in a large city or a small town?

Is the climate of the region important to you?

You should know that you do not have to attend law school in the state in which you intend to practice and the state in which you attended law school may be of limited importance in finding a job in a particular area.

Do not limit yourself to schools in the New York metropolitan area unless there are significant reasons (e.g., family commitments that absolutely preclude moving) for doing so. You may actually be decreasing your chances of admission if you do limit yourself because New York area law schools tend to have relatively high numbers of applicants for each seat.

8. Reputation and Rankings

You have probably been unable to resist looking at “rankings” of schools, such as that done by U.S. News and World Reports. Many question the validity of such rankings, particularly since schools may move up and down from year to year. (See Deans’ Letter on LSAC web site. Also see *Judging the Law Schools*; Brian Leiter’s Rankings.)

Does the “name” matter? Clearly you should seek the “best” law school at which you can gain admittance and the reputation of the school may be one of the criteria in determining which school is “best.”. If your dream is to work for a large Wall Street firm, attending a “prestigious” law school may make a significant difference, since such firms tend to recruit at a relatively small number of schools. Regardless of your goals, however, you will want to look at the bar pass and employment rates for any school you are considering. The Official Guide contains statistics about employment and bar pass rates. You can also find out about the firms and organizations that interview at particular schools by using the searchable employer directory at the NALP website.

RESOURCES

The resources listed here are in addition to law school bulletins and web sites, visits, contacts and forums.

Books and Tables

* = On reserve in the Newman Library under Law 0000, Professor Mullings

**= Available in office of Prelaw Advisor or Department of Law office

- ***Degrees of Difference: A How-To-Guide to Choosing a Law School*** (Biggs, Amy Thompson)*
- ***The Best 117 Law Schools*** (2005 ed.) (Owens, Eric)*
- ***Boston College Law School Locator*** (also see web site below)**
- ***Judging the Law Schools*** (Brennan, Thomas and Don De Luc)* (Ranks law schools on a variety of factors, including size, diversity, facilities, admission criteria, etc.) Also see www.ilrg.com/ranking
- ***Get Into Law School: A Strategic Approach, 2d ed.*** (Lammert-Reeves, Ruth)*
- ***MAPLA Law School Admissions Profiles***
- ***The NAPLA/SAPLA Book of Law School Lists*** Contains lists of schools offering evening programs, special degree programs, joint degrees, conditional admissions programs, “specializations” and much more)*
- ***Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools*** (Law School Admission Council and Amer. Bar Assn.)* (searchable version on LSAC website)
- ***So You Want to Be a Lawyer*** (Law School Admission Council)*
- ***The Princeton Review: The Best 117 Law Schools*** *(also see web site below)
- ***Women’s Guide to Law School*** (Hirschman, Linda, Penguin, 1999)

Videos/DVDs

- ***Balancing the Scales: Minorities and Law School (V)*** (LSAC)*
- ***OUTlooks (V)*** (LSAC)* Law students and admission professionals discuss issues facing the gay or lesbian law school candidate.
- ***Becoming a Lawyer: A Video Collection (DVD)*** (LSAC) (a collection of seven videos: *Getting There, Journeys, OUTlooks, Indian Lawyers, Believe and Achieve, African American Lawyers and Financing a Legal Education.*)

Web Sites

General

- **FindLaw** (www.findlaw.com) and **Internet Legal Resource Guide** (www.ilrg.com)
Each site is a meta index for legal materials. For Findlaw, go to Legal Professionals and then Law Student Resources. For ILRG, go to Academia. Each site has links to a variety of information, including links to law school web sites and to rankings.
- www.deloggio.com - An interesting site that often contains useful insights and information.

Other

- **ABA Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs** (www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/lawschools) (Contains information collected from law schools regarding each school's public interest and *pro bono* programs, including career services, loan repayment programs, student groups, fellowships and pro bono and community service opportunities.)
- **Boston College Locator** (www.bc.edu/offices/careers/gradschool/law.lawlocator)
Online version of the Boston College Law School Locator
- **Brian Leiter's Law School Rankings** (www.leiterrankings.com) (includes areas such as Faculty Quality, Student Quality, Job Placement)
- **CLEO** (<http://cleoscholars.com>)
CLEO offers several programs, including a 6 week summer program of preparation for law school, which may also offer some placement assistance. CLEO also offers ASAP, a multiday seminar on the application process, which is offered in Los Angeles and Atlanta. Travel stipends are available.
- **Equal Justice (formerly National Association for Public Interest Law)** (www.equaljusticeworks.org) Information on evaluating law schools with respect to public interest and on financing your education.
- **Kaplan** (www.kaplan.com)
Has sections on the LSAT, admissions and Kaplan's prep programs
- **Law School Admission Council** (www.lsac.org)
Information on the LSAT, LSDAS, choosing and applying to law schools, financial aid and the response of law school deans to law school rankings. Also has a searchable version of the *Official Guide*, which allows you to search for law schools in various ways.
- **The Law School Minority Report** (www.lawschoolminorityreport.com) - This new site was created by a team of Harvard law students and includes survey responses and comments by minorities in law school about their experiences at the schools they attended.
- **National Association for Law School Placement** (www.nalp.org)
Has a searchable Directory of Legal Employers that allows you to search by various criteria, including the schools at which the employers interview.

- **Prelaw Insider** (www.prelawinsider.com)
Includes a searchable database of information about law schools.
- **Princeton Review** (www.review.com)
In addition to information about Princeton Review programs, this site contains a “School Search” which allows searches by one or more of several criteria, including LSAT and GPA percentiles, a quality of life rating and more. The “Students Say” link for each school gives comments from students who attend the school.
- **U.S. News and World Reports** (www.usnews.com)
If you feel compelled to look at their rankings, they are available on this site. You might also want to look at www.rankingsnews.com for commentary and critiques on those rankings.

Other

- **Baruch Alumni Contact List****
- **PreLaw Insider**** (A periodical with articles of interest to those considering law school.)

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

There are three general steps you will take in the application process: taking the Law School Admission Exam (LSAT); registering with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS); and completing the applications for the particular schools to which you decide to apply. There is a great deal of useful information, particularly on the first two steps, on the LSAC website and in the free LSAT & LSDAS Information Book. A new one usually comes out in early winter and will be available in the Department of Law office and the office of the Prelaw Advisor. (You may also download it at www.lsac.org.) Reading it from cover to cover is highly recommended. It is also highly recommended that you register online with the LSAC as some of the services and features will only be available to you if you have an online account. You should also run the various demos to familiarize yourself with the processes you will be using. Also, if you believe you may qualify for a waiver of the fees for LSAT and LSDAS registration, you should apply online for a fee waiver before registering.

Please note that, regardless of the deadlines of particular schools, you should aim to have your application files complete no later than the end of December of the year before the fall in which you hope to enter law school (e.g., by December 2008 if you plan to enter law school in Fall 2009) and preferably by the end of November. A complete file means a reportable LSAT score, a complete Master Report with letters of recommendation and all forms and statements required by the particular law school.

IV. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

A. What is the LSAT?

The LSAT is a standardized exam that is required by almost every accredited law school. It is not an achievement test that tests accumulated knowledge, but rather it tests skills that have been acquired during your education, including reading comprehension, analytical reasoning and logical reasoning. The test consists of five sections of multiple choice questions, one section of which is used to pretest new items and does not contribute to your score. The test also includes a writing sample in response to a writing prompt. The writing sample is not graded, but is sent to each school to which you apply. There is no deduction for incorrect answers, nor are individual questions weighted differently from others.

Your score will be a three digit number from 120 to 180. A score of 180 does not mean that every question was answered correctly nor does a score of 120 indicate that no questions were answered correctly.

You need to register for the exam and should do so well in advance of the test date to make sure that you get one of your choices of test sites.

B. When should I take the LSAT?

The LSAT is given four times a year, in June, late September/early October, December and February. You may take the LSAT at any time, but usually the earliest you will want to take it, if you are an undergraduate, will be in February or June of the year before the year you hope to start law school. (That is, for students who plan to start right after graduation, you might take it in February or June of the year before you will graduate.) Since Baruch's finals schedule usually runs to the end of May, and summer school begins in early June, you must consider whether you would have sufficient time to prepare for the June exam. If you have the discipline to forego a vacation, taking the exam in February of your junior year will give you a month before the exam in which you do not have classes or exams and can focus on preparation. A possible advantage of taking the exam before October of your senior year is that if your score is weaker than you anticipated, you will have time to register for and take the exam again should you decide to do so. (See Section IV. D, below.) If, instead, your score is satisfactory, you will have an earlier start on narrowing down the list of law schools to which you will apply.

Many students take the exam in October. If you are applying for admission in the fall of the next year, you should aim to take the exam by October of the year before that (e.g., by October 2008 for admission in Fall 2009), in order to have your applications completed by the beginning of December. The absolute latest you should take the LSAT is December, in order to insure that you will be able to meet the application deadlines of the schools to which you wish to apply. For most schools, if you are applying for

early decision, you must take the exam before December to meet the early decision deadline.

Above all, you should take the LSAT when you are prepared to take it.

C. Can I prepare for the LSAT? Should I? How?

You can and should prepare for the LSAT. Under no circumstances should you take the LSAT “cold” to see how you do. When you apply to law school, all your scores for a five year period, as well as the average of those scores, will be reported. (Any score cancellations will also be reported.) Preparation will, at the least, give you familiarity with the test format and the time constraints of the exam, and will allow you to identify your areas of relative strength or weakness.

There are a variety of ways to prepare for the LSAT and the following is for your information and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of any program. At the high end, in terms of cost, are the commercial preparation courses, such as Kaplan and Princeton Review, for which you can expect to pay at least \$1,000. At lower price points are courses offered by Nelson Test Prep and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Each of these programs generally offers courses four times a year, timed to end shortly before each of the exam administrations. Some firms offer video, audio tape or online preparation courses. In addition, personal or telephone private tutoring is available at an hourly rate from some firms. See the Prelaw Advisor for a collection of students’ comments about preparing for the LSAT and about particular courses.

If you are very disciplined, it is possible to prepare without taking a course, by using one or more of the many books available on LSAT preparation. Look through some of the books before you buy, to determine which ones might be most useful to you. Public libraries, including the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library, often have a number of preparation books.

The LSAT & LSDAS Information Book is a good starting point for determining how you will prepare and how much preparation you need. This is a free publication which can be obtained in the Department of Law office or the office of the Prelaw Advisor or downloaded at www.lsac.org. The booklet contains sample questions with explanations of the answers and a sample exam and will help to give you some idea of how much preparation you need and the areas in which you need preparation.

Whichever method you choose, part of your preparation should include taking past LSAT exams, including taking some under timed conditions simulating actual test taking conditions. A number of past exams are available on two hour or overnight reserve in the Newman Library and are listed below in Resources.

D. If I don't do well the first time, should I take the LSAT again?

This is a difficult question for which there is no one right answer. Unless there is some unusual circumstance, such as illness or failure to do any preparation, which may have affected your performance, your odds of scoring significantly higher on a second test are not particularly good and, indeed, you may get a lower score. (See LSAT/LSDAS Information Book.) A significant difference in scores will be reviewed by the test administrators. Moreover, as noted above, all of your scores for the previous five years and the average of those scores will be reported to the law schools to which you apply. Some schools regard the average of all scores to be the “true” one, while others may consider the highest or lowest score.

The best advice is probably that you should only take the LSAT when you have adequately prepared for it in order to avoid having to make this decision.

RESOURCES

LSAT Preparation Material from LSAC on Reserve at Newman Library

LSAT Prep Tests - 10 actual
10 More Actual Official LSAT Prep Tests
The Next 10 Actual, Official LSAT Prep Tests
LSAT Official Triple Prep 3
Official LSAT Prep Tests:

Test 19 (6/96)
Test 23 (10/97)
Test 24 (12/97)
Test 25 (6/98)
Test 26 (9/98)
Test 27 (12/98)
Test 28 (6/99)
Test 29 (10/99)
Test 30 (12/99)
Test 31 (6/00)
Test 32 (10/00)
Test 33 (12/00)
Test 34 (6/01)
Test 37 (6/02)
Test 38 (10/02)
Test 39 (12/02)
Test 40 (6/03)
Test 41 (10/03)
Test 42 (12/03)
Test 43 (6/04)
Test 44 (10/04)
Test 45 (12/04)
Test 46 (6/05)

- **Official TriplePrep Plus** (3 tests with explanations of question types and 50 writing sample prompts)
- **Official LSAT Prep Test** (2/97 test with explanations for every question in the four multiple choice sections)
- **Official LSAT SuperPrep** (3 tests (2/96, 2/99 and 2/00) with explanations for each item in all three tests)

Other Books

- **Barron's LSAT: How to Prepare for the Law School Admission Test** (Bobrow, Jerry)
- **The LSAT Advantage** (book and CD Rom) (bookstores or www.professordave.com)
- **The Princeton Review: Cracking the LSAT** (Robinson, Adam, et.al)
- **How to Prepare for the LSAT** (Weber, Karl)
- **Powerscore Logic Games Bible** (see Powerscore website)
- **Powerscore Logical Reasoning Bible** (see Powerscore website)

Web Sites

- **The Law School Admission Council** (www.lsac.org) (information about the LSAT and more, including **Itemwise**, a new feature on the website billed as an LSAT familiarization tool. ItemWise allows you to answer questions of all three types that are tested on the LSAT, keeps track of your answers and shows explanations of why your answers are correct or incorrect. There is an \$18 charge for registered users.)
- **Arco** (www.cyberprep.com) and **TestSherpa** (www.testsherpa.com) (Both sites have online diagnostic tests and drills)

Preparation Courses

- **Baruch Continuing and Professional Studies** (www.baruched.com)
- **Binary Solution** (www.binarysolution.net)
- **The Focus Approach** (www.focusapproach.com)
- **Get Prepped** (www.getprepped.com)
- **Kaplan** (www.kaplan.com)
- **LSAT FlexPrep** (www.home-lsat.com) (offers video tape and DVD ROM preparation courses)
- **Nelson Test Prep** (www.nelsontestprep.com)
- **Powerscore** (www.powerscore.com)
- **Princeton Review** (www.review.com)
- **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund** (www.prldef.org or 212/739-7517)
- **Testmasters** (www.testmasters180.com)
- **True Potential** (www.tplsatsat.org) This organization offers a free LSAT prep course as well as application guidance and counseling for a limited number of disadvantaged applicants. The application deadline is in mid-March.

V. The Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS)

ABA-approved law schools require that applicants subscribe to and send information to the data gathering arm of LSAC, the Law School Data Assembly Services (LSDAS). The LSDAS organizes and standardizes certain information that will be sent to the law schools to which you apply. Complete information on the LSDAS will be found online and in the Information Book, but the following are some

general points to know.

Subscribing to the LSDAS is a separate step from registering for the LSAT. You may do both at the same time, but you do not have to. You should subscribe to LSDAS well in advance of the earliest application deadline of the schools to which you apply and with sufficient time to make sure that the information in your report is correct. Generally, if you plan to attend law school right after graduation, you should subscribe to the LSDAS when you have completed at least six full semesters. It is strongly recommended that you register online, rather than by phone or e-mail.

Note: When you register, please answer “yes” to the question regarding release of information to your prelaw advisor (or if you have already registered, please change that item to “yes.”) Please be assured that your personal information will always be kept confidential. However, if many students allow the release of information, it allows more valid data collection, which will assist future students.

Your subscription will be good for five years (and will be automatically renewed for another five years if you take the LSAT again within that period). In addition to the registration fee, there will be an additional charge for each report that is sent to a law school. You do not identify the schools to which you will apply on the forms sent to LSDAS; rather, each law school will request the report when it receives your application. Applicants who have online accounts and utilize the free electronic applications available through LSAC will be charged the fee for each application as it is submitted. This system helps to prevent applicants paying for more reports than they actually use.

After subscribing to the LSDAS, you will fill out and print the appropriate LSDAS forms to request that a transcript be sent to LSDAS from each undergraduate or graduate institution you attended. Please note that you must list and request a transcript from a school from which you transferred, even if you were given transfer credits by Baruch. You must also have a transcript sent for any courses you took at a college while you were in high school. If part of your undergraduate education is from a foreign institution, please note the specific instructions about listing such institutions and having transcripts sent.

The LSDAS will convert your undergraduate grades into a standardized GPA based on a 4.0 system and may include or exclude certain courses in computing that GPA (see Information Book). For instance, if you received an F that was excluded from your Baruch GPA after you repeated the course, the F will be included in your LSDAS reported GPA. Please note that grades of WU or WF are treated as failing grades by LSDAS. Also, although the grades from courses you took at a school from which you transferred are not included in computing your Baruch GPA, these grades will be included in your LSDAS reported GPA. Accordingly, your LSDAS reported GPA may be higher or lower than the GPA shown on your Baruch transcript.

You should have your transcripts sent after you have completed six full semesters of undergraduate work, i.e., typically after the spring of your junior year. You should not wait to do so until you have grades from the fall of the year in which you are applying, even if you believe your grades, and thus

your GPA will improve. Waiting until January, when fall grades are available, will mean that you will not have a complete master report, and, therefore, completed applications, until late January and will be at a disadvantage in the admissions process. Instead, have transcripts sent in the summer or early fall so that the master report can be prepared. When fall grades are available, have updated transcripts sent to LSDAS, which will prepare and send out updated transcript reports, at no charge, to the schools to which you apply..

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) also has a letter of recommendation service that allows you to have letters of recommendation sent to LSAC. Copies of the letters you designate will be sent to the schools to which you apply as part of your LSDAS file. This service allows you to have each recommender prepare just one letter, instead of having to prepare separate letters for each school to which you apply. Virtually every accredited law school is a participant in the service (see LSAC website). You will fill out and print out a form for each recommender. Each recommender will fill in the relevant information on the form and will send the form and the letter directly to LSAC.

The letter of recommendation service allows you to determine which letters will go to which schools. You may have up to four general letters submitted to LSAC and may also have letters sent that are targeted to particular schools. (See LSAC website and Information Book.)

Once LSDAS has summarized all your undergraduate transcripts, it will prepare a Master Law School Report with the biographical and academic information that will be sent to law schools. You should review this report carefully and have any errors corrected.

When your file is complete (i.e., you have subscribed and paid the fees, have a reportable LSAT score and transcripts have been summarized) and a law school requests a report, the law school will receive a report which contains:

- biographical information
- a year-by-year grade and credit summary
- photocopies of all your transcripts
- your GPA for each academic year and your cumulative GPA
- a description of your overall grade distribution
- the mean GPA of other students at your undergraduate school who have subscribed to LSDAS and your percentile graduation rank among those students (if there are a sufficient number of students in the pool)
- up to 12 LSAT scores for the previous five years (including cancellations and absences)
- an average LSAT score if you have more than one score on file
- copies of LSAT writing samples
- the mean LSAT score for students from your undergraduate school for the most recent three years (if there are a sufficient number of students in the pool)
- copies of up to three letters of recommendation processed by LSAC
- names of law schools reporting your prior matriculation or intent to matriculate
- a notation indicating whether you have ever been the subject of an academic discipline or integrity misconduct or irregularity determination

- if requested by the school, an admission index, which is based on a formula specified by the school for converting an applicant's LSAT score and GPA into a single number

VI. Applying to Law School

Law school applications generally consist of four parts: an application in which you answer specific questions, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and a financial aid application. Financial aid is discussed in Section VII.

Even if you decide that you will submit the applications online through LSAC or directly to schools that allow you to do so, it is a good idea to also get an application packet from every school to which you will apply. The packet will allow you to see all required forms and the complete instructions. The packets also typically contain brochures and other material that provide you with information about the school. Often the packets can be downloaded from or requested at the school's website or can be picked up at the LSAC Forum or during a visit to the school.

A. Getting Organized

The process of applying to law schools can be a daunting one if you proceed in a haphazard fashion. There are steps you can take to increase your organization and decrease the stressfulness of the process.

Be aware that the deadline for submitting an application varies from school to school. Some are as early as January and others as late as May. If you are applying for early decision or spring matriculation (at those schools that permit it), you will have a different set of deadlines. At some schools you may have an earlier deadline for submitting your application if you are applying for financial aid. There may also be separate deadlines for submitting financial aid material. It is crucial that you be aware of the deadlines at each school to which you apply and comply with them.

It is better not to brush up against the deadlines. Submitting your application early may also increase your chances of admission by being compared against a smaller pool of applicants, particularly at those schools which have "rolling admissions" and consider applications as they come in. Moreover, in the last few years, there have been significant increases in the numbers of applicants as well as a trend for applications to be sent earlier in the season. Again, regardless of particular deadlines, you should aim to have your applications completed (including a reportable LSAT score) no later than the end of December, but preferably by the end of November.

There are two items you can and should complete as early as possible. You may register for the LSDAS and have your transcripts sent to LSDAS at any time. Usually you will want to do so when you have completed at least six semesters of a full course load, but at the latest, you should do so early in the fall of your senior year. This will allow you time to make sure your package is complete, examine your report and

request correction of any errors you may discover. Your letters of recommendation may also be sent to the LSDAS at any time once you have registered for the LSDAS. If you identify your recommenders early and provide them with the forms and information they need, you will decrease your chances that the letters will be submitted late and will delay or preclude consideration of your application.

Although some application packets contain a checklist for the particular school, you may find it useful to prepare a global checklist in chart or spreadsheet form. (An example is at Appendix B.) Your checklist should contain the name, deadlines and required materials for each school to which you are applying. Allow room to check off each item as it is completed and submitted. Your checklist should also include the school's deadlines for and required steps for applying for financial aid. Keep copies of each completed application and any correspondence with the school for your records. Because some states may request law school application material or information in connection with your application to be admitted to the bar, it is recommended that you keep these records until then.

Invest in some folders, or even expanding file pockets. Keep everything pertaining to each school together in one place. If you buy expanding pockets, you can have separate folders for originals, drafts, correspondence, financial aid, etc.

Keep copies of everything you send as part of your application. You may need to retain copies of your application during law school for use in completing your application for admission to the bar after graduation and the bar exam.

B. The Application

You have a few choices as to how you fill out and submit applications. You may use the hard copies of the application, fill them out by typewriter and submit them by mail. Most schools also allow you to fill out and submit your applications online. Applicants who have an online LSAC account will have free online access to electronic applications for all ABA-approved law schools, including the feature that allows the applicant to put in common information once and have it appear in the appropriate place for the schools to which she is applying. The completed applications may be submitted online through LSAC or may be printed out and sent by mail. The vast majority of applications are submitted through LSAC.

Whichever method you choose, read the directions for each application carefully and complete each question completely and accurately. If you use LSAC, it is a good idea to print out and read the Frequently Asked Questions before you begin and to keep them handy for reference. Also be sure that, for each school, you check for and complete any Supplementary Forms such as Deans Certifications.

Most schools will have questions concerning criminal charges or convictions and academic disciplinary actions or integrity violations. Be sure to answer these questions fully and truthfully. While many criminal or academic actions will not preclude you from being admitted to law school, the failure to

disclose one may prevent a school from considering you at all. Assume that anything you might prefer not to reveal can be found out. Please also note that in some states, bar officials now compare disclosures on bar admissions applications with disclosures on law school applications to see if there are any discrepancies, despite the fact that the bar admission applications often ask broader questions. If you have any doubt, err on the side of disclosure and honesty. A good rule of thumb is, if you have to ask whether you should disclose, the answer is likely yes. Feel free to consult with the Prelaw Advisor about such questions.

If you are asked if you will be applying for financial aid, the answer is almost certainly yes, unless you are independently wealthy. Indicating that you will be applying should not affect your chances of admission.

Unless prohibited by the school, you may include an additional statement or addendum if you feel there are other issues, such as a period of poor grades, that you believe need further explanation than the application permits. Do not use your personal statement for such explanations unless it fits logically into the theme and topic you have chosen.

C. Letters of Recommendation

Most law schools require that you submit at least two letters of recommendation. These letters provide schools with information that is not contained in your application. Ideally, if you are an undergraduate or recent graduate, at least one, and preferably both of these letters should be written by professors, who will be able to comment on the information in which law schools are most interested: your academic skills and intellectual development, including your analytic skills and oral communication and writing abilities, and any personal qualities that make you a good candidate. If you have been out of school for some time and are unable to find two professors who will write the letters, you might seek a letter from someone, such as a supervisor, who is able to comment on your intellectual skills, as well as on personal qualities such as persistence, initiative and leadership.

In choosing your recommenders, you should ask yourself at least two questions. Does this person seem enthusiastic about writing the letter? Will this person be able to write a positive, well-informed letter? The professor from whom you got your best grade may not be the best choice, if all she can say is that you received a high grade. Even if you did not get an A in the course, a professor with whom you had interaction, particularly in a smaller class, and who is able to give specific and concrete examples of your abilities and work, may be a much better choice. In no event should you choose a recommender, whether a professor or other recommender, on the basis of a prestigious title, if she cannot make specific and useful comments about your abilities.

There are steps you can take to enhance the chances of a letter that will be to your benefit. If possible, make an appointment with each recommender. Bring with you information that will help her get a

full picture of you, such as your transcript and resume, and possibly information on why you are interested in law school and what your goals are. For professors, copies of exams and papers written for the class may be useful. And, of course, give all recommenders sufficient time to meet any deadlines. LSAC advises that letters of recommendation should be received by LSDAS at least two weeks before a school's application deadline to ensure timely receipt by the school. Again, you should aim for having your applications, including the letters, complete by the end of December, which suggests that you should seek your letters of recommendation by early November, at the latest.

Be sure to check the requirements of each law school as to how many letters are required and whether the letters may (or must) be submitted through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service ("LOR"). You may submit up to four "general" letters as well as additional "directed" letters, e.g., letters directed to particular schools or to particular specialties. Applicants will be able to determine which letters are sent to each school.(See LSAC website and Information Book for complete information.)

D. Personal Statements

Few law schools conduct personal interviews of candidates. In a sense, the personal statement is a substitute, giving schools an opportunity to find out about you and what distinguishes you from the other applicants whose numerical criteria may be similar. The personal statement is also a demonstration of your writing abilities. Therefore, you should take time and care with your personal statement. Do not expect to produce an adequate statement in one sitting.

1. General Suggestions

The personal statement should usually be no more than two pages, typewritten and double-spaced, with normal margins and 12 point fonts. Some law schools limit you to a certain number of words or pages; you should comply with those guidelines.

Carefully proofread the statement; grammatical and spelling errors will detract from your statement and will give the reader a negative view of your writing skills. Do not use long words simply because you think it may impress a reader. Clear and correct language, even if in simple words, will be more impressive.

The essay should be organized around a theme and, where relevant, have specific examples. Avoid using quotations from "great thinkers" rather than expressing your own thoughts. Follow proper essay form: have introductory and concluding paragraphs and have a topic sentence for each paragraph. There should be a clear and logical flow throughout. Ask at least one other person to read your essay, both for form and content. Your personal statement may be given to the Prelaw Advisor for review, who suggests that you send it as an attachment to an e-mail. (If the directions call for you to write about a particular topic or topics, please provide those directions.)

2. What should I write about?

Some schools require you to write about a specific topic or topics and you must comply with those requirements. Many leave the choice of topics open-ended. If so, ultimately, because it is a personal statement, the choice of a topic is uniquely yours. It is your opportunity to tell admissions officers something about you. Your essay might be a well-told story about a particular experience and how it affected you. Your theme might be a special interest, such as a hobby, extracurricular activity, talent or achievement that is meaningful to you. You might choose to write about how you have overcome a particular hardship or challenge. Above all, your topic should be something that is personal to you, about which you can write with interest and enthusiasm. Some of the books in the resource list are good starting points for helping you think about a topic.

There are some things to avoid. The essay should not simply be an explanation of why you want to go to law school or your planned field of practice, unless that is what the school requests. However, if you have had a particular experience, such as working for a lawyer, or a community or human rights group, that motivated your interest in law, that experience might be your topic. The essay should not be a narrative of your resume or biographical information. An essay that is an argument about a legal, political or philosophical issue is unlikely to be effective or to give a law school insight into who you are. Since the essay should have a positive tone, avoid using it to explain negative information, unless it clearly fits in with your theme. For instance, if your essay deals with some traumatic experience in your life, that may also explain a period of poor grades, the explanation of this effect may fit in your essay. Otherwise, address such issues instead in an addendum to the application.

E. Other

Some schools also require a Dean's Certification or letter of good standing. Any such forms should be submitted to Dean Ronald Aaron, Student Development, Room 2-256, 55 Lexington Ave. (Vertical Campus). (If you are mailing the request, it should be sent to One Bernard Baruch Way, Box B2-255, New York, NY 10010.) If you are doing the applications through the LSAC website, any required Dean's Certification forms will be in the Supplementary Forms. Please be sure to provide the forms to Dean Aaron several weeks in advance of when they are needed since your application will not be complete until the form is submitted.

You may include a resume if you think it would be helpful, unless the instructions for the school advise you not to send one.

Some schools have fee waiver procedures for students in need. Check the application of the particular school for its procedures for fee waivers. A number of schools offer fee waivers to applicants who have qualified for an LSAS fee waiver.

F. Special Prep Programs

There are a few free or low cost programs that provide preparation for law school or other experiences. The programs are primarily for students who are disadvantaged or members of groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Although these are summer programs, most have deadlines no later than the beginning of March, so you should complete the applications sooner rather than later. See A Word About Preparing for Law School, below.

RESOURCES

Books

- ***Essays That Worked for Law School*** (Curry, Boykin)
- ***Get Into Law School: A Strategic Approach, 2d ed.*** (Lammert-Reeves, Ruth)*
- ***How to Write a Winning Personal Statement for Graduate and Professional Schools*** (Stelzer, Richard)*
- ***Law School Essays That Made a Difference*** (Owens, Eric)*
- ***Perfect Personal Statements*** (Stewart, Mark Alan)

Video

- ***Getting There: Four Paths to Law School*** (LSAC)* (Four law school students from varied backgrounds recount their individual journey through the law school application process. Admission professionals supplement the students' stories with expert advice.)

*= On Reserve at Newman Library

Web Sites

- ***The Law School Admission Council*** (www.lsac.org) (In addition to information about the application process, applicants with online accounts will have free access to electronic applications for all ABA-approved law schools.)

Also see the web sites of individual law schools.

Other

- ***The Coalition for Legal Recruiting of NYU School of Law*** - This group of NYU students has done a presentation at Baruch and was kind enough to share copies of their own personal statements. (On reserve in the library.)

VII. Financial Aid

A. General Considerations

Most law students will have to secure loans, and may receive scholarships or grants, to finance at least part of their law school costs. The best sources of information on funding sources and procedures

will be the particular school to which you apply and you must read and follow the directions for each law school to which you apply. However, this section will give you an introduction to the application process and identify sources that may be useful to you.

There are some general issues to consider in applying for financial aid.

– Although federal loan programs for graduate and professional degrees do not require financial information from parents, many schools do, even if you have been independent for some time. You must check the specific requirements of each school.

– Large outstanding amounts of debt, including credit card debt, may affect your ability to secure loans from private lenders. A poor credit rating will also make it more difficult. By the summer of your junior year, you should obtain a copy of your credit report from one of the major reporting agencies. Check the report for inaccuracies and do what you can to clear up any problems.

– If your ultimate goal for legal practice may involve a relatively low paying job, such one in public interest law, the amount of debt you have after law school may affect your employment decisions. A number of law schools have or participate in loan assistance or forgiveness programs that can help reduce the debt load. Check with each school as to whether it has such a program. Also, see the Equal Justice web site for descriptions of various types of programs and the *ABA Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs* for information on the availability of these programs at each law school.

B. The Application Process

The application process for most law schools begins with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form should be available at any college or law school financial aid office and may also be downloaded from the Web. Although you may speed processing of your FAFSA by filing it online, you will definitely want to complete the form on paper first, to be sure that it is accurate and complete. The FAFSA cannot be submitted, either electronically or by mail, until January 1 preceding the school year for which the application is made (i.e., January 1, 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year). However, before that date, you can and should get a PIN number that will allow you to submit and “sign” your FAFSA online.

(www.pin.gov) Your parents’ information will not be required for this form.

Law schools may also require you, and possibly your parents, to submit either the Need Access Application or the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile. These are need based analysis services that gather information to determine eligibility for institutional financial aid, including scholarships and loans. The Needs Access application may be downloaded and filed online, or you may download or order a diskette. (See web sites in Resources, below.) Some schools require that you submit a copy of the actual tax returned filed for the preceding year (i.e., the calendar year preceding your enrollment in law school) as part of the financial aid application. Accordingly, you should try to complete and file your tax return as soon as possible. Moreover, much of the information required on the FAFSA is based on

information in your tax return. Also, although you will not have to submit your parents' information for the FAFSA, schools vary as to whether and under what circumstances they require parents' information on their own application or for a data analysis service, so you must check the instructions for each school.

Although the FAFSA cannot be submitted before January 1 and the financial aid deadline line for many schools is one to four months after that, you can and should submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. Financial aid applications deadlines vary from school to school but, whatever the deadline, it is to your benefit to submit earlier rather than later. Some law schools include a financial aid application in the application materials. Others send you a financial aid application after an admission decision has been made. A number of schools have special scholarships, for which you must submit separate applications and supporting materials by particular deadlines, and which may require that you submit your application for admission by an earlier deadline. It is essential that you check the procedures and deadlines for each school to which you apply.

C. Financial Aid

There are three basic types of aid: Federal loans, private loans and scholarships and grants.

Federal Loans: There are three types of need-based loans available through either the Federal Direct Student Loan Program or the Federal Family Education Loan Program:

1. **Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan** — Students with demonstrated financial need can borrow up to \$8,500 per year. The federal government pays the interest while the student is in school.
2. **Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan** — Students can borrow up to a combined total of \$20,500 in subsidized and unsubsidized loans. Students may pay the interest or let it accrue while in law school.
3. **Perkins Federal Loan** — Loans available to students at certain schools only. The amount is determined on an individual basis and the federal government pays the interest while the student is in school.

Please note that Federal financial aid is only available to U.S. citizens and “eligible non-citizens.” The definition of eligible non-citizens excludes those who are only on F1, F2, J1, J2 or G visas. (See Federal Aid Resources, below.)

Private loans: Educational loans may be offered by commercial lenders and financial institutions. There are also specialized lenders, including Law Access, Law-Loans and The Education Resource Institute. You can obtain information on these sources from the financial aid office of any ABA-accredited law school. (See Resources for information on how to contact these groups directly.)

Scholarships and Grants: Many law schools offer scholarships or grants, monetary awards which do not need to be repaid. Although at one time, scholarship decisions were based primarily on need, increasingly law schools make these decisions based on academic merit and/or personal qualifications such as cultural background, residency or specific talents. Check with each school early in the application process for further information on scholarships the school offers. Some scholarships have separate application materials and deadlines.

Outside sources of aid for law school are more limited than those for college, although there are some organizations that offer scholarships or grants. These may be based on need, activities or membership in a particular group, including unions and clubs. Although the Resources below include some of these sources, you should conduct your own research to determine if other organizations offer awards for which you may qualify. There are a number of commercially available books on this subject. In Resources you will also find a free searchable database. Please also note that a few small one time awards are available through the Department of Law for graduates who have been accepted to law school. (See Appendix C.)

RESOURCES

Books and Pamphlets

- ***Financial Aid for Law: A Preliminary Guide*** (Law School Admission Council): Some copies available in the Prelaw Advisor's office; also available for free from the LSAC and can be downloaded from their web site.
- ***Thinking About Law School: A Minority Guide*** (in Reference in the Newman Library)

Other Sources of Information

- ***Financial Aid*** (U.S. Dept. of Education) (<http://studentaid.ed.gov>): A good starting point for information on federal loan programs. This Federal financial aid home page includes links to the site for the FAFSA form and the site for obtaining a PIN.
- ***The Financial Aid Information Page*** (www.finaid.org): Comprehensive annotated collection of information on student financial aid. Links to other sites, including links to free online searchable scholarship databases, including FastWeb.
- ***FastWeb*** (www.fastweb.com): A searchable database for scholarships. Beware that there is a great deal of marketing on this site, even as you complete the registration form, much of which requires that you affirmatively decline the offers.

- **Equal Justice (formerly National Association for Public Interest Law)** (www.equaljusticeworks.org): Information on financing your education for those interested in public interest law. Includes discussions of loan assistance and repayment programs and public interest scholarships.
- **ABA Directory of Law School Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs** (www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/lawschools) (Provides information on fellowships, loan assistance and loan repayment programs) (in Reference in the Newman Library)
- **Student Loan Marketing Association(Sallie Mae)** (www.salliemae.com): Sallie Mae is one of the largest holders of educational loans. Site contains information on financing education and student loans.

Some Private Loan Organizations

- **Law Access:** www.accessgrp.org or 1-800/282-1550
- **Law-Loans:** www.salliemae.com or 1-800/984-0190
- **The Educational Resource Institute:** www.teri.org or 1-800-255-TERI
- **Legal Express:** www.americanexpress.com/edloans

Financial Profiles

- **Needs Access Application** (Access Group): www.accessgrp.org or 1-800/282-1550
- **College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile** (The College Board): www.collegeboard.org/profile

Credit Reporting Agencies

- **Experian:** www.experian.com or 1-800/682-7654
- **Equifax:** www.equifax.com or 1-800/685-1111
- **Trans-Union:** www.tuc.com or 1-800/888-4213

A Few Organizations Offering Scholarships

- **American Bar Association:** In 2000, the ABA established the ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship and expects to award a minimum of twenty scholarships each year. The goal of the scholarship fund is to increase the flow of students from traditionally underrepresented groups into the legal profession and awards each recipient \$5,000 per year. When issued, applications should be available online and in the Prelaw Advisor's office. The application deadline is usually March. 31. www.abanet.org
- **American Council of the Blind Scholarship** Applicant must be legally blind and have a minimum 3.3 GPA. Application and more information can be found at the organization website. www.acb.org/scholapp04-instruct.html
- **American Indian Graduate Center** Applicants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native Group, or possess one fourth degree

(federally recognized) Indian blood. The applicant must also demonstrate need.

www.aigc.com

- **Biunno Scholarship for Law Students with Disabilities** The recipient must demonstrate a present and permanent physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual. Medical documentation establishing the nature and extent of the disability will be required. The student must also be a resident of New Jersey, and a preference will be given to Essex County residents. The student must have a 3.0 GPA in law school, or if he/she is an incoming student, a 3.0 undergraduate GPA. Preference will be given to a person seeking to pursue a career in the field of advocacy for persons with disabilities. Also, preference will be given to a student who demonstrates financial need. Contact the Essex County Bar Association for an application and more details. In previous years, the deadline for this application was in February. Essex County Bar Association, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee, One Riverfront Plaza 7th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102.
- **Black Bar Association of Bronx County Scholarship** Available to an African-American day student entering his/her first, or second year, or an evening student entering his/her first, second, or third year. Use the address below to request additional information and/or an application. Black Bar Association of Bronx County, P.O. Box 1519, Bronx, NY.
- **Council of Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO)**: CLEO was established to motivate and assist educationally and economically disadvantaged students to matriculate successfully into law schools. Applicants accepted by the CLEO program attend regional summer institutes and receive an annual grant during law school. CLEO, Suite 390 N. Lobby, 1800 M Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20036; 202/785-4840; www.abanet.org/cleo
- **The Earl Warren Civil Rights Training Scholarships**: These scholarships of \$3,000 are awarded to students whose community involvement activities and leadership qualities demonstrate outstanding potential for training as civil rights and public interest attorneys.
- **Earl Warren Shearman & Sterling Scholarships**: These stipends of \$15,000 are sponsored by a large law firm and have been awarded to talented African American Students.
- *For information on both scholarships, see the NAACP Legal Defense Fund website (www.naacpldf.org). For applications, after November 1 write to Earl Warren Scholarship Fund, 99 Hudson St., Suite 1600, New York, NY 10013; 212/219-2772.*
- **Golden Key Society** (www.goldenkey.org/GKIHS/MemberBenefits/ScholarshipsandAwards) The Golden Key Society offers members several \$10,000 scholarships for post baccalaureate study.
- **Graber, Shirley U., Scholarship** Students in undergraduate and graduate programs in the State of New York are eligible. Awards range from \$200 to \$2,000. The applicant must demonstrate need. Students are urged to apply eight months to one year in advance of the semester for which they are requesting funding. www.nownys.org
- **Hearst, William Randolph, Scholarship for Minority Students** This scholarship is available to students from underrepresented communities who demonstrate need. The applicant must be able to attend the Aspen Institute in Washington D.C. for 10-12 weeks during the summer. www.aspeninstitute.org/Programt3.asp?i=Blahh&bid=978

- **Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement** This scholarship is open to graduates and undergraduates. Graduates must be enrolled in at least 6 credits per semester and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. www.hace-usa.org/programs/scholar.asp
- **Humane Studies Fellowship** These scholarships of up to \$12,000 are awarded based on academic performance and the relevance of one's work to the advancement of a free society. Application materials and more information can be obtained at the website below. www.theihs.org/subcategory.php/2.html
- **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Scholarship** The applicant must be a JACL member. www.jacl.org/scholarships.html
- **Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship** Member organizations provide scholarships for applicants who are US citizens of Polish descent or who are pursuing Polish studies. www.kosciuszkofoundation.org/EDScholarships.html
- **Legal Defense and Education Funds:** To increase the number of minority enrollments in law schools, scholarship funds are offered by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Write to 99 Hudson St., New York, NY 10013
- **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Law School Scholarship** Scholarships of \$3,000 to \$7,000 are awarded to full time Latino students based on demonstrated need, commitment to the Latino community, and academic achievement. www.maldef.org/education/scholarships.htm
- **Minority Corporate Counsel Association:** Candidates should be accepted to an accredited law school and have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to diversity. The program is not limited to minorities. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have had to overcome significant obstacles, are also considered. www.mcca.com. 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.
- **NAACP Scholarships** The NAACP offers several scholarships, with varying requirements. More information can be obtained from the association website. www.naacp.org/departments/education/scholarship_index.html
- **Nassau Lawyer's Association of Long Island** James N. MacLean Scholarship Fund Edwin J. Mulhern Scholarship. Applicant must demonstrate financial need and reside in Nassau County. 350 Jericho Turnpike Jericho , NY 11753 **Telephone:** (516) 681-8210
- **National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Law Foundation Scholarships and Fellowships** Information about the scholarships and fellowships can be found at NAPABA's website. Deadlines may be early. www.napaba.org/napaba/showpage.asp?code=scholarships
- **National Federation of the Blind** This scholarship is offered to a student pursuing a full-time post secondary course of education. The applicant must be legally blind. More information and an application can be obtained at the website below. www.nfb.org

- **National Hispanic Scholarship Fund:** The fund provides scholarships on a competitive basis to undergraduate and graduate Hispanic American Students. Student must be a US citizen or permanent resident of Hispanic parentage. The student must also be enrolled in a full-time program. NHSF, 1400 Grant Ave., Room 203-A Novato , CA 94945, www.hsf.net
- **Organization of American States (OAS) Fellowships** Citizens or permanent members of OAS member states are eligible. The applicant must hold a university degree and meet the requirements for advanced study. A student may pursue studies in any of the OAS member states except for the country in which the student is a citizen or permanent resident. Application deadlines vary from country to country www.educoas.org/portal/en/becas/acerca.aspx?culture=en&tabindex=44&childindex=45
- **Regents Professional Opportunity Scholarship Program** Available to historically underrepresented minority students. Priority will be given to economically disadvantaged and a member of a minority group historically underrepresented in the licensed profession, or a member of a minority group historically underrepresented in the licensed profession, or a student enrolled in or a graduate of a State-sponsored opportunity program [the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) or the College Discovery Program (CD).] www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/scholarships/pos.htm
- **Soros, Paul & Daisy, Fellowships for New Americans** This fellowship is available to entering, first and second year students. Candidates must be either holders of Green Cards, naturalized citizens, or children of two naturalized citizen parents. For more information, visit the website. Those selected for this honor will receive two years of one-half of their tuition cost of their graduate study and a maintenance grant of \$20,000 per year. www.pdsoros.org/
- **Third Wave Foundation Scholarships** This scholarship is available to women under the age of 30 who demonstrate financial need. There is also a scholarship available to minority women who prioritize social justice. www.thirdwavefoundation.org/programs/scholarships.html
- **USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships** These scholarships are available to US citizens and eligible non-citizens who are not currently in default on a federal education loan and have an annual adjusted gross income of \$35,000 or less. Applications will be available after January 1st on the website. www.usafunds.org/borrowers/access_to_education_scholarship.html

A WORD ABOUT “PREPARING” FOR LAW SCHOOL

The LSAT, the applications and the wait are over. You’ve been accepted to law school, have sent in your deposit and the summer looms ahead. Should you spend the summer “preparing” yourself for law school, perhaps even pay money and sit through a course that claims it can do so? My personal answer is probably not. Other than “case briefing,” which you can read about online or in any of several books, law school should teach you what you need to know. In particular, most schools require that first year students take a course in legal research and writing. That course will usually have fewer students than your other courses.

However, there are a few special programs, noted below, that generally do not cost anything and may even offer a stipend.

Recognizing that most students about to enter law school have a fairly high level of anxiety, I would suggest doing just enough to calm your fears. Below is a list of books that have been suggested by alumni who have gone on to law school. Reading these materials might be just enough to calm you down.

On the other hand, if you know that you have a significant weakness in a particular area (e.g., logical reasoning, reading comprehension, writing), it may be worthwhile to spend some time during the summer strengthening that area. A commercial “law school prep” course may or may not be what you need. Examine any course you are considering carefully, and determine if what you will be doing will address your weaknesses. If not, you might be better off taking another course, such as a logic course or an English course, or doing reading on your own.

Above all, take some time to relax, enjoy and rest. You will be working very hard in law school and will most likely work during the summers between school. And then there’s the bar exam

A few other things. If your law school requires, make sure that you have a transcript that includes your most recent grades and proof of graduation sent directly to the school. Also please let the Prelaw Advisor know where you will be going to law school and if you are willing to be contacted by future students who want to know about your experiences at your law school. It is also courteous to let your recommenders know about your results and decision.

Other Books

- ***Planet Law School II: What You Need to Know (Before You Go) but Didn't Know to Ask . . . and No One Else Will Tell You***, Falcon, Atticus.
- ***Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams***, Fischl, Richard Michael and Jeremy Paul
- ***Law School Confidential***, Miller, Robert
- ***Acing Your First Year of Law School: The Ten Steps to Success You Won't Learn in Class***, Noyes, Shana Connell and Henry S. Noyes

Special Programs

- **CLEO** (<http://cleoscholars.com>)
CLEO's six week summer program offers preparation for law school and may offer some placement assistance.
- **NY LEO** (www.courts.state.ny.us/attorneys/leo/program.shtml)
If you expect to attend a law school in New York state, do apply for this six week summer program, offered through the New York Court system, that offers preparation for law school and an opportunity to meet attorneys and court personnel. The program, which targets minority, low income and educationally disadvantaged applicants, provides eligible students with materials, a dormitory room, meals and a stipend. The 2008 program will take place at Pace Law School in White Plains. The deadline for applying is in March.
- **Sponsors for Educational Opportunity** (www.seo-ny.org)
Among SEO's mentoring and support offerings for students of color, there is a summer internship program at corporate law firms, which includes law school preparation, for students who will be attending law school the following fall.

APPENDIX A

TIMETABLE AND CHECKLIST

Please note that at any stage, you should feel free to contact the Prelaw Advisor.

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEARS

	Start taking suggested steps to determine if a career in law is for you.
	Select a major in a field which both interests you and allows you to do well.
	Begin to form relationships with professors and instructors so that they will know you and your work well enough to write letters of recommendation for you.
	Seek summer jobs, internships and other extracurricular activities that interest you.
	Attend workshops and events presented by the Prelaw Society and the Department of Law, as announced.
	Register with the Prelaw Advisor to get on the mailing list for announcements of events, new additions to the library or other news that may be of interest to you.
	Work hard in all your courses.
	Keep your credit in good shape.

JUNIOR YEAR

	Consider including courses in your program that will address any weaknesses you may have in particular skills or will provide you with new areas of knowledge.
	Attend Law School Forum
	Attend workshops and events presented by the Prelaw Society and the Dept of Law, as announced.
	In late fall or early winter, pick up a copy of the LSAT & LSDAS Information Book from the Prelaw Advisor or the Law Department office when it arrives. (The “year” for the book runs from the June to the February exam) . Read it thoroughly, as it will be your “bible” on many issues.
	If you are sufficiently prepared, register for and take the February LSAT. For those still students, the

	advantage of this option is that you will have an entire month before the exam to focus on preparation when you will not be attending classes or taking exams.
	In February or March, when applications are available, apply for any awards given through the Department of Law for which you may be eligible.
	Attend the Prelaw Advisor's workshop on what you should be doing during the summer & early fall.
	If you are sufficiently prepared, register for and take the June LSAT.
	Get a summer job or internship, if possible, in a law-related field.
	Start looking into law schools and prepare a tentative list of schools to which you might apply. If possible, visit some of the schools.
	Contact a credit reporting agency and get a copy of your credit report. Have any errors corrected and try to clear up any problems.
	Register for and begin preparing for the October LSAT if you have not already taken it or will be taking it again.
	Begin considering who you will ask to write your letters of recommendation.
	Research possible outside sources of scholarships.
	If you have not already done so, register and consult with the Prelaw Advisor.

SENIOR YEAR (OR YEAR BEFORE ENTERING LAW SCHOOL)

	In late summer or early fall, call, write or request online, law school catalogs and application materials. Some schools may not have these materials ready until October.
	You should aim to have your applications completed, including a reportable LSAT score and letters of recommendation, no later than the beginning of December, or, at the latest, by the end of December. Thus you should aim to be prepared for and take the LSAT by October.
	Attend the Law School Forum.
	Register for the Law School Data Assembly Service. Have transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions you have attended sent to LSDAS.

	Attend one of the Prelaw Advisor's workshops on the application process.
	Make sure your LSDAS report is correct.
	Meet with potential recommenders to see if they would be willing to write a letter. Give them all necessary materials and properly completed forms.
	Prepare for and take the October LSAT.
	Begin drafting and revising your personal statement.
	Revise list of law schools to which you will apply, if appropriate, in view of your LSAT score.
	If needed, consult with the Prelaw Advisor about your choices.
	Develop a system or checklist to keep track of all deadlines and required submissions, including any scholarships that require additional materials; make sure you have everything you need.
	Complete applications, and any financial aid materials that must be submitted at the same time, as soon as possible.
	Register for and take the December LSAT if you have not taken it yet. Be sure this test administration is not too late to meet the deadlines of any school to which you are applying.
	If you have not been contacted, check with schools to make sure your files are complete.
	Complete your tax return as soon as possible.
	Complete the FAFSA and any other financial aid forms required by the law schools to which you have applied.
	If required by any school, have a financial aid transcript from Baruch sent.
	Have transcripts with fall semester grades sent to LSDAS.
	In February or March, when applications are available, apply for any awards given by the Department of Law for which you may be eligible.
	Take appropriate action on acceptances, wait-list status and financial aid packages. Update schools at which you are wait-listed as to your latest GPA, honors or significant extra curricular

	activities.
	Have a final transcript sent to the law school you plan to attend and any school that is still considering your application.
	Let the Prelaw Advisor know about your plans and whether you are willing to be a contact for future students from Baruch. Let your recommenders know the results.

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE CHART - GETTING ORGANIZED FOR APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

SCHOOL	APPLICATION								
	APPLICATION DEADLINE	APPLICATION	PERSONAL STATEMENT	LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	DEAN'S CERTIFICATION	ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS	POSTCARDS	APPLICATION FEE	UPDATED TRANSCRIPTS

APPENDIX C

LAW DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- **ABE GOLDSTEIN CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN LAW**
A tuition scholarship for a student in the Zicklin School of Business who has achieved excellence in two or more courses offered by the Law Department.
- **MORTON WOLLMAN MEDAL**
For outstanding achievement in law by a graduating student.
- **EDWARD ROTHMAN AWARD**
For a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence and scholastic achievement in the study of law and has been accepted for admission to law school.
- **COPPOLA/GREENBERG LAW PRIZE**
For a graduating senior who has been accepted to law school.
- **PHILIP AND SHIRLEY BRENT AWARD**
For an accounting major who has been accepted to law school.
- **JOEL B. ZWEIBEL SCHOLARSHIP**
For an outstanding student (GPA 3.5 or higher) who has been accepted to law school. The student must also demonstrate active involvement in community service.

APPENDIX D

BUSINESS LAW MINOR

A minor in Law consists of 9 credits chosen from any of the following courses:²

LAW 3102	The Law of Business Organizations
LAW 3106	Law and Entrepreneurship
LAW 3108	Law and the Computer
LAW 3111	Law and International Business
LAW 3113	Law of Commercial Negotiation and Dispute Resolution
LAW 3115	Securities Law and Business Crime
LAW 3118	Law of Unfair Competition and Intellectual Property
LAW 3122	Law and the Environment
LAW 3123	Employment Law
LAW 3124	Negotiation and Commercial Dispute Resolution
LAW 3210	Legal Aspects of Health Care Administration
LAW 3220	Law and the Entertainment Business
LAW 3301	The Law of Real Estate Transactions I
LAW 3302	The Law of Real Estate Transactions II

Please note that you may minor in Law by taking any three (3) of these courses as “free electives.” Do not confuse this minor with the Law and Policy Interdisciplinary concentration, which may be used to satisfy your Tier III requirement of your common curriculum requirements. A Business Law minor will not satisfy the Tier III requirement. The differences between these sequences are described on the following page.

2 The following courses are not offered regularly:

LAW 3103	The Law of Negotiable Instruments and Documents
LAW 3104	The Law of Mercantile Transactions
LAW 3107	The Law of Business Regulation
LAW 3109	Law, Business, and the Defective Product
LAW 3110	Debtor and Creditor Law

APPENDIX E

“LAW – RELATED” COURSES

This is a non-exhaustive and somewhat impressionistic selection of some courses at Baruch that might be considered to be related to law or legal issues or to the skills and values that the ABA has identified as significant for preparation for a legal education. (See Section II, A.) Clearly, there are many more courses that will contribute to your substantive knowledge as well as to your research, writing and analysis skills.

Course Number	Course Title
ACC 4300	Federal Income Taxation
BLS 1013	The Administration and Process of Justice
BLS 3003	Local Government and Customary Law in Africa
BLS/SOC 3014	Civil Rights Legislation and Litigation
HSP 3004	Politics and Power in Puerto Rico
COM 3020	Communication and Advocacy in Business and Public Affairs
COM 3070	Persuasion
COM 3071	Argumentation and Debate
ECO 3110	Industrial Organization and Public Policy
ECO 3300	Economics of Regulation
ECO 3301	Public Enterprise Economics
FIN 3620	Financial Management for Small Business and Entrepreneurs
ENG/LIB 3065	Electronic Research Methods and Resources for Writers
ENG 3201	Topics in Politics and Literature
ENG 3220	Media Ethics
ENG 3800	Environmental Reporting
ENG 4200	Business Press Coverage of Politics and Policy
ENG 4750	Investigative Reporting
ENV 3005	Economic and Legal Aspects of Ecology
MSC 4900	Music and Society
THE 1043	Introduction to Acting
THE 3044	Advanced Acting
HIS/POL 3005	Social Welfare Policy
HIS/POL/REL 3008	Religion and Politics in the United States
HIS 3060	African American History
HIS/POL 3102	American Conservatism
HIS 3456	American Intellectual History
HIS 3650	History of Women in America
LIB 1015	Information Research in Social Sciences and Humanities
LIB 1016	Information Research in Business
MGT 3800	Management and Society
MGT 4460	Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining
MGT 4480	Conflict Management Procedures
MKT 4410	International Trade Operations
ENV 3005	Economic and Legal Aspects of Ecology
PHI 2010	Logic and Moral Reasoning
PHI 2200	Ethical Theories
PHI 3020	Philosophy of Law
PHI 3050	Ethics, Economics, and the Business System
PHI 3200	Environmental Ethics
PHI 3260	Crime and Punishment
POL 3313*	Constitutional Law
POL 3314	Civil Liberties
PSY 3069	Psychology and Law
PAF 3701*	Public Regulation of Land Use
SOC 3062	Political Sociology
SOC 3154	Crime and Justice in Sociological Perspective
CIS 2200	Introduction to Information Systems and Technologies

* Most Political Science courses and many Public Affairs courses will contribute to your understanding of political thought and theory, of the American political system or of ethical theory and theories of justice.

APPENDIX F

Law Schools That Have Accepted Baruch Graduates: 1998-2007¹

Albany	Quinnipiac	University of Wisconsin
American University	Roger Williams	Vanderbilt
Appalachian	Rutgers - Camden	Vermont
Arizona State	Rutgers - Newark	Villanova
Ave Maria	Seattle	Wake Forest
Barry	Seton Hall	Washington and Lee
Baylor University	South Texas	Wayne
Boston College	Southern University	West Virginia
Boston University	Southwestern	Western New England
Brooklyn	St. John's	Western State
California Western	Southern Illinois	Whittier
Cardozo	St. Thomas	Widener
Catholic University	Stanford	William Mitchell
Chicago Kent	SUNY-Buffalo	Yale
College of William and Mary	Stetson	
Columbia	Suffolk	
Cornell	Syracuse	
CUNY	Temple	
Drake	Texas Southern	
Duke	Thomas Jefferson	
Emory	Thomas M. Cooley	
Florida A&M	Touro	
Florida Coastal	Tulane	
Florida International	University of Akron	
Florida State	University of Calif. - Berkeley	
Fordham	(Boalt)	
Franklin Pierce	University of Calif. - Davis	
Georgetown	University of Baltimore	
George Washington	University of Cincinnati	
Georgia State	University of Colorado	
Golden Gate	University of Connecticut	
Gonzaga University	University of D.C.	
Harvard	University of Dayton	
Hastings (Univ. of California)	University of Denver	
Hofstra	University of Detroit Mercy	
Howard	University of Florida	
John Marshall	University of Georgia	
Lewis & Clark	University of Houston	
Loyola - Los Angeles	University of Illinois	
Loyola - New Orleans	University of Iowa	
McGeorge	University of Kansas	
New England	University of Kentucky	
New York Law School	University of La Verne	
New York University	University of Maine	
North Carolina Central	University of Maryland	
Northeastern	University of Miami	
Northwestern	University of Michigan	
Notre Dame	University of Minnesota	
Nova Southeastern	University of North Carolina	
Ohio Northern	University of Notre Dame	
Ohio State	University of Pennsylvania	
Oklahoma City	University of Pittsburgh	
Pace	University of San Diego	
Penn State (Dickinson)	University of San Francisco	
Pepperdine	University of Texas	

¹Year refers to year of entering law school.