

# JUNE 11-14 ♦ 2008 NAPLA CONFERENCE ♦ ITHACA, NEW YORK

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

(More complete information about panels will be added as it becomes available)

All sessions in Ives Hall unless otherwise noted

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

- 9:00–11:00 a.m. Bus runs continuously from hotels to Cornell campus
- 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **Conference Registration/Check-in**
- 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **New Pre-Law Advisors Workshop**
- Noon–1:00 p.m. **Welcome Lunch**–Statler Hotel Ballroom
- 1:15–5:00 p.m. **Veteran Pre-Law Advisors Workshop**
- 3:00–3:15 p.m. Break
- 5:30 p.m. **Reception and Tours–Cornell Law School**  
6:45 p.m. **Dinner**  
**Keynote Speaker:** Angela Cornell, Associate Clinical Professor, Cornell Law School  
“The Study of Law and the Pursuit of Justice”
- 9:00 p.m. Buses depart for hotels

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

- 7:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Buses depart hotels for Cornell campus
- 7:30-8:45 a.m. **Breakfast**–at hotels or Statler’s Terrace Restaurant
- 8:30 a.m.–Noon **Conference Registration/Check-in**
- 9:00–10:15 a.m. **Workshop Session I**
- IA. Writing to Law Schools: Essays, Resumes, and Addenda**  
A panel of three admissions officers will discuss the critical elements of self-advocacy and key choices in presenting essays, resumes, and addenda in law school applications. In an important exercise in communication, we will review the guidelines for successfully employing the "write stuff."
- Moderators: Dom DeLeo, Pre-law Advisor, Boston College  
Michele DeMary, Pre-law Advisor, Susquehanna University
- Panelists: Gail Ellis, Dean of Admissions, Suffolk University Law School  
Eric Kniskern, Director of Admissions, Widener University School of Law  
Sarah Levy, Assistant Director of Admissions, Cornell Law School

### **IB. Affordable, Accessible, Accredited, Alternative Law School Approaches to Legal Education (ABA and Otherwise)**

Panelists will discuss schools (accredited by either the ABA or by other DOE recognized accrediting agencies) that provide affordable programs of legal education. Panelists will explore how the economy, substantial rise in law school tuition, and LSAT scores affect decisions about whether and where to attend law school. This session will examine the dearth of minority students and students from low-income families in U.S. law schools, and will review ways to provide accurate information to prospective law students on the various types of law schools that exist, different approaches to legal education, and the risks and rewards of attending a law school from which the student leaves having mortgaged his or her soul, or receives a degree that does not bear the ABA's imprimatur.

Moderator: Graham Lee, Pre-law Advisor, St. Joseph's University

Panelists: David Cluchey, Professor of Law, Yale Law School  
Michael Coyne, Associate Dean, Massachusetts School of Law  
Howard Glickstein, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law, Touro Law Center  
Don LeDuc, Professor of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
John Nussbaumer, Professor of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

### **IC. 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.

Coordinator: Elizabeth O'Connell, Pre-law Advisor, Wellesley College

Moderator: Jonathan Lurie, Pre-law Advisor, Rutgers University–Newark

Panelists: Jon Blechman, Chair, Committee on Character and Fitness for the Sixth Judicial District  
Gregory Eells, Director, Counseling and Psychological Services, Cornell University  
Susan Palmer, Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Virginia School of Law  
David Swenson, Professor, Baylor University School of Law; Chair, LSAC Subcommittee on Misconduct and Irregularities in the Admissions Process

### **ID. Reaching Pre-Law Students at Small Colleges**

This session will explore how pre-law advisors can best serve the needs of pre-law students at small colleges and universities. The panelists will include a faculty advisor, director of a pre-professional advising office, an associate dean in an advising center, and an assistant director of career services. Panelists will share how pre-law advising services are delivered on their respective campuses. Those attending will learn strategies for identifying and advising pre-law students early in their academic careers, the advantages and disadvantages of various pre-law advising structures, ways to collaborate with other departments on campus to assist pre-law students, and best practices in pre-law advising.

Coordinators: Christina Kuan Tsu, Pre-law Advisor, Barnard College  
Johnny Pryor, Pre-law Advisor, Butler University  
Panelists: Jack Carter, Pre-law Advisor, Goucher College  
Christina Kuan Tsu, Pre-law Advisor, Barnard College  
Jim Kubat, Pre-law Advisor, Wesleyan University  
Johnny Pryor, Pre-law Advisor, Butler University

10:15–10:30 a.m.

**Break**

10:30–11:45 a.m.

**Workshop Session II**

**IIA. Extreme Exposure: The Law School Application Review Process**

You're not the only one wondering about discussions held by admissions deans and directors as they review and compare applicants. Our panelists are willing to go to extremes to describe the composition and role of their admissions committees, highlight the factors given attention when deciding among and between applicants for admission, and explain their decision-making process (including early decision, early action, and wait list). They will also reveal why one applicant was admitted despite less-than-competitive performance on the LSAT.

Coordinators: Karen Clemence, Pre-law Advisor, Lafayette College  
Cindy Cogdill, Pre-law Advisor, Columbia University  
Panelists: Rita Jones, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, Boston College Law School  
Therese Lambert, Director of Student Recruiting, University of Miami School of Law  
Lisa Lancia, Director of Admissions, Pace University School of Law  
Sharon Pinkney, Director of Admissions, University of California Davis School of Law

**IIB. Face Time with Admissions Committees: When Applicants Present in Person**

Many applicants have the opportunity to meet with law school admissions officers by attending LSAC Forums and other law days, visiting law schools, and interviewing. This panel will discuss opportunities for students to "put a face" on their applications and why it may matter.

Moderator: Lyon Zabsky, Pre-law Advisor, Princeton University  
Panelists: Karen Buttenbaum, Associate Director of Admissions, Harvard Law School  
Johann Lee, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Northwestern University School of Law  
Todd Morton, Assistant Dean and Dean of Admissions, Vanderbilt University School of Law  
Anne Richard, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, George Washington University School of Law  
Robert Schwartz, Assistant Dean for Admissions, UCLA School of Law

**IIC. Dual Degree Programs**

Many law schools offer dual degree programs. While most people are familiar with the JD-MBA combination, a JD can often be earned concurrently with a master's or a Ph.D. in other academic disciplines. This panel will discuss the value of these programs by focusing on issues such as these: the added time needed to earn a second graduate degree; the trade-offs incurred in working toward two graduate degrees at the same time; and the impact of having a second graduate degree in the search for a job.

Moderator: Jack Carter, Pre-law Advisor, Goucher College  
Panelists: Michele Hayes, Associate Director of Admissions and Student Recruiting, University of Maryland School of Law  
William Hoye, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, Duke University School of Law  
Alison Price, Senior Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions, George Mason University School of Law

### **IID. The Northern Exposure**

This workshop offers NAPLA members the opportunity to learn about law schools in the region of the conference that are too far to visit. Law school representatives will be encouraged to describe special features of their schools, culture of the schools and communities in which they are located, typical employment outcomes, etc.

Moderator: Linda Spicer, Pre-law Advisor, American University  
Panelists: Gail Bensen, Director of Admissions, Albany Law School  
Kimberly DeWaal, Assistant Director of Admissions, University at Buffalo Law School (SUNY)  
Kathy Hartman, Associate Dean for Enrollment Management, Vermont Law School  
Katie McDonald, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Franklin Pierce Law Center  
Sam Stonefield, Associate Dean of External Affairs, Western New England College School of Law

Noon–1:30 p.m.

**Lunch and NAPLA Business Meeting**–Statler Hotel Ballroom

1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Conference Registration/Check-in**

1:45–2:30 p.m.

**Tours of Cornell campus**

2:45 p.m.

Buses depart Cornell campus for Syracuse University College of Law

4:00–5:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session I**

**The Law School Perspective**–Grant Auditorium, Syracuse University, College of Law  
Everything you wanted to know about law school admissions, but either were afraid to ask or thought it too rude to bring up in mixed company!

Moderator: Graham Lee, Pre-law Advisor, St. Joseph's University  
Panelists: Gail Bensen, Director of Admissions, Albany Law School  
Cheryl Ficarra, Associate Dean for Enrollment Management, Syracuse University College of Law  
Anne Richard, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, George Washington University Law School  
Karen Romano, Assistant Director of Admissions, Western New England College School of Law  
Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, Vice Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, University at Buffalo Law School (SUNY)

5:00 p.m.

**Reception and Tours of Syracuse University College of Law**

6:30 p.m.

**Dinner**–at Sheraton University Hotel

8:30 p.m.

Buses depart Syracuse for hotels

## FRIDAY, JUNE 13

- 7:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Buses depart hotels for Cornell campus
- 7:15–8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**—at hotels or Statler’s Terrace Restaurant
- 8:30–10:30 a.m. **Conference Registration/Check-in**
- 8:45–10:00 a.m. **Workshop Session III**

### **IIIA. Southern Exposure: The Law School Application Review Process**

You’re not the only one wondering about discussions held by admissions deans and directors as they review and compare applicants. Our panelists are willing to go to extremes to describe the composition and role of their Admissions Committees, highlight the factors given attention when deciding among and between applicants for admission, and explain their decision-making processes (including early decision, early action, and wait list). They will also reveal why one applicant was admitted despite less-than-competitive performance on the LSAT.

Coordinators: Karen Clemence, Pre-law Advisor, Lafayette College

Cindy Cogdill, Pre-Law Advisor, Columbia University

Panelists: Lynell Cadray, Assistant Dean and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Emory University School of Law

Todd Morton, Assistant Dean and Dean of Admission, Vanderbilt University Law School

Melanie Nutt, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, Wake Forest University School of Law

Faye Shealy, Associate Dean of Admission, William & Mary Law School

### **IIIB. Helping LGBT Students Find a Law School That’s a Good Fit**

Law schools have made great strides in the last decade toward creating a welcoming environment for LGBT law students. Likewise, the legal profession itself has also made great efforts in that area. Most law schools welcome and encourage LGBT applicants. How do you help students discover the actual culture of the law schools they are considering? Topics will include how to research the atmosphere at law schools, the pros and cons of being “out” in the personal statement, how geography figures into a positive LGBT atmosphere, and what factors will impact the student experience.

Moderator: Richard Conley, Northeastern University

Panelist: Noe Bernal, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Villanova University School of Law

Michael Boylen, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Roger Williams School of Law

### **IIIC. Empowering Our Aspiring Students with Learning and Other Differences**

Recent data indicates that one of every six children born in the United States will be diagnosed with a learning difference. In our role as pre-law advisors, how can we best support and advise students with learning and other differences who are interested in pursuing law school and a career in law?

Moderator: Sandra Tomkowitz, Pre-law Advisor, West Chester University

Panelists: Kim Dempsey, Manager of Accommodated Testing, LSAC

Michelle Rahman, Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Richmond School of Law; LSAC Accommodated Testing Working Group

Ellen Keane Rutt, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Finance, and Career Service, University of Connecticut School of Law; Chair, LSAC Board of Trustees

### **IIID. Guiding Students in Their Choice of the Legal Profession**

This session will provide a variety of constructive mentoring points for pre-law advisors who sense a student would be a poor fit for law school or for the legal profession. Rather than communicating to the student that he or she is simply not “good enough” for law school, this session will help participants have a more comprehensive, productive, fact-intensive discussion about the many facets of lawyering and what skills and qualities are required for success in law. Specific topics will include, but not be limited to, how to address a candidate’s academic record, criminal record, and selection of courses.

Coordinator: Elizabeth O’Connell, Pre-law Advisor, Wellesley College

Moderator: Laura Zuppo, Director of Admissions, Stetson University College of Law

Panelists: Kristen Adams, Professor, Stetson University College of Law  
Jonathan Lurie, Pre-law Advisor, Rutgers–Newark  
Tamara Martinez-Anderson, Assistant Dean of Admissions and  
Financial Aid, Michigan State University College of Law  
Elizabeth O’Connell, Pre-law Advisor, Wellesley College

10:00–10:15 a.m.

**Break**

10:15–11:30 a.m.

**Workshop Session IV**

### **IVA. Careers in Public Interest Law**

This panel will be a presentation by NALP (National Association for Law Placement) on careers in public interest law. Topics it will address include the impact of the recently passed legislation titled the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007.

Presenters: Karen Comstock, Assistant Dean for Public Service, Cornell Law School  
Gina Rowsam, Assistant Dean, Professional and Career Development Center,  
Oklahoma City University School of Law; NALP Representative to PLANC

### **IVB. Have Women Changed Law Schools and the Legal Profession?**

Has the law school culture, curriculum, and classroom environment changed now that women students make up half of law school entering classes and more women faculty and deans have been appointed. Have women lawyers changed the legal profession in any significant way? This workshop will further the discussion of issues raised in the article, "It's Not Your Father's Law School/Women Change More Than the Landscape," which appeared in the Fall 2006 issue of the ABA's Perspectives Magazine.

Coordinators: Christina Kuan Tsu, Pre-law Advisor, Barnard College  
Elizabeth O’Connell, Pre-law Advisor, Wellesley College

Panelists: JoAnne Miner, Clinical Professor of Law, Cornell Law School  
Ellen Rutt, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Finance, and Career  
Services, University of Connecticut School of Law; Chair, LSAC Board  
of Trustees  
Jana Singer, Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law

**IVC. When the Name Doesn't Say it All: How to Market Your Undergraduate School**

This panel is intended to be a dialogue between pre-law advisors and law school admissions staff on what works best in making a school and its students known to law schools. What activities have advisors done that have worked well? What kinds of law schools pose the greatest challenges? What do admissions staffs know about the quality of undergraduate institutions? What is the source of that information? What can advisors do to better inform them of our schools and our students? There will be ample time for all participants to raise questions and share ideas.

Coordinator: Michele DeMary, Pre-law Advisor, Susquehanna University

Moderator: Steve Lichtman, Pre-law Advisor, Shippensburg University

Panelists: Barbara Guillame, Senior Director for Admissions, Penn State University,  
The Dickinson School of Law

Kyle Kreider, Pre-law Advisor, Wilkes University

Annamarie Maciocia, Pre-law Advisor, Marist College

**IVD. Under the Radar: Outreach Programs and Other Resources**

As pre-law advisors, we sometimes (or even often) encounter students who are interested in pursuing law school and a career in law, but lack the financial and knowledge-based resources to position themselves effectively. This panel will explore some of the resources that are available, but perhaps not typically considered. In addition, we will explore ways in which we, as pre-law advisors, can better partner with outreach programs that seek to empower our students with knowledge and skills needed to succeed in law school and beyond.

Coordinators: Sandy Tomkowicz, Pre-law Advisor, West Chester University

Moderator: Richard Conley, Northeastern University

Panelists: Lynda Cevallos, Pre-Law Coordinator, Council on Legal Education  
Opportunity (CLEO)

Susan Krinsky, Associate Dean for Admissions, Financial Aid, Career  
Development, and Lecturer in Law, Tulane University Law School

James O'Neal, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Legal Outreach, Inc.

Sonji Patrick, Education Division Director, Puerto Rican Legal Defense and  
Education Fund (PRLDEF)

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. **Lunch with Topic Tables**–Statler Hotel Ballroom

1:30–2:45 p.m. **Plenary Session II**

**Law Student Debt and Its Impact on Legal Career Paths**

Panelists will explore the history of skyrocketing law student debt and its implications on career choices for law school graduates in the current legal job market. The goal of the program is to help pre-law advisors assist their advisees in becoming financially literate as they approach important career decisions.

Moderator: Heather Struck, Pre-law Advisor, Binghamton University (SUNY)

Panelists: Jeffrey Hanson, Director, Borrow Education Services, Access Group

James Leipold, Executive Director, NALP (National Association for Law  
Placement)

3:00–5:00 p.m. **Law School Fair**–Statler Hotel Ballroom

5:30 p.m. Buses depart Cornell campus for Aurora, New York

6:15 p.m.                   **Reception**–Aurora Inn  
7:30 p.m.                   **Dinner**  
  
9:30 p.m.                   Buses depart for Hotels

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 14**

7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.   Buses depart hotels for Cornell Campus  
  
7:00–8:15 a.m.           **Breakfast**–at hotels or Statler’s Terrace Restaurant  
  
8:30–9:45 a.m.           **Plenary Session III**

### **Law School Admission Council Update: The Year in Law School Admissions**

Learn about the latest developments at LSAC and about what has happened in admissions over the past year. Bring your questions or submit them, prior to the plenary, to Jack Carter (jcarter@goucher.edu) or to any member of the Conference Committee.

Coordinator: Jack Carter, Pre-law Advisor, Goucher College  
Anne Brandt, Associate Executive Director for Education, Pre-Law Programs, and Member Support Services

9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.   **Plenary Session IV**

### **You’re Not Going to Believe This...Again and Again and Again!!!!**

This plenary, which truly has taken on a life of its own, 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 law school since I was born?" A panel of experienced law school admissions officers will discuss bizarre, tacky, unbelievable communications and items they have received from applicants. Ellen Rutt will undoubtedly retell and expand on her "snowstorm" story.

Moderator: Gerald Wilson, Pre-law Advisor, Duke University

Panelists: Gigi Gauthier, Director of Admissions, Samford University, Samford University, Cumberland School of Law  
Richard Geiger, Associate Dean, Communications and Enrollment, Cornell Law School  
William Hoye, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, Duke University School of Law  
Ellen Rutt, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Finance, and Career Services, University of Connecticut School of Law; Chair, LSAC Board of Trustees

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.   **Closing Brunch and Raffle**–Statler Hotel Ballroom

1:00 p.m.                   Buses depart Cornell campus for hotels