

LAW SCHOOL FORUMS 2012 ADMISSION ADVICE STRAIGHT FROM THE EXPERTS



Getting the Most Out of an LSAC Law School ForumSM

LSAC Law School Forums are held around the country to give prospective law students an opportunity to talk personally with representatives from law schools and to collect admission materials from schools throughout the country.

• Before You Go

Preregistration: Admission to all Law School Forums is free. By using the LSAC website to preregister before the forums, you can print out an admission ticket ahead of time that will allow you to save time at the forum. Go to LSAC.org to establish your free account or to register for the forums if you already have an account.

Planning your day: Forums are open-house style; you can arrive at any time and leave at any time during the scheduled forum hours. Most people spend from several hours up to an entire day at a forum. This allows time to attend live workshops as well as time to talk with law school representatives. Often the afternoon hours are less crowded. Print out a schedule ahead of time—also found on the website—so that you can plan your day around your particular interests. The forum information page on the website gives driving directions, a list of participating schools, and a floor plan of the forum showing you the location of each school's table.

Tips for Planning Ahead

- Make a list of schools you want to visit or pick up information from.
- Create a set of questions you have not yet found answers for.
- Plan to visit with schools outside your geographic region as well as those in your neighborhood.
- Do your research. Use the *ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools* (available at LSAC.org) to learn more about schools that interest you.
- If possible, determine what your own requirements are for choosing a law school (for example, any geographical limitation), so that you can choose wisely whom to talk to and how to manage your forum time efficiently.

• Talking with Law School Representatives: The Most Important Activity

A Law School Forum is an opportunity to talk personally with representatives from many different law schools in one location. The representative could be an admission dean, a faculty member, a recent graduate of the law school, or even a current student. These representatives will not speculate on your personal chances of admission, although you can inquire generally about the qualifications and profiles of their admitted students. (This information can be found on the LSAC website and, ideally, should be part of your preforum research. This kind of preplanning will help you narrow your search, since it is difficult to talk to representatives from every single law school.) The representatives are not there to take your résumés, writing samples, or any other documents. But they can and will talk to you about their school's programs, facilities, student body, and any other questions you may have that will help you to decide whether to apply. Representatives will be wearing identifying name tags, and you may ask for a business card. If you think you may be interested, be sure the representative has your forum registration number so the school can send you updated information.



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• What a Forum Is Like

Forums are generally held in large hotel ballrooms. Rows of tables, separated by walk-through aisles, are set up for the schools in attendance. Last year, 209 schools participated in at least one forum. Each table will identify itself by both school name and a number corresponding to the number on the forum map, and is staffed by at least one and occasionally two or three law school representatives. Tables are stocked with admission materials, viewbooks, and current application forms. You may look at the materials, take some to look over or use later, or talk to the person at the table. Do not feel compelled to ask questions or engage in conversation; this is entirely up to you.

Tips for the Day of the Forum

- Scan the forum map and circle the numbers for the schools you have already decided to visit. This will help you keep track of where you have or haven't yet gone. Forums can be crowded, and you would do well to remain flexible about the order in which you visit the tables. If a particular table—or even aisle—looks very busy, you can detour to another area, and your forum map will help you find your way back to visit your “don't miss” schools.
- Attend a workshop (“Forum 101”) designed to help you make the most of your time at the forum. Other forum workshop topics include opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds, financing a law school education, the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and career paths in law. Check your schedule for times.
- Many forums have prelaw advisors to help you. If you need advice about the law school admission process, stop by this table. The person seated there has volunteered to assist those looking for guidance.
- Stop at the LSAC information table to view publications and products that you may order from LSAC's website. These include past LSATs, test preparation material, and law school guides.

• A Day at the Forum: Useful Strategies

If You Are Applying for Fall 2013 Enrollment ...

While you may focus on your prepared list of schools, this is a great opportunity to pick up information about other schools. Keep an open mind. Plan on coming away with ideas about schools you may apply to that you have not previously considered. Take home as much material as you can to review later. Be sure to pick up the materials for the schools to which you definitely wish to apply so you have the most current information about applications, deadlines, visiting dates, and so forth.

If You Are Applying for Enrollment Beyond Fall 2013 ...

Come prepared to take home a lot of information. You should try to pick up as much information as possible and talk with as many law school representatives as possible. You will have plenty of time to review the information at home, and you may find the perfect school for you that you didn't even know existed. At a minimum, get a fact sheet and the website address for each school. You can get a head start in preparing for attending a forum next year and some ideas for creating a list of questions for the schools you want to visit.

Additional Tips

- After you visit a school's table, you may use the forum map to highlight schools in which you are interested.
- Follow up attendance at a forum by exploring the websites of the schools that interested you. The schools have complete information available on their sites, and you can access links to them through LSAC's website, LSAC.org.