1. Message from Ana L. Droscoski, Esq.

Letters of recommendation (LORs) are a component of the law school application that are important to consider early in your college career, as they can take time to build. While the requirements for LORs vary by individual law school, academic LORs from professors tend to be given the most weight, as they speak to how an applicant does in a classroom setting.

If you aim to obtain 2 LORs from professors, that is a great goal that should meet the requirements of any law school’s application. Take the time needed (attend office hours, etc.) to build relationships with at least a few of your professors, so that, that when the time comes, they can draft a good LOR for you that includes persuasive information beyond what is reported on your transcript. Obtaining an additional LOR from an internship/work supervisor is also a good idea, as it provides a different perspective on your candidacy.

Remember, the content of the LOR matters most; the better a recommender knows you, the stronger an LOR written on your behalf will be!

2. Legal Education & the Legal Industry in the Media

are-up-is-the-worst-over.html -- reports that "the six-year slide in bar exam pass rates looks to be at an end...with New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Virginia among the many jurisdictions celebrating higher pass rates on the July 2019 bar exam."

Jaschik, Scott. "A Threat Over Standardized Testing: Civil rights groups say they will sue University of California if it continues to use SAT and ACT." InsideHigher Ed. Web. 4 Nov. 19. https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/11/04/civil-rights-groups-threaten-u-california-lawsuit-unless-it-drops-sat -- reports that a coalition of civil rights groups has threatened to sue the University of California system if it continues to require either the SAT or the ACT for admissions, alleging that the standardized tests "prevent talented and qualified students with less accumulated advantage — including students with less wealth, students with disabilities, and underrepresented minority students — from accessing higher education."


3. OPPORTUNITY: CLEO CONNECTION WORKSHOPS (WASHINGTON, DC)

The CLEO CONNECTION aims to help students make “real connections” on the road to law school. By engaging under-represented pre-law students in lively, in person discussion with peers, law school faculty, and attorneys, CLEO Connection enhances the student’s social perspective on the admissions process and law school success.

The program provides a person-to-person environment where under-represented students can find answers to important questions about law school, create a local network of colleagues and legal professional guides, and develop their understanding of the legal field culture.

Check out the schedule, and get registered to attend a workshop today!

November 14, 2019 – “Financial Awareness” – Attending this session makes a whole lot of “cents!” (And will potentially save you some dollars as well...) Come get tips from a financial aid expert regarding getting your “financial house” in order before embarking upon the law school journey.

December 12, 2019 – “Law School Admissions” – Attendees will hear from actual law school deans of admission about the rigorous selection process, components of a “top-notch” application, how to choose the school that’s right for you and more!

January 9, 2020 – “LSAT Prep” – Newsflash: “With proper preparation, you too, can do well on the LSAT!” Come receive instruction from an industry expert who will be on hand to provide you with winning strategies and techniques.

February 20, 2020 – “Law School 101” – Come get the “inside scoop” on what law school is really like and, more importantly, what it takes to be successful from those who are currently “walking the walk:” actual law students
There’s no better way to learn about what it takes to succeed as a lawyer than to hear it directly from the mouths of practicing attorneys. If you’re interested in interacting with experienced, proven practitioners of the law representing various sectors, then, by all means, attend this session!

All of the above sessions are on a Thursday, from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., in Washington, D.C.

To register for FREE, click here: [https://cleoinc.org/programs/cleo-connection/](https://cleoinc.org/programs/cleo-connection/)

---

4. INTERVIEW: KEESEHA TURNER ROBERTS, ADJUNCT CLINICAL LAW PROFESSOR/SUPERVISING ATTORNEY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW'S FAIR HOUSING CLINIC

Originally from Lynchburg, Virginia, Keeshea Turner Roberts graduated in 1996 from Hollins University (formerly Hollins College), a women's college located in Roanoke, Virginia. Prior to law school, Keeshea worked as a family/child caseworker and court advocate at the YWCA-Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP) in Lynchburg, Virginia. DVPP's mission is to provide support for domestic violence victims and work towards the reduction and elimination of family violence. It was this experience that compelled Keeshea to go to law school. She attended the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (CUA-CLS) graduating in 2002 with a Juris Doctor and a certificate in Public Policy. During law school, Keeshea interned in a variety of legal settings including the American Civil Liberties Union for the National Capital Area, United States Department of Justice, Legal Services for Northern Virginia, and the Public Defender's Office for the City of Alexandria. In addition to interning, Keeshea was very active in the law school community. She was a member of the Honor Court and Thurgood Justice American Inn of Court. Keeshea received several awards while attending CUA-CLS including the First Lap and Extra Mile Awards.

Following law school, Keeshea worked in various legal settings including clerking for four judges on the DC Superior Court and litigating family and public benefits cases on behalf of indigent DC residents at Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP). While at NLSP, Keeshea rose through the ranks from temporary staff attorney to managing attorney for a neighborhood office. She was a sought-after family law and practice expert and was a frequent instructor and guest lecturer at area law schools and other DC Bar related programs. In 2017, Keeshea successfully graduated from the DC Bar's John Payton Leadership Academy. This academy provides DC Bar members with an intensive training program to develop and sharpen the necessary skills to be successful leaders of the Bar and throughout their careers.

In 2017, Keeshea also ventured into academia. She began the journey by working at Rising for Justice (formerly DC Law Students in Court) as a supervising attorney in the Criminal and later the Housing Advocacy and Litigation Clinics. Since 1969, Rising for Justice's (RFJ) mission has been to leverage the collective forces of students from American University's Washington College of Law, Georgetown University Law School, George Washington School of Law, Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, and UDC's David A. Clark School of Law and
experienced advocates to achieve justice for all. At RFJ, Keeshea taught students housing and criminal law practice areas as well as supervised the litigation of cases at DC Superior Court. In addition to her duties as a supervising attorney, Keeshea also was the co-director of the Civil Protection Order Project (CPOP). CPOP was the brainchild of Moses Cook, the former Executive Director of RFJ and Keeshea. CPOP is the first program of its kind that provides litigation and mediation services for respondents (also called “defendants” in most jurisdictions) in domestic violence cases.

Currently, Keeshea is an adjunct clinical law professor/supervising attorney at Howard University School of Law’s Fair Housing Clinic (FHC). FHC is a year-long clinic that exposes second and third-year law students to housing topics such as discrimination and eviction defense. Students take the attorney roles of counseling, negotiating and in some cases litigating on behalf of their clients. Keeshea’s legal scholarship centers on access to justice, clinical pedagogy, and implicit biases and client advocacy.

Describe a day in the life of an adjunct clinical law professor/supervising attorney.

No two days are the same. I meet with my students to review cases or discuss next steps that need to be done to further their advocacy. I develop and refine lesson plans for our weekly class – this includes assigning readings and developing exercises that will illustrate legal concepts discussed during class. I assign housing cases to students who will investigate possible legal matters for possible litigation. Recently, my students, co-professor, and I were interviewed by a journalist who’s developing a podcast that focuses on children and homelessness in the District of Columbia. My students are involved in a wide variety of advocacy from litigation to testifying before the DC Council.

What initially attracted you to this field?

As I stated above, I was initially attracted to the legal field because of my experiences working with battered women and children at the YWCA-Domestic Violence Prevention Program. I had numerous opportunities to attend court as part of my job as a court advocate. During these interactions, I met government and defense attorneys who discussed their experiences at law school and as practitioners before the court. Because of my conversations with practitioners and my observations of court, I decided to apply to law school.

Additionally, I was encouraged to apply to the Pre-Law Summer Institute of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) which was located at the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law (UMKC) at that time. Founded in 1968, CLEO is a national organization whose goal was to expand opportunities for minority and low-income students to attend law school. At UMKC, I was introduced to the first-year law student experience. I felt that this experience prepared me for what to expect so I could hit the ground running when officially admitted into law school.

What are some of the rewards and downsides of this area of law and the legal profession?

Rewards:

- I have the opportunity to develop and nurture future lawyers.
5. UPCOMING PRE-LAW STUDENT MEETINGS & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

NYU Law Online Information Sessions

NYU Law invites you to learn more about the law school application process and NYU Law's offerings through an online information session. These presentations will be a special broadcast of a live information session with an admissions representative. Participants will have an opportunity to submit questions about NYU's curriculum, student life, and the admissions process via our online chat tool. The Online Information Sessions will be held at the following times (all times are Eastern Time):

- Friday, November 22 at 12:00 pm
- Friday, December 6 at 3:00 pm
- Friday, January 10 at 12:00 pm

Register for one of the sessions here: https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lY8HYIvDJhW9r7

Upcoming LSAT Administrations


Testing Locations: https://tcs.lsac.org/SearchCenter.aspx

Register: https://www.lsac.org/lsat/taking-lsat/registering-lsat

JHU PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING OFFICE STAFF

Kelli R. Johnson, J.D., Director
The Administrative Coordinators are available to answer questions regarding your file:

Carolyn Mae Krause, Administrative Coordinator, ckrause@jhu.edu 410-516-6744
For students whose last name begins with A-L, contact Mrs. Krause.

LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, ladytee@jhu.edu 410-516-4140
For students whose last name begins with M-Z, contact Mrs. Sanders.

Angie Decker, Office Manager, decker@jhu.edu

Pre-Professional Advising helps students make informed decisions in their pre-health or pre-law course planning and navigate the application process.