Attending the Law School Fair

It can seem overwhelming at first to see all those tables, but relax, the representatives are accustomed to talking about their schools and are anxious to speak with you. They are here to promote their schools and to answer your questions.

Don’t be nervous! You are not here to be interviewed by the schools. There are no “dumb” questions, and as long as you are polite, and show interest, you will come across just fine. These law school representatives are attending five fairs in five days so they are unlikely to remember you.

On the other hand, do mind your manners. They will remember you if you are rude, and that won’t work in your favor. You do not need to dress in business attire, but do look respectable.

Take advantage of this opportunity to explore! Don’t only visit the tables of schools you know. Wander through the room. If you see a representative who is not talking to anyone, stop and ask about the school, even if you have never heard of it. You might find a hidden “gem” that you would not have known about otherwise.

Ask the same questions of representatives at a number of different schools. You will find many areas of agreement, but you may also find some areas where schools differ a bit, and learn some good “insider tips”.

**DO NOT BRING A RESUME, WRITING SAMPLE, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS TO THE LAW EXPO.** These representatives are traveling for days, or even weeks, at a time, so they cannot carry around more than is absolutely necessary.

As you ask questions, make sure you keep track of each school’s answers. You don’t want to get home to find you have a wealth of good information but no idea where it all came from!

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE LAW FAIR**

The law school representatives at the fair will be either an Admissions officers, or alumni or current students. The kinds of questions you ask will depend on who you are speaking with so students should find out who is representing the school. They can change their questions depending on who it is

- **Alumni or Current Students**— While students and alumni may not be able to provide the same level of detail on the law schools programs, faculty, etc., the more informal information they can provide can be just as valuable.

  Ask them to give you “the scoop” on what it is really like to attend that school. What did they like? What didn’t they like? Do they have any tips on what to do to be successful there? What is the living situation? How do you enjoy your classes? Have you been able to make friends with other classmen? How challenging is it? etc...
• **Admissions Directors, Deans, Recruiters**—You can ask them the detailed questions about the school. These people should be knowledgeable about their schools, its programs, and the admissions process. Below is a long list of questions to help you gather information.

1) **ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS**
   a. How does your school review applications?
   b. Is there an advantage in applying early? Do you have “early action” or “early decision”?
   c. State school – what bearing does state residency have on the admissions process? How does one attain residency in this state?
   d. How does the school interpret multiple LSAT scores?
   e. How can you bring special circumstances (working 40 hours a week while in school full time) to the admissions committee’s attention?
   f. What kinds of recommendations are the most helpful?
   g. What does the admission committee look for in the personal statement?
   h. What skills/abilities qualities does the school look for in a candidate? How can you best communicate these qualities in your application?
   i. How important is it for students to have a law-related internship or job before law
   j. What can the school tell you about the evaluation process?
   k. Are students active and voting members of the Admissions Committee?
   l. What percentage of entering students have taken time off after college?

2) **CURRICULUM**
   a. How are the first-year classes organized and taught?
   b. Is there more of an emphasis on the theory of law or practical application?
   c. Do most professors teach law using the Socratic method? Even after the first year?
   d. What clinical programs are available? Who is eligible? Is there an excess of demand for certain programs, and, if so, how are the participants chosen?
   e. How is legal writing/research taught? By whom? Adjunct personnel? Full-time faculty?
   f. Does the law school recognize classes taken outside the law school (other law schools or abroad?)
   g. How accessible are professors and instructors?
   h. How would you describe faculty-student relationships?
   i. How are students chosen for law reviews/moot court/trial teams? How many participate?
   j. How are classes graded (i.e. at what level is a curve set)?
   k. Does your school offer a pre-entry or conditional summer program for applicants whose GPA/LSAT credentials are below the norm? If so, what admission criteria are used?
   l. Do you offer law school study abroad programs? If so, where?

3) **CAREER SERVICES**
   a. What career services are offered to students and graduates?
   b. Where do the students find employment? (locally, regionally, nationally?)
   c. Do students go to large, small, medium firms? Government? Corporations?
   d. What kinds of jobs do your graduates take after law school?
e. How much does class rank determine the job search success of your graduates?

f. What are the bar passage rates in the state(s) in which most of your graduates take the bar exam?

g. Is the school committed to those students who are interested in public interest careers? How does it serve those students? Is there any loan forbearance for such careers?

h. How many firms interview at the school and from what parts of the country? Do firms have different requirements or is it a lottery system?

i. Do students participate in any job fairs?

j. Is there a network of contact which could help you obtain jobs in a particular geographical area or in an area of law in which you are interested?

k. Is there a support network for students seeking judicial clerkships? What percentage of students seek and get clerkships? Where? (state or federal?)

l. What percentage of 3rd year students have jobs lined up by winter break of their 3rd year?

m. What percentage of jobs does the career placement office secure for students

4) CHARACTER/AMBIANCE
   a. What is special about the character and ambiance of your school?
   b. Describe the physical location of the school.
   c. Describe the on and off campus housing opportunities for students. What do students like most about your school? Least?

5) COSTS/FINANCIAL AID
   a. Do you offer merit or need-based scholarships or grants? If so, what criteria do you use?
   b. Is continuation of a merit scholarship contingent upon academic performance in law school?
   c. How do most of your students pay for law school?
   d. What is the cost of attendance at your school? Do you anticipate a tuition increase?
   e. Do you have a loan repayment assistance program for graduates who go into public interest law?
   f. What are the criteria and procedures for obtaining state residency status while in law school (state supported schools)?

Any other information that is important to YOU!