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PRE-LAW NEWSLETTER

Meruelo Family Center for Career Development
Pre-Law Student Board

May 13, 2021

The Notre Dame Pre-Law Student Board wishes you the best as you complete the semester and thanks you for being part of the Pre-Law Community -
- participating in workshops, meeting with Notre Dame law students, asking questions and networking with Notre Dame Alumni practicing law, attending the first virtual Law School Fair, and being engaged in exploring law as a career!



**MERUELO FAMILY CENTER
FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

The Pre-Law Newsletter is prepared by the Pre-Law Student Board under the direction of the Meruelo Family Center for Career Development as part of the Notre Dame Pre-Law Program to help students explore law, determine if it is the career they want to pursue, and have the tools, resources and knowledge for applying to law school.

Pre-Law Program - helping you explore, discern & apply

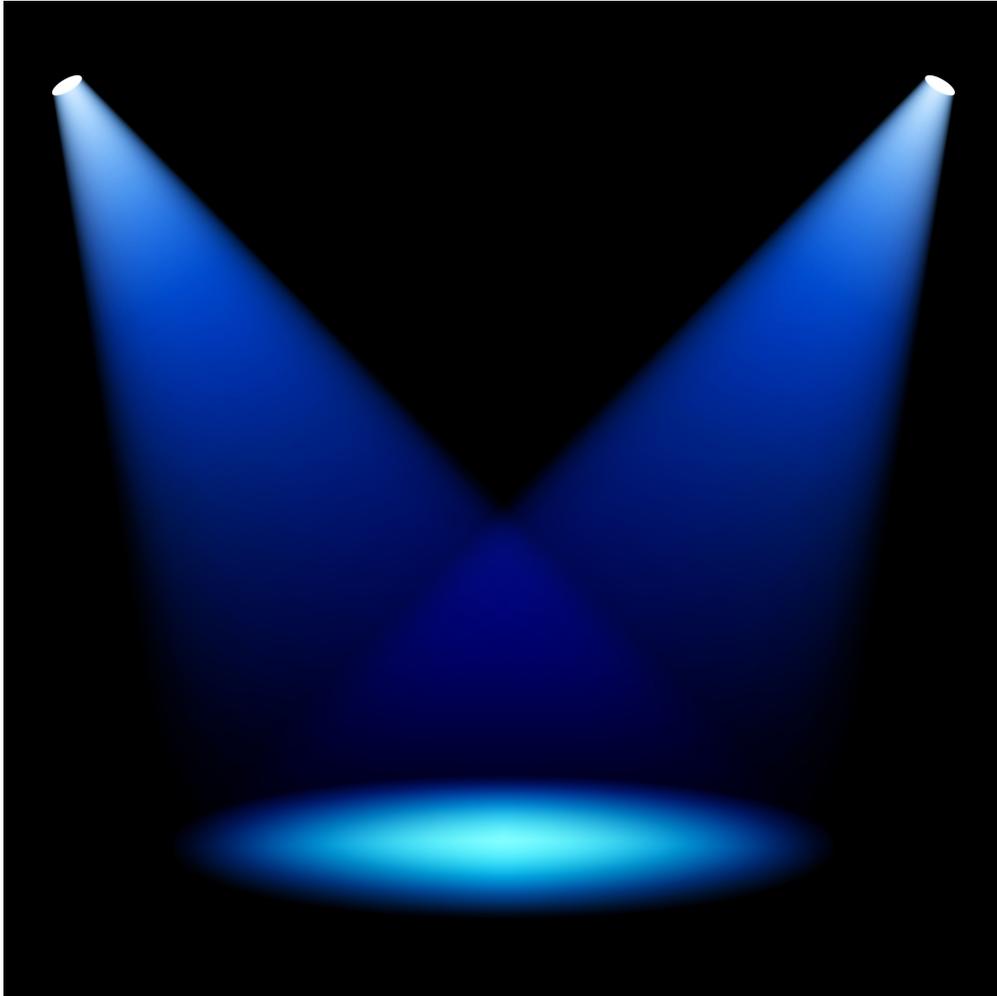
Pre-Law Student Board UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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PRE-LAW STUDENT BOARD
An initiative of the Meruelo Family Center for Career Development

**Check out the new Notre Dame Pre-Law Student Board
Website**



**Congratulations Seniors
attending Law School Fall 2021!**

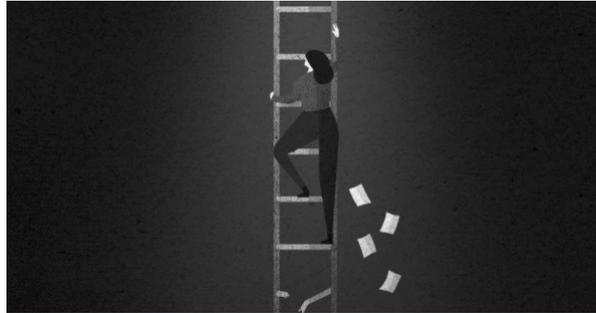
**We are putting the
SPOTLIGHT on YOU!**

Check out where ND Seniors will be attending
law school next fall!

IMPORTANT INFO

Law School Resources

A New Lease on Life ND Law students help ex-offenders move on



This is a great reminder why you want to:

- 1) Find people at law schools you want to work beside and learn from
- 2) Keep challenging yourself and the status quo as a practicing lawyer
- 3) Choose a law schools that provides you with opportunities to impact the criminal justice system

Preparing for Law School in Fall 2021

[Law School Transparency](#) has partnered with JD Advising to provide a [free law school prep course for 2021 1Ls](#). The completely free option should be a great resource for you to get ahead of the law school learning curve. The course covers what to expect from 1L courses; introduction to legal vocabulary; how to take notes, brief cases, and outline; and how to think about law school exams throughout the school year. Sign up [here](#). However, whether you choose to join this course or not, most importantly get the rest and relaxation you need this summer!

Harvard Junior Deferral Program [Webinar Information Session](#)

May 27, 8:00 pm ET

- Applications, including LSAT scores and GPA, are submitted by late Spring or early Summer (July 1 for juniors/rising seniors applying in 2021).
- This is not a rolling application process. Admission offers are made in late summer.

- Accepted applicants will matriculate into the law school class two years after their college graduation year.

Applicants explain their ideas for the employment, service, experience, fellowship, start-up or project they will work on during that two years between undergrad and law school.



Bridge across the Midway:

Law School and the Law School Admissions Process

Join the Earl B. Dickerson Chapter of the Black Law Students Association and the University of Chicago Law School Admissions Team to learn more about law school and the law school admissions process in a virtual discussion.

Thursday, May 20, 2021 | 5:30p – 7:30p CT | [Register Here](#)

5:30 p.m. CT – Law School Admissions Process – helpful tips from the Admissions Team; bring your questions

6:00 p.m. CT – Professor Adam Davidson – the law school experience and why you should consider law school

6:30 p.m. CT – Current Law Student Panel – pursuing law school, the application process and the law school experience



Office Hours with Notre Dame Law Students a SUCCESS!

Don't worry if you didn't get a chance to take advantage of these meetings. They were such a success, we

will organize this program again!

The Pre-Law Student Board thanks Mary Mancusi (NDLS '23) for collaborating with us to design, develop and make this new program happen! And, we sincerely appreciate the Notre Dame Law Students who made the program possible, taking time out of their schedules to meet with Notre Dame undergraduates!

Some highlights:

- Notre Dame Law Students provided 90 Office Hours
- 62 Notre Dame Undergraduates signed up for an office hours meeting

What Notre Dame undergraduates gained from the meetings:

- The program went really well; gained wonderful insight on the law school application process and other undergraduate opportunities to take advantage of to prepare and build my resume
- A great opportunity; publicize it more
- Follow-up meetings with the law students outside of the scheduled Office Hours

Things to Look Out For

Summer Steps for Exploring, Discerning & Applying for a Career in Law

RISING SOPHOMORES

- Check out the Resources at [Law Career Path](#), particularly the [Vault Law Overview](#) and the "Related Professions" listed below the key
- Review descriptions of [260 practice areas of law](#) or a brief overview of [types and areas of legal practice](#)
- A quick, good read - [Getting in the Way: It's a Lawyer's Job to Do Right and Deter Wrong](#)
- Talk to 2-3 lawyers who are practicing different areas of law; ask them about their work, what they like about that practice area; what they do all day -- what percentage of the day are they researching and preparing documents, litigating, going to court, talking with clients; etc.

- Find Notre Dame alumni practicing different areas of law on [IrishCompass](#); Search ND Network by opening "More Filters," open "Field of Specialty," select the practice areas of law of interest to you. Email the alum through IrishCompass to schedule a time to talk

RISING JUNIORS

- Check out the suggestions for Rising Sophomores if you haven't already done these things
- Download the [Vault Guide to Law](#)
- Talk to at least 3 lawyers (you are not related to)
- If possible, shadow a lawyer; observe a judge's court during hearings and trials
- Volunteer with your local legal services organization
- From the [Vault Law Overview](#), deep dive into exploring law by searching "law" on Vault; you'll get more than 4,000 results; specifically examine the **Internships** as potential options for next summer and review the **Articles**
- Contact a Notre Dame law student who offered Office Hours (several offered to continue talking with undergrads)
- Pursue an internship, volunteer, or job in an industry, topic, or issue area that interests you (this will be particularly useful as you consider practice areas of law)
- Review [Harvard Junior Deferral Program](#) information if you are considering applying
- Note what legal questions you are asking; what legal issues you think about
- Plan ahead for when you will have 3-4 months of concentrated time to study for the LSAT

RISING SENIORS

- Review tips and resources to [Apply](#) at the Pre-Law Student Board website
- Check out the [No-BS-Guide-Timeline](#) (for applying to law school)
- IF you are planning to matriculate into law school Fall of 2022, consider taking the LSAT after 3-4 months of study (touching it nearly every or every other day)
- IF you are planning to matriculate into law school a year or more after you graduate, you can still take the LSAT this summer, if you wish (LSAT scores are good for 5 years), but this is completely at your discretion
- [LSAT test dates](#)
- Check out the [ND LSAT Prep Database](#) to see tools and resources ND students and Alumni have used to study for the LSAT
- Review the [Steps to Apply](#)
- Review [Preparing for Law School](#)
- Review additional resources and tips for applying to Law School [here](#) under the Law School tab
- Take the Notre Dame Law School Admissions tour, even if you're not consider NDLS; great for comparison and developing questions you want to ask the law schools you are considering
- Start an **informal journal of personal statement thoughts!** Jot down thoughts about why are you going to law school; why you want to practice

law; what legal questions/issues you find fascinating; what bugs you about the judicial system; what do you want to contribute

LSAT

Law School Admission Test

Studying for the LSAT this summer?

Check out these resources

Notre Dame LSAT Prep Database

LSAT Information and Resources

Preparing for the LSAT

Missed Out On Past Events?

Check out the recorded sessions!

- Planning for Law School ([click here](#))
- Preparing for the LSAT ([click here](#))

- Exploring the Non-Stem and Stem Sides of Intellectual Property Law: Copyright, Trademark and Patent Litigation ([click here](#))
- Exploring Law with ND Alumni: Panel ([click here](#))
- NDLS Student Q&A Panel ([click here](#))
- Choosing a Law School Presentation ([click here](#))
- Writing the Law School Personal Statement ([click here](#))
- LSAT-Flex Preparation: Inside Changes to the LSAT ([click here](#))
- Should I Be a Lawyer Presentation ([click here](#))
- Intro to Thinking About Law ([click here](#))



OPPORTUNITIES

Internships

- Communications Summer 2021 Undergraduate Internship - [Brennan Center for Justice](#) Posted 5/10
- Development and Communications Internship - [Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice](#) Posted 5/8
- Office of Data Governance and Analysis Summer 2021 Evictions Study Intern - [Legal Services Corporation](#) Posted 5/8
- Summer 2021 Federal Intern, DC at [The Vera Institute of Justice](#) Application expires 5/14

- Social Media/Digital Marketing Intern, [The Carter Firm LLC](#) Application expires 5/19 (boutique entertainment & intellectual property law firm headed by a solo practitioner)
- 2021 Summer Intern Regulatory/Government Affairs (Remote) at [AVANGRID](#) (BGC, CNG, CMP, NYSEG, RG&E, UI, SCG, NYSEG) Application expires 5/28 (gain key experiences in clean energy and utility legislative and regulatory policy)
- Legal Clerk/Legal Intern, [Garces Law Firm](#) Application expires 5/31 (immigration law)
- Administrative / Legal Intern! - [Prisoner Advocacy Network](#) Application expires 6/3
- Summer 2021 – Office of Corporate Counsel Management Internship (Remote), [Goldfein Claims Management](#) Application expires 6/4 (national law firm providing business and legal solutions to major financial institutions)

Postings from [UCAN](#)

To link directly to the postings, create your account on UCAN with your ND email and any password you prefer; log into UCAN; click on the links below and the posting should open.

- Research Assistant (Temporary: Summer 2021 position), [Center for WorkLife Law](#) Posted 4/26
- Legal Project Intern, [UPS](#) (seeking 12-24 month minimum commitment) Application expires 6/1
- Paralegal Intern, [Zyyo](#) Application expires 6/19

Full-Time

In Handshake, search “legal;” under Job Type, select “Job;” under School Year, select “Senior”

- Project Assistant - Global Operations and Innovation Center, [Orrick](#) Posted 4/26
(check “Project Assistant” [here](#) to see additional opportunities)
- Program Associate - Prepared to Vote and Voting Rights Defender Projects, [NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.](#) Posted 4/30
- Legal Assistant, [Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#) Posted 5/1
- CRP Paralegal (DTLA Office), [Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#) Posted 5/3
- Project Assistant - Litigation/Labor, [Vedder Price](#) Posted 5/3
- Project Assistant - Intellectual Property, [Foley & Lardner, LLP](#) Posted 5/5

- Criminal Defense Practice -- File Clerk Position, [Brooklyn Defender Services](#) Posted 5/5
- Case Managers - [COVID Eviction Legal Help Project](#) Posted 5/11
- Legal Assistant, [Federal Public Defender's Office, Central District of CA](#) Application expires 5/15
- [Human Rights Education Organizer](#) - Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Application expires 5/21
- [Intern-Protection of Civilians/International Humanitarian Law](#) - InterAction Application expires 5/28
- Investigator - Criminal Defense Practice, [Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, New York](#) Application expires 6/7

Search [CareerShift](#) job search tool

Use keywords such as [“project assistant” “legal”] or [“legal assistant”]. Create your account on CareerShift using an nd.edu email address and any password you prefer. CareerShift is a powerful internet web crawler scanning the the internet to find postings match your keywords.

Find more law-related opportunities on Handshake

See resources at Law Career Path under Find Opportunities

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Diego Reynoso, Class of 2021

Political Science & Economics/Minor Latino Studies

Resides in Alumni Hall

Investigative Intern, Georgetown Law Clinic

Washington, DC January - April 2020

Question: Can you give a brief description of your work?

Response: As an investigative intern, I worked directly under two public defenders. I would aid them with investigative tasks including, but not limited to, locating and interviewing witnesses involved in our case, drafting statements and memoranda, and general trial preparation.



Question: What interested you about this organization or internship?

Response: I was interested in this position due to my personal motivation to study criminal law in the near future. This internship is as close to the public defender experience that one can get as an undergraduate student in that you work directly with public defenders and their clients. You get to understand the day-to-day life of a public defender and that is vital in pursuing a career in criminal law.

Question: What are three top skills or qualifications that help an applicant be competitive for this internship?

Response:

- 1) Communication. You must be able to communicate properly with the lawyers in charge of the case and with the various individuals that you must interview.
- 2) Writing Skills. You must be able to write concise, coherent statements and memoranda as these can be used by the lawyers in the court of law.
- 3) Motivation. After discussing with the head of the internship program, she told me that they often can tell in the interview who is motivated to do the job and who is not in within the first five minutes. You need to be motivated for this line of work and you need to show it in the essays and interviews in order to land this internship.

Question: What's your one key tip to another student seeking to land this internship?

Response: My one key tip would be to understand what it means to be a public defender before even applying to this internship. This is an internship that focuses on aiding public defenders, and the people that they defend are oftentimes guilty. This is not an internship aimed at helping innocent individuals who have been charged with a crime, although that does happen, but rather this is an internship in which you are helping and defending the guilty. You must understand the type of people you are helping in order to land this internship.

Question: What's your favorite ND tradition?

Response: Football Saturdays



Natalie Reysa, Class of 2021

Political Science, Spanish and Latino Studies

Resides in Cavanagh

Legal Summer Intern, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)

Austin, TX May-August 2018

Legal Summer Intern, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Chicago, IL May-July 2020

Question: Can you give a brief description of your work?

Response: JFON is a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal services to immigrants and asylees. I attended court proceedings, organized the legal filing system, updated the client database, reviewed legal information in both English and Spanish, and visited a client in detention. I conducted research for upcoming cases for the firm's attorneys. I also gained valuable insight into the regulations and policies associated with immigration law and asylum proceedings. My work was very hands-on, which was such a good learning experience!

MALDEF's work includes policy & litigation for Latinx civil rights cases around the Midwest. I conducted research and wrote memorandums and summaries for staff attorneys. I learned to use and navigate legal research databases, such as Westlaw. I also attended and participated in tri-weekly staff meetings and various meetings with different state/regional commissions. Overall, I loved my work at MALDEF, as well as the staff and my coworkers!

Question: What interested you about this organization or internship?

Response: Both of these non-profit organizations are incredible human/civil rights organizations with impressive reputations, and I was interested in interning somewhere that contributed to defending and upholding those rights. Also, the work/social environments at both organizations are so uplifting and humanizing - this truly made a difference in my experience working there.

Question: What are three top skills or qualifications that help an applicant be competitive for this internship?

Response: Writing & communication skills, good organization, and passion for civil/human/immigrant rights

Question: What's your one key tip to another student seeking to land this internship?

Response: Networking & talking to your professors! I heard about my internships by word of mouth

(through professors and through other people), so those conversations really pay off.

Question: What's your favorite ND tradition?

Response: Football games/tailgates :)

QUESTIONS

Have law career questions or seeking pre-law advising? Contact Anita Rees arees@nd.edu Meruelo Family Center for Career Development

Know anybody else who may be interested in pre-law information?
SEND THEM THIS [LINK](#) TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRE-LAW NEWSLETTER

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