

**NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISORS**  
***“The Philadelphia Story: the Mainline on Pre-Law Advising”***  
**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference ♦ JUNE 6 – 9, 2007 ♦ Philadelphia, PA**

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6**

All Wednesday Sessions at University of Pennsylvania Law School

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.                      **Breakfast Hosted by Rutgers University School of Law-Camden**
- 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.                      **Registration/Check-in**
- 10:45 a.m. – Noon                      **Video Conferencing and Online Workshops: Increase Participation in Pre-Law Advising**  
If you're looking for ways to enhance pre-law programming for your students, and to reach more students and alumni, but finding that there just aren't enough hours in the day--this session is for you. Panelists will share demonstrations of video conferencing and online workshop tools and discuss how they are using these on their campuses. This session will include ample time for participants to share their own best practices for using technology in their advising and to ask questions.
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.                      **New Pre-Law Advisors' Workshop**  
Veteran advisors will provide an in-depth introduction to essential advising topics for new advisors with little or no experience. Participants will receive a certificate from NAPLA following completion of the workshop.
- Welcome and Overview (11:00 a.m.)
  - Law School Admission Council (LSAC), Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), and Action Reports (11:15 a.m.)
  - Lunch (12:00 noon)
  - Law School Admission Test (LSAT) (1:30 pm)
  - Selecting Law Schools (2:15 pm)
  - Break (3:00 pm)
  - Personal Statements (3:15 pm)
  - Letters of Recommendation and Dean's Certifications (4:00 pm)
- Noon – 1:30 p.m.                      **Welcome Lunch and Keynote Speaker**  
*Greg Mattison, M.A.A., CEAP, Administrator for Training and Accounts for Penn Behavioral Health, Corporate Services, University of Pennsylvania*
- 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.                      **Veteran Pre-Law Advisors' Workshop**  
Veteran pre-law advisors will have an opportunity to consider and discuss a variety of issues and relevant topics in this workshop.
- *Mentors and Mentees on Advising* (1:30 p.m.)  
Several years ago NAPLA established a mentoring program whereby attendees at the New Pre-law Advisors' Workshop were paired with volunteers from the Veteran Pre-Law Advisors' Workshop in a mentee/mentor relationship. How successful has that program been? What can we do to improve it? A panel of mentors and mentees will discuss this mentoring program. Mentors will discuss

how they acted as a mentor and mentees will indicate ways in which they wish they had used a mentor.

- *Elements of Good Pre-Law Advising* (2:15 p.m.)  
From the viewpoint of law school admission officers, what elements are involved in good pre-law advising? What should be the relationship between Pre-law advisors and law school admissions officers? A panel of law school admission officers will offer suggestions.
- *After the Fall---Pre-Law Advising In The Spring Semester* (2:45 p.m.)  
Pre-law advising may have, at one time, been a seasonal matter occurring mainly in the fall. The tasks seemed well-defined: workshops on the application process, advice about which schools to which a student should apply, reading personal statements, etc. However, increasingly, pre-law advisors' active roles have been expanded to include a number of spring semester activities. How can we best assist our students in developing strategies for such things as selecting a law school to attend, dealing with wait-lists, evaluating financial aid offers, and , unfortunately, dealing with rejection. A panel of experienced prelaw advisors will deal with these questions.
- Break (3:15 p.m.)
- *Early Action/Early Decision: What Does It Mean For the School and for the Applicant?* (3:30 p.m.)  
More and more law schools are touting Early Action/Early Decision programs. What does this mean for the school and for the applicant? How are applications evaluated? How does this differ from regular admission procedures and requirements? What happens to those who are not admitted via this process? What percentage of these applicants are accepted under this program? What percentage of total admits are admitted through this process? Admission officers from law schools offering early action/early decision will discuss this topic.
- *Mock Advising Discussion Groups* (4:00 p.m.)  
In small groups, advisors will analyze real applicant data and summarize their discussion for the benefit of the whole group. How would they advise the student regarding overall strategy and, more specifically, with respect to suggesting schools, preparing essays, addressing misconduct, overcoming obstacles, etc?
- *Swap Shop* (5:00 p.m.)  
Every veteran advisor will be asked to bring for potential discussion by workshop attendees one problem they face or one suggestion they have to offer.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Reception and Dinner Hosted by U of Pennsylvania Law School - Welcoming Remarks by Michael A. Fitts, Dean & Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law**

7:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Plenary I - The Law School Perspective**

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

Morning and Early Afternoon Sessions at University of Pennsylvania Law School

7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. – Noon

**Conference Registration/Check-in**

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

### **Concurrent Sessions I (Four Options)**

#### ***The \$\$\$ and Sense of Financial Aid***

“How do I pay for law school?” is a question that advisors are asked routinely. Our veteran panelists will discuss how law schools determine cost of attendance, types of financial aid available, borrowing processes, role of credit, repayment options, the true cost of borrowing, and the impact of debt on job choice.

#### ***Affirmative Action: Historical Analysis and Recent Developments***

This workshop will cover the historical background of affirmative action—how did it arise and how has it changed over time? What is the current status of affirmative action in the context of law school admissions? We will have an opportunity to have a conversation about how we, as Pre-law advisors, can work with students from underrepresented groups navigate the current complex law school admissions climate.

#### ***Advising Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Pre-law Organizations:***

This session will introduce pre-law advisors to some of the more common extra-curricular activities available to pre-law candidates including mock trial and mediation programs, law fraternities, and law societies. The panelists will discuss the benefits to students in participating in law-related activities as well as the benefits to pre-law advisors in utilizing student groups in pre-law advising. The panelists will also offer practical advice regarding the establishment, funding, and maintenance of these student organizations and the role that pre-law advisors can play in working with student groups to enhance awareness of pre-law services on campus.

#### ***Best Pre-law Advising Practices***

Pre-law students receive planning assistance from faculty and from professional staff housed in career centers and advising/dean's offices. Each brings an expertise to the process that assists students in making their own personal decisions. This panel will explore the variety of programs offered under these different administrative areas with a sensitivity to populations being served and sponsorship by numerous units. It will explore how to coordinate with others in our universities to give our students as complete an advising package as possible. Participants will have a chance to share their experiences and should walk away with ideas to implement at their own schools and a renewed energy to advise and program.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### **Break**

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

### **Concurrent Sessions II (Four Options)**

#### ***Law School Career Services Offices: How to Factor Future Placement into Law School Choices***

The importance of factoring into a decision-making paradigm the resources available at a law school career services office will be discussed, and tools will be provided to help pre-law advisors advise applicants on this important issue.

#### ***Clueless in Alumni Land: Strategies for Advising Alumni Applicants***

In recent years, the number of alumni applicants to law school has exceeded the number of college senior applicants. In LSAC's 2004-05 National Decision Profiles, 68% of applicants were “non-seniors.” What does this trend mean for the undergraduate pre-law advisor? What strategies are pre-law advisors and law schools using to address the needs of alumni applicants? How do law schools evaluate alumni candidates? What opportunities do alumni applicants present to the undergraduate institution?

### ***Insiders' Perspectives on the Application-Review Process***

A panel of four experienced law school admissions professionals will share with the audience the respective admission philosophies of their law schools. Each panelist also will describe how they review an application and the factors that they and their committees give attention to when deciding among and between applicants for admission. Each panelist also will share and discuss with the audience the file of one applicant who was admitted despite having less-than-competitive performance on the LSAT.

### ***The Changing LSAT?***

The introduction, starting with the June 2007 test, of a new comparative reading set as one of the four sets in the question type marks the first change in any of the question types since June 1991. Many advisors, along with others involved in law school admissions, are wondering if this change, modest as it is, may presage yet others to come. This session will look at the new comparative reading exercise and how prospective test-takers might best approach it, as well as discuss other possible modifications in the test.

11:15 a.m. – Noon

### **Tours of University of Pennsylvania Law School**

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Lunch and NAPLA Business Meeting**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **Conference Registration/Check-in**

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### **Concurrent Sessions (Four Options)**

#### ***Law School Admissions 101***

Ever wonder how a law school admissions committee makes decisions? Join deans of admission from the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Virginia law schools for a realistic look at how they review applications. Panelists and NAPLA participants will debate the merits of actual law school applications to select the best. You'll learn what works – and what doesn't – in the competitive law school admissions process.

#### ***Approaches to Undergraduate Liberal Arts Law Education...It's NOT "Pre-Law"***

This session probes the issue of how undergraduate institutions should prepare students for law school. While law schools acknowledge that there is no set curriculum or major to follow, what kinds of courses of study should academic pre-law advisors and career counselors recommend to ensure the best possible preparation for law school. This issue is explored from the perspective of both undergraduate institutions and law schools. Examples from a number of different undergraduate institutions will be provided to attendees.

#### ***How Engaged Are Students in Law School?***

With the release of the 2006 annual Law School Survey of Student Engagement, with over 24,000 law students responding, panelists will discuss the results of the survey and the ways that schools are using the data to learn about their students and to improve services.

#### ***Strategies for Law School Admission: Advising Students With an LSAT Score of Less Than 151***

Some law schools offer programs that, like CLEO's Summer Institute, aim to assist students who have a strong desire to go to law school but whose educational background and/or scores suggest that they are unlikely to be accepted. This panel will discuss

conditional acceptance programs and will also address strategies that advisors use to help students with below average LSAT scores.

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Travel by bus to Temple University School of Law**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Reception and Tours at Temple University School of Law**

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

**Travel by bus to the Villanova University Conference Center**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Dinner Hosted by Villanova University School of Law**

9:00 p.m.

**Return by Bus to the Sheraton Hotel**

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 8**

Morning Sessions at University of Pennsylvania Law School

7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Conference Registration/Check-in**

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions (Four Options)**

### ***Are Disclosure Issues Black and White, or Shades of Gray?***

Pre-law advisors often hear a version of the following question: "What type of information do I need to disclose on my law school applications?" The black and white answer given is most likely this: "Everything!" But, are there shades of gray? How do applicants disclose information if specific questions are not on the application? Are there things that law schools do not need to know or do not want to know? How does disclosure affect future bar applications? Panelists will discuss these issues as they relate to legal, health (physical and mental), disciplinary and other areas of disclosure.

### ***Finding the Words: Best Practices for Pre-Law Advisors on Personal Statements***

In expanding on our discussion from our Washington Conference, pre-law Advisors and a law school admissions officer will review approaches, resources, workshops, and handouts for law school essays.

### ***Law in the Era of Globalization: International Educational and Career Opportunities***

Many students are attracted to the idea of involvement with international affairs or business and foreign travel and wonder about whether a law degree can lead to such opportunities. Further, study abroad programs have become more popular at law schools which tend increasingly to be concerned with "globalizing." This workshop will focus on international educational opportunities at law schools as well as address international career opportunities from the perspective of a law school career services professional and a lawyer practicing in the area of international business.

### ***Advising Generation Y***

There is no question that generation Y is different from previous generations. They are connected to technology in a way that no previous generation has been. In many ways, their approach to information gathering and communication is very dissimilar from the approaches of previous generations. As such, in order to provide them with the best pre-law support, we need to understand how to meet their needs and communicate with them.

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|------------------------|---|
| 10:00 a.m. – Noon      | <b>Law Fair and Refreshments</b>  |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | <b>Walk Two Blocks to Drexel University School of Law</b>   |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  | <b>Lunch hosted by Drexel University College of Law</b>   |
| 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  | <b>Tours of Drexel University College of Law</b>  |
| 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  | <b>Break</b>  |
| 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  | <p><b>Plenary Session: Law School Rankings: Strengths and Weaknesses, Uses and Abuses – Can We Please Have Some More?</b></p> <p>Law school rankings, particularly those produced annually by US News and World Report, are relied upon by law schools, law school applicants, and Pre-law advisors. This session will consider how different law school rankings are constructed, together with the relative strengths and weaknesses of their approaches. The panel will also discuss the potential impact of alternative approaches to current law school rankings on law school admissions.</p> |
| 4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  | <b>Break/Walk Back To Hotels/University of Pennsylvania</b>   |
| 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  | <b>Travel to the Gala</b>   |
| 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | <b>Gala Reception and Dinner at The Downtown Club</b>   |
| 10:00 p.m.             | <b>Return by Bus to the Sheraton Hotel</b>  |

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9**

*All Sessions at University of Pennsylvania Law School*

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|------------------------|--|
| 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.  | <b>Breakfast</b>   |
| 8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  | <p><b>Plenary Session: <i>Law School Admission Council Update</i></b></p> <p>Learn about the latest developments at the Law School Admission Council and what happened in the 2006-2007 law school admissions year. Bring your questions or submit them, prior to the plenary, to Jack Carter (jcarter@goucher.edu) or to any other member of the conference planning committee.</p>   |
| 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  | <b>Break</b>   |
| 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | <p><b>Plenary Session: <i>You're Not Going to Believe This .... Again, Again, and Again!!!</i></b></p> <p>This plenary, which seems to be taking on the aspects of a permanent feature, deals with things to tell students NOT to do when they ask, "How can I make my application stand out from others? Can I send them my baby tooth and tell them that I have wanted to come to their school since I was born?"</p> <p>A panel of experienced law school admission officers will discuss bizarre, tacky, tasteless, unbelievable communications and items they have received from applicants . Ellen Keane Rutt will also retell her famous "Snow Story." Though humorous, there is a message here for pre-law advisors to pass along to applicants.</p> |
| 10:45 a.m. – Noon      | <b>Closing Brunch and Raffle</b>   |

Winners must be present to claim their prizes.