



2011 Conference Program
The Allerton Hotel Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Friday, October 28 to
Sunday, October 30, 2011

Friday, October 28

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Registration

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Vendor Displays

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

10:00 am to 11:30 am

New Pre-Law Advisor Workshop

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom South

Presenters

Robin Inqli, Director of Admissions, Hamline University School of Law

Steve Nelson, Professor of Political Science, Northern Michigan University

This session will provide an overview of Pre-Law advising basics. Panelists include a seasoned pre-law advisor and an experienced admission professional. The panelists will share tips and information on academic advising strategies, access to pre-law advising resources, campus programming options, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), the application and admission process, and other hot-topics. This will be an interactive session, with ample time reserved for questions and answers.

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Seasoned Pre-Law Advisor Workshop

Location: Huron Room

Presenters

Bruce Allen, Coordinator of Pre-Law Advising, Iowa State University

Mac Francis, Director of Health Professions and Pre-Law Center, Indiana University

Janet Hein, Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, University of Dayton School of Law

This year has seen many changes in the Credential Assembly Service and the economy, as well as changes that impact the application and admissions process. Share your experiences, tips, advice, and questions on this or any topic with other seasoned pre-law advisors as we examine various aspects of advising.

11:30 am to 11:45 am

Break

Friday, October 28 continued

11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Luncheon—Does Money REALLY Equal Character?

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Featured Speaker

Dennis Rendleman, Associate Counsel, Center for Professional Responsibility, American Bar Association

Pre-Law Advisors' job has moved beyond the days of LSAT preparation and law school selection. Beyond the threshold question of "why do you want to go to law school?" the corollary question is "how do you plan to pay for law school?" It is now a factor on whether the student will be able to obtain admission to the bar.

Luncheon Sponsor

The John Marshall Law School

1:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Break

1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Mechanics of the LSAT

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenter

Jack Chase, Assistant Director, Pre-Law Programs, Kaplan

"Mechanics of the LSAT" will inform attendees about the overall construction of the LSAT. We'll examine each of the three different sections and the question types within each section. We'll take a look at how the history of the LSAT over the last 20 years indicates that the LSAC and law schools believe the LSAT to be a legitimate measure of students' aptitude at several specific skills that law schools seek in their students. We'll also explore the different scoring scales on the LSAT and how some recent test trends provide evidence into whether or not the test is increasing in difficulty.

Armed with that knowledge, we'll examine how the test's structure, scoring scales, and trends should affect student preparation for the LSAT, including a discussion of twelve mistakes that students frequently make when preparing for the exam. By understanding the predictability of the LSAT, as well as the internal logic of the scoring scale, students can ultimately improve their performance on the exam, thereby improving their chances at admission to their goal law schools.

2:45 pm to 3:00 pm

Snack and Refreshments Break

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

Event Sponsor

University of St. Thomas Law School

Friday, October 28 continued

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Supporting At-Risk and Low-Income Students

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenters

Kara Blanchard, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Drake University Law School

Staci Rucker, Lecturer of Law and Director of Academic Support, University of Dayton School of Law

Lisa Sonia Taylor, Program Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs & Outreach, Saint Louis University School of Law

Moderator

Adekemi Faleti-Dosunmu, Pre-Law Advisor, University of Illinois at Chicago

The panel will cover an array of subtopics beginning with an overview of PLUS programs, CLEO, and DiscoverLaw.org and why these programs are important. We will discuss the specific experience of hosting a CLEO Summer Institute. We will discuss the unsuccessful law school applicant (as it relates to this population), why they behave the way they do and how pre-law advisors can help break them of these habits, and finally how the academic support program of one school has worked to address these problems and the importance of such programs when students are researching law schools.

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Reception and Tour

Location: Corboy Law Center, 25 E Pearson St

Event Sponsor

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

SAVE THE DATES

PLANC 2012 Conference
June 13-16, 2012
Washington, DC
www.planc.org

MAPLA 2012 Caravan
October 22-26, 2012
www.mapla.org

Saturday, October 29

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Registration

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Vendor Displays

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

8:00 am to 9:30 am

Breakfast Panel—Tales and Tips: The Application Process from Insiders' Perspectives

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenters

Collins Byrd, Assistant Dean of Admissions, University of Iowa College of Law

Michelle Heck, Director of Admissions, University of Missouri School of Law

Jay Jorgenson, Assistant Director of Admissions, South Texas College of Law

Moderator

Amy Luitjens, Assistant Director of Admissions, Hamline University School of Law

This interactive workshop will consist of a panel discussion with experienced law admissions professionals who will share some of their best, worst and most humorous anecdotes about ways in which applicants have attempted to distinguish themselves in the past. Panelists will also provide strategies pre-law advisors can employ to assist their advisees in effectively distinguishing themselves throughout the application process. The session will conclude with ample time to pose questions to the panel, as well as the exchange of tips and tools amongst fellow advisors.

Breakfast Sponsor

University of Minnesota Law School

9:30 am to 9:45 am

Break

Saturday, October 29 continued

9:45 am to 11:15 am

Law School Financial Aid, Access, and Affordability

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenters

Cari Haaland, Assistant Dean for Admissions and International Studies,
University of St. Thomas School of Law

Rachel J. Martinez, Associate Director of Admissions, University of
Minnesota Law School

Kristin Theis-Alvarez, Associate Director of Admissions, University of
California Berkeley School of Law

Moderator

Don Racheter, Pre-Law Advisor, Iowa Wesleyan College

Our three panelists will share information about how pre-law advisors can help their students complete law school while minimizing their debt burden.

11:15 am to 11:30 am

Transition to 3rd Floor

11:30 am to 12:45 pm

Luncheon—Challenges and Changes in Legal Education and the Legal Profession

Location: Buckingham Ballroom

Keynote Speaker

Joan W. Howarth, Dean and Professor of Law, Michigan State University College of Law

Law schools today face enormous challenges, including reduced employment opportunities, decreased funding from outside sources, and graduates who leave with staggering amounts of educational debt. The legal profession also is experiencing rapid transformation as a result of advances in technology, increased globalization, and the realities of today's economy. Dean Joan Howarth will reflect on these challenges and changes, discuss how the profession and law schools may evolve in the future, and share her thoughts on advice that might be given to prospective law school applicants.

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm

Transition to 23rd Floor

Saturday, October 29 continued

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Mock Law School Admissions

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenters

Collins Byrd, Assistant Dean of Admissions, University of Iowa College of Law

Joe Campion, Director of Admissions, Duquesne University School of Law

Katie McDonald, Assistant Dean for Admissions, University of New Hampshire School of Law

Kristin Theis-Alvarez, Associate Director of Admissions, University of California Berkeley School of Law

Moderator

Steve Shafer, Affiliated Faculty, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to review and make decisions on actual applications received by four prominent law schools. Participants will break into eight groups, each of which will then review one of the sample application packets. The groups then will report to all attending the session on their decisions on each of the applications, in part operating on specific school profiles and relevant data provided by each of the panelists, and make a recommendation on admission based in part on the applicants fitness for the school. The panelists then will report on the actual decision for each sample and indicate how well those actually admitted managed to do in school after matriculation. Discussion will follow.

3:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Snack and Refreshments Break

Location: 23rd Floor Foyer

Event Sponsor

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

3:15 pm to 4:30 pm

NALP Update

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenter

Marcelyn R. Cox, NALP President and Assistant Dean, Career Planning Center, University of Miami School of Law

Saturday, October 29 continued

5:30 to 7:45 pm

Progressive Dinner

Location: 3rd Floor Foyer, Buckingham Ballroom, Frank Lloyd Wright

Event Sponsors

Capital University Law School

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University

University of Cincinnati College of Law

University of Dayton School of Law

University of Toledo College of Law

Sunday, October 30

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

10:00 am to 11:30 am

LSAC Update

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

Presenter

Anne Brandt, Executive Director, LSAC

Anne Brandt is the Executive Director for Education, Pre-Law Programs, and Membership Support Services at the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). You don't want to miss the annual update on happenings in Newtown.

11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Closing

Location: Tip Top Tap Ballroom

THANK YOU MAPLA 2011 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Pre-Law Advisor Conference Scholarships



Featured Speaker



Friday Afternoon Break



Friday Evening Reception



Saturday Morning Breakfast



Saturday Afternoon Break



THANK YOU
MAPLA 2011 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Progressive Dinner



Giveaway Items



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