

Jason Whitehead

From: CSULB-Prelaw <CSULB-PRELAW@LIST.CSULB.EDU> on behalf of Jason Whitehead <Jason.Whitehead@CSULB.EDU>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 5:06 PM
To: CSULB-PRELAW@LIST.CSULB.EDU
Subject: Spring is in the Air for Law School Applicants



Sorry it's been so long since the last Beach Prelaw email. Honestly, the late Winter/early Spring is kind of a "free-for-all" with some already having made final decisions, others still anxiously waiting to hear back from schools, still others anxiously working to get applications in before the deadlines, and some just gearing up for LSAT prep and getting ready to apply next year. It's hard to give general advice and resources because these situations are so different! So, I've included a few helpful resources in this edition that will hopefully some different needs. But, by all means, no matter what your situation, take advantage of the advising resources that are always available to you during the school year:

Obtaining Prelaw Information and Resources



- No matter where you are in the law school application timeline – and whether you are a student or an alum --you can make an in-person or a phone appointment to receive [Prelaw Advising](#). Whether you would like to discuss law school choices, LSAT preparation, getting great letters of recommendation, or even if you would like someone to review your personal statement or resume, [book an appointment now](#) and get started.

- Also, both students and alum can find lots of helpful links and information on the new [Pre-Law Resources page](#), where lots of internet and other resources are collected to answer pretty much any question you might have about law school, the legal profession, or applying to law school.

- If you are a current CSULB student and you're not graduating this year, you might be interested in the [Prelaw Preparation Course \(C/LA 302\)](#). This course is open to

students of any major and it is offered every semester. The first 5 weeks of the course cover legal careers, the realities of law school, and how to make yourself a good candidate for law school, including the LSAT. The second 5 weeks cover all the details of the application process, including writing a personal statement, getting letters of recommendation, etc. The final 5 weeks cover law school admissions decisions, financial aid, and negotiating with law schools. Seats are available for the [Fall semester](#), so please plan on it!

- If you are a current student, you should also consider joining the [CSULB Law Society](#). This is a student-run organization that meets in SSPA 107 every other Wednesday. The Law Society has been in existence for over 40 years. Its primary goal is to provide students the information they need about how to get into law school, LSAT preparation, and how to connect with law school representatives from all across California and the nation. Through weekly meetings and campus-wide events, Law Society invites attorneys, law school representatives, and prep course instructors to conduct workshops and discussions concerning the field of law. Join now and be a part of something great!
- Also for current students, have you considered earning a [Legal Studies Certificate](#)? The Legal Studies program is open to students of any major who are interested in studying the development, logic, interpretation, perception, and application of law. As part of the program, you will take law-related courses from different departments throughout the university. Earning a Legal Studies Certificate in addition to your Bachelor's degree will show law schools that you have an in-depth knowledge of the legal system. It will also show that you understand law from a variety of different perspectives. All of which can help you stand out in the competitive application process. [Email](#) or [book an advising appointment](#) to talk about the program or to sign up.

For Those Still Waiting to Hear Back...

Our friends at the USC Prelaw Blog have written a great piece with advice you might find helpful:



What to Expect When Expecting Law School Decisions
by [uscprelaw](#)

By: *Leizl Hinajon, 3L USC Gould School of Law*

The February 1st deadline for most law schools has passed and schools are well into the application review process. Though you can still send in applications with rolling admissions, you should be playing the waiting game now.

This time can be more stressful than writing the application because you have put your faith in the trusty hands of the Admissions Office. You may be thinking: How long does it take to read my application? How do I compare to other applicants? WHEN AM I GOING TO GET MY DECISION?!

These are common questions that may race across your mind with a few weeks (or months for you early birds) of radio silence. Here are some things you can do while you wait:

1. **STOP CHECKING LAW SCHOOL FORUMS.** You should know by now that there are a lot of trolls online, so constantly checking for new admittees will do nothing but make you worry. You will get your decision in due time, but you can control how much you stress over it.
2. **Write a Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI).** Whether or not you have been waitlisted, it is always good to see an applicant express further interest in said law school. The letter should not be general, but be *specifically-tailored* to the law school and give something extra that was not already stated in your application. Basically, the law school prints out your completed application once it is received and creates a file. **ANY** extra emails/documents you send via the Admissions Email will be printed out and stuck in your file for the next cycle of review. If you don't have anything new to add, **DO NOT** waste the Admissions Office's time by reiterating what is already in your application. Timing is everything, so make sure you are not pre-maturely sending this letter.
3. **Send an updated resume or transcript.** Similar to reasons for sending in an LOCI, you can send an updated resume for any *significant* changes in your employment that gives the Admissions Office additional information that will enhance your candidacy. Same applies to your transcript, if you received new or updated grades that boost your GPA.
4. **Request a Letter of Support.** Since applying, you have probably done a lot of research on the law schools you've applied to and met some people that went to the law school. If there was an alumni you met or you have a new supervisor at work that loves your work, you can request that this person send in a letter of support *directly* to the Admissions Office. This can help boost your application from the maybe pile to the yes pile. Remember, a general letter won't do much, but a letter from an alumni saying you would be a good fit at the law school or a supervisor that can attest to a new development (think promotion) would help show you are

continuing to build up your law school candidacy, even though your application is already in.

[uscprelaw](#) | February 22, 2017 at 12:48 pm | Categories: [Uncategorized](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/p1MV6m-bn>

For Those Applying Now or Those Already Admitted....

TOP-LAW-SCHOOLS.COM

One of the most surprising things many applicants learn the hard way is that law schools are often *willing to negotiate* about scholarship amounts! Especially these days, with applications still pretty low compared to where they used to be. But how do you do it in a way that's both respectful and effective? Some of the best advice I know about negotiating merit-based aid from different law schools is found on [TopLawSchools.com](#). Specifically, [this piece](#) written a few years back but even more relevant now.

First Year Law Student Scholarship. BARBRI Law Preview and the American Bar Association have partnered to offer one hard-working incoming law student a \$10,000 scholarship towards their first year tuition, and a second scholarship to the runner up in the amount of \$5,000.

The deadline to apply is coming up fast on **April 15!**

Wondering *how to prepare for the first year* of law school? The [Council on Legal Education Opportunity \(CLEO\)](#) runs a number of programs. In fact, they have helped more than 10,000 students prepare for the rigors of the first year of law school.

- CLEO's [Pre-Law Summer Institute \(PLSI\)](#) can give you the edge you need as a first-year law student. Held on a law school campus, the summer institute simulates the first year of law school and classes are taught by law professors.
- CLEO's [Legally Inspired Cohort Program \(CLIC\)](#) helps students gain access to law school in an innovative way. Using the PLSI as a foundation, the CLIC Program sends a group of five students together to tackle the law school maze.



- CLEO's [Attitude Is Essential](#) seminar is a two-day intensive experience taught by law professors that will prepare you for your first year of study through hands-on learning and introduce you to case briefing, note taking, issue spotting, outlining and more.

For Those Not Quite Ready to Apply...

One of the best resources you can consult is the [American Bar Association's Prelaw Portal](#). There, you will find all kinds of information about different law schools, about the nature of a legal education, and how to prepare yourself to succeed. One of my favorites is their introductory post on [Preparing for Law School](#), which gives great advice for students who want to make sure they're on the right track.

To unsubscribe from the CSULB-PRELAW list, click the following link:

<http://list.csulb.edu/scripts/wa.exe?TICKET=NzM2NDM4IEphc29uLlIdoaXRlaGVhZEBDU1VMQI5FRFUgQ1NVTEItUFJFTEFXICVd%2FzDiPZ6e&c=SIGNOFF>