



# The University Of New Mexico School Of Law

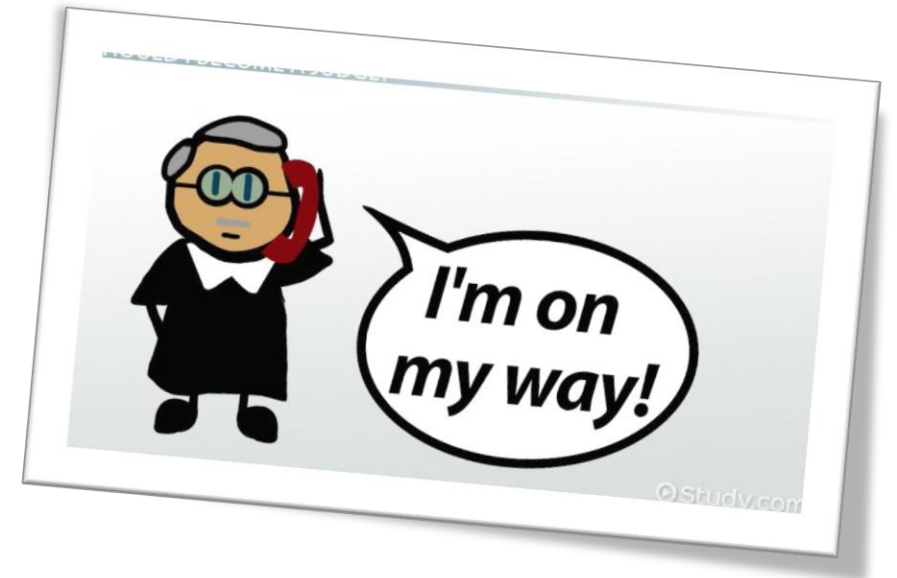
PLSI Pre-Law Advisor Training  
Nuts and Bolts of a Law School Application



# Roadmap for This Presentation

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- The Lifecycle/Timeline of the Applicant – just the nuts and bolts
- Resources for Advisors and Applicants
- Finding the Right Fit
- What to do When Admitted
- A Brief comment on Letters of Recommendation
- Other presentations:
  - Personal Statements and Resume
  - Supplemental statements/Addendums
  - LSAT
  - Financial Aid
  - School Selection



# Life Cycle of the Applicant: A Sample Timeline for Most Applicants

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- Make the decision to become an attorney and apply to law school – *research and seek advice*
- Research law schools that will be the best fit for the student's interests – *research and seek advice*
- Decide when to take the LSAT depending on school preference – *research and seek advice*
- Study for LSAT and prepare other application materials – *research and seek advice*
- Find out LSAT results and decide whether to retake the LSAT – *research and seek advice*
- Submit application including financial aid information – *research and seek advice*
- Apply to PLSI Deadline 3/22/2020 – *research and seek advice*
- If admitted to multiple schools, make decision and submit seat deposit – *research and seek advice*
- Attend PLSI – *research and seek advice*
- Attend Law School!

# Life Cycle of the Applicant: Researching and Seeking Advice

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- Law school application priority trends change and expectations are different by law school
- Important to be aware of trends and specific school application expectations
- The role of most law school admissions office advisors is to help students find the right fit (the trend now is for admissions offices to promote a good fit for applicants instead of a hard sell to attend here!)
- There is a strong network of advisors and resources available, you are not alone



# Resources: Networks

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- Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) <https://www.lsac.org/prelaw/login>
  - Discover Law (diversity initiative) <https://www.lsac.org/discover-law>
- Pre-law Advisors National Council (PLANC) <http://www.planc.org/>
  - Regional Associations: M(idwest)APLA, N(ortheast)APLA, Pacific CoastAPLA, S(outhern)APLA, S(outh)W(est)APLA, W(estern)APLA
- American Indian Law Center (AILC) <https://www.aile-inc.org/plsi/about/>
- Law School Admissions Offices – we like to work closely with pre-law advisors so applicants will be more prepared and stronger candidates

# Resources: Information About the Process and Native American Lawyers

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- LSAC <https://www.lsac.org/jd-applicants>
- LSAC and Kahn Academy LSAT Prep <https://www.khanacademy.org/prep/lsat>
- AILC <https://www.ailc-inc.org/>
- LSAC PLUS <https://www.lsac.org/discover-law/diversity-law-school/prelaw-undergraduate-scholars-plus-programs>
- National Native American Law Student Association (NNALSA) <https://www.nationalnalsa.org/>
- Native American Bar Association (NABA) <https://www.nativeamericanbar.org/>
- Financial Aid and Loan Repayment
  - <https://www.accesslex.org/>
  - <https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/law-students/student-debt-resources/>
- US News and World Report <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/law-rankings>

# Finding the Right Fit: It's All About the Student

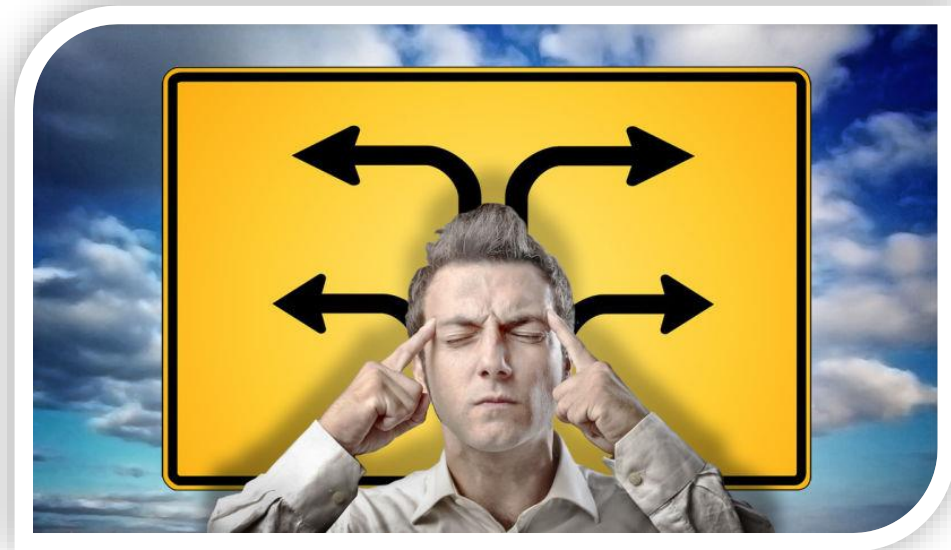
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- A person can do anything they want with a law degree, and there are thousands of ways to be a lawyer
- Researching and seeking advice
  - Visit (tour of the school and sit in on classes)
  - Talk to admissions office
  - Talk to current students
  - Talk to alumni (alumni advice may be skewed because of changes in trends)
- Things to ask the student to consider when advising
  - What is their goal for after law school?
    - A note about ranking
    - Ranking may be important, but it depends on the area of law
  - Are they trying to specialize?
  - How important are the following factors: cost, proximity, culture and 'feel' of the school

# What to Do When Admitted?

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- If admitted to multiple schools – decide which to attend
  - Review the reasons for going wanting to go to law school
  - Which is the best fit, not just financially
- Logistics
  - Seat Deposit
  - Accepted Applicants Days
  - Financial Aid
    - FAFSA
    - Scholarships
    - Work Study (Federal and State)

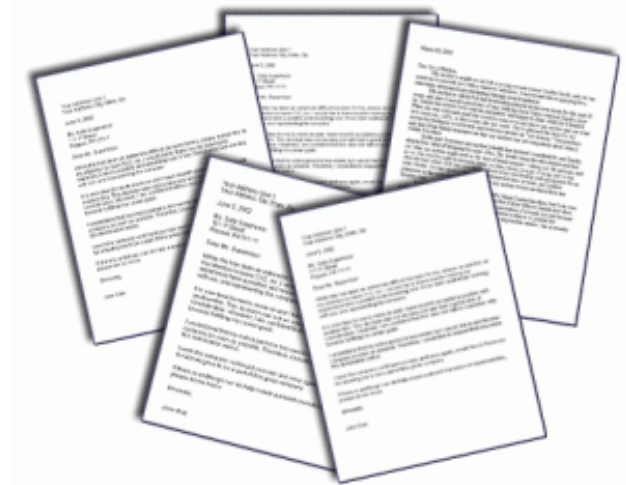




# A Note About Letters of Recommendation

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- Who to ask
  - Relationship to recommender can be unique to Indian Country
- How to ask
- What admissions committees look for
- Trends
- The other parts of applications will be reviewed in following sessions



# Please contact our team with any questions

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Visit our **website**: <http://lawschool.unm.edu/index.html>

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