

## LAW SCHOOL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your campaign for law school admission should start up to 18 months before you step into your first law classroom. Here is a checklist/schedule of what you should be doing during each season.

### SPRING

- Get *The Official Guide* to U.S. Law Schools from LSAC or your local bookstore.
- Register for the June LSAT (you can retake in October if your score needs improvement).
- Begin preparing for the LSAT; study groups, courses, practice
- Obtain a copy of your credit report from one of three national credit bureaus for a nominal charge.

### SUMMER

- Take the June LSAT.
- Start drafting your personal statement.
- Think about whom you'll be asking for recommendations.
- Make a list of schools you'll be applying to, using the grids from *The Official Guide* as an aid.
- Send away for applications, and start visiting as many as you can.
- Register for the October LSAT if you're not satisfied with your June score.
- Contact any creditors with whom you have problem accounts and make arrangements to begin mutually agreed upon monthly payment to satisfy your debts.

### EARLY FALL

- Familiarize yourself with the applications as they roll in.
- Use the LSAT Web site at <http://www.lsac.org> to obtain information and admissions applications from schools offering web-based applications.
- Make a checklist and schedule for each application, and photocopy all forms.
- Subscribe to LSDAS, if you haven't already done so. LSADS takes care of sending your transcript and LSAT scores to each school you apply to. They can also send letters of recommendation.
- Attend a Law School forum if you are able to do so.
- Send transcript request forms to all undergraduate and graduate schools you have attended.
- Line up your recommenders. Give them specific info they need to write an outstanding recommendation for you.
- Revise your personal statement. Tailor it to specific essay topics, if any, on individual applications.
- Make sure your credit card payments are on tack. Avoid encumbering yourself with any additional debt.

### MID FALL

- Finalize your personal statement.

- Transfer application information from the photocopies to the actual application forms, or put the finishing touches on your Web-based applications, if you're going that route.
- Make sure your recommenders are on board. Check with LSAC for the latest information on their new letter of recommendation service, if you're using it.
- Take the October LSAT if you need to.
- Send in your applications. Make sure you don't mix up the mailings!
- Request financial aid application materials from the schools and make sure you read the instructions for financial aid applications carefully.

### **LATE FALL**

- Remind your recommenders to send in recommendations to schools or to a LSAC, if you are using their service, ASAP.
- Get the Master Law School Report from LSDAS, summarizing transcripts, etcetera.
- Submit any financial aid applications due early to schools that request them.

### **WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER**

- Receive monthly updates from LSDAS.
- Cross your fingers while you wait for the acceptances to roll in.
- Complete all applications for financial aid several weeks before the due dates.
- Review financial aid notices from the law schools and project your resources and costs.
- Decide which law school offer to accept.
- Send in acceptance of admission and financial aid.
- Complete your student loan applications.
- Review your finances at the start of the summer to be certain you'll have sufficient resources to meet your law school expenses.

### **THE FOLLOWING FALL**

- Start the semester at the law school of your choice.

#### References

Lammert-Reeves, Ruth. (2004) *Get Into Law School: A Strategic Approach, The Expert Advice You Need to Get Into the Law School You Want.* Kaplan, Inc.