

To: Incoming Students
From: Mitch Bailin, Dean of Students
Subject: Orientation Week Information and Updates

Dear Rising 1Es:

The Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) and the entire Georgetown Law community are looking forward to your arrival at the end of August! In this letter, you'll find information from the Office of Student Life on what to expect from Orientation, as well as some notes from the Office of Academic Success and the Office of Disability Services.

Orientation Highlights

The J.D. Orientation program is intended to introduce you to Georgetown Law, your classmates, the faculty, and the legal profession. Orientation Week includes registration and other mandatory sessions for your section, as well as optional social events, well-being activities, campus tours, and faculty presentations. A finalized schedule will be sent to you in early August. For now, Sarah Stanley and Hannah Ward, on behalf of the Office of Student Life, wanted to send along some highlights.

Tuesday, August 23, 2022: Optional Events

Faculty Talks

If you are able to join us during the day, a number of faculty will be giving informal talks on a variety of current legal topics on Tuesday, August 23rd. These are optional and you can simply drop-in, with attendance limited only by the number of seats in the room. You will not need to pre-register for faculty talks.

City Tours

In addition to Faculty Talks, we have a variety of optional city tours and walks of historic and cultural sites, led by faculty and senior staff. These locations include a Capitol Hill Walking Tour, a hike of the C&O Canal, a visit to the National Museum of African American History & Culture, and more. Additionally, our upper-level peer advisors will be leading walks to attractions close to the Georgetown Law campus, such as the Supreme Court, the Capitol grounds, the Botanical Gardens, and their favorite spots to study in the neighboring areas.

Many of these tours and walks won't require any pre-registration, but for a few, space is limited. You will receive instructions in our next email on how to sign up for any tours which require registration. Again, we understand that you may have other commitments, but wanted you to know that these are available prior to your first Orientation session that evening.

Tuesday, August 23rd, 2022 & Wednesday, August 24, 2022: Required Events

Welcome! Your Introduction to Law School, Georgetown Law, and the Legal Profession

All evening students will be welcomed by Law Center faculty and deans on Tuesday who will provide an overview on some of the basics of law school and Georgetown Law. On Wednesday, students will engage in their first law school class as an opportunity to learn more about what to expect this year during your courses. We hope that you will also join us for some of the optional activities, including the talks and tours referenced above, as well as those included below.

Additional Optional Events & Opportunities

Faculty Moot Court: Always the highlight of the Orientation program, seven of our distinguished professors, who collectively have argued and briefed scores of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, will present a “moot court,” or mock argument of a case that will be heard by the Supreme Court this coming year. The faculty moot will take place on the evening of Thursday, August 25th.

Orientation Block Party: Join the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Life on Friday, August 26th to celebrate the completion of Orientation and the beginning of the academic year!

Peer Advisors: Peer Advisors are upper-level students who serve as mentors to you throughout this summer, Orientation week, and beyond. We have a wonderful group of upper-level students who are eager to connect with you. You can expect to hear from them around the end of July to get the conversation started!

Other Important Information

Meals During Orientation: If you have any allergies or dietary restrictions, please fill out [this form](#) by August 12th at 5:00 pm EST. If we receive your request by then, we will do our best to accommodate your meal request.

Accommodations: The Office of Disability Services at Georgetown Law works with our students to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations in order to remove barriers for students with disabilities in curricular and co-curricular environments. Students seeking accommodations during Orientation or the academic year are encouraged to email disabilityservices@georgetown.edu and/or visit the Office of Disability Services upon your arrival for registration information.

How To Prepare: One of the most frequent questions our office gets is what should you do to prepare for law school? Director of Academic Success Lisa Curtis offers this: The best tip for you is to enjoy the people, places, and experiences that help you feel centered and whole. This will be the best start to your 1L year because you will come into your first year with the self-awareness, clarity, and energy necessary to thrive. By no means do you need to or are you expected to do any advance reading or preparation for classes, but if you want to, check out one or two of the resources at the end of this message, which Lisa notes as having been helpful to entering 1Ls who want to do a little pre-reading over the summer.

Orientation week is just the beginning. ODOS and many other advisors across the law school are here to accompany you throughout your first year. We will help you transition into your classes and forge your individual path through the 1L year and beyond. In the fall, we’ll introduce you to a set of resources and programs that will help you explore the wide range of opportunities available to you at Georgetown Law and find the ones that might be good fits for you and your personal and professional goals.

This is a lot of information, we know! We hope that it is useful to you as you prepare for Orientation week and the start of school.

We have heard so much about you from Dean Cornblatt, and we can’t wait to meet you in August! In the meanwhile, continue to think of us in ODOS as a portal to Georgetown Law. Please don’t hesitate to call or email us at lawdeanofstudents@georgetown.edu or 202-662-9292 with any questions or concerns.

Warm wishes,

Mitch Bailin, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students
Lisa Curtis, Director of Academic Success
Sarah Stanley, Director of Student Life
Mary Ellen Vigeant, Director of Disability Services

Succeeding in Law School by Herbert N. Ramo, or **1L of A Ride by Andrew J. McClurg**. Both will provide you with a comprehensive and easily digestible overview of the first-year law school experience.

Getting to Maybe by Richard Michael Fischl and Jeremy Paul. This is the quintessential resource for understanding the tried-and-true approach to writing for final exams in law school.

Atomic Habits by James Clear. A fairly quick read on how to integrate small healthy habits into your daily routine.