

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

Dear Rising 1Ls,

The Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) and the entire Georgetown Law community are looking forward to your arrival next month! In this letter, you'll find information from our Office of Student Life on what to expect during Orientation Week, as well as some notes from the Office of Academic Success and the [Office of Accessibility Services](#).

Planning for Orientation Week

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. We will send a finalized schedule to you in early August. For now, Hannah Ward, on behalf of the Office of Student Life, wanted to share some highlights, so that you can start making plans for that week.

Tuesday, August 22, 2023: Optional Events

Faculty Talks

A number of faculty will be giving informal talks on a variety of current legal topics on Tuesday, August 22. 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 scheduled 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 Rock Creek Park, 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 visit and study near campus.

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 the tours which require registration.

Wednesday, August 23 - Friday, August 25, 2023: Required and Optional Events

Required Sessions:

All students will be welcomed by Law Center faculty and deans on Wednesday, August 23, by section. Throughout Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each section will participate in several additional required programs covering topics essential to your success and thriving this year, including the first meeting of one of your Fall 2023 courses on Friday, August 25.

Optional Events:

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 24.

Orientation Block Party: Join the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Life on Friday, August 25 to celebrate the end of Orientation and the beginning of the academic year!

Additional fun activities: During the time slots when your section does not have required programs there will be a wide range of optional well-being activities, campus tours, and opportunities to connect with upper-level students and student-led organizations. You can attend a group fitness class at our Sport and Fitness Center, stop by to chat with Law Center librarians on a library tour, or spend a moment practicing mindfulness in the relaxation room.

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 toward the end of July to get the conversation started. If you’d like to chat with a Peer Advisor before then, please reach out via our Peer Advisor Hotline by emailing laworientation@georgetown.edu or check out the “Meet Your Peer Advisor” [website](#). They are great sources of information about the law school, the 1L year, and life in Washington, D.C.

All these required and optional activities will appear in the finalized Orientation schedule that we’ll share in a few weeks, with details on time slots and locations.

Other Important Information

Meals During Orientation: If you have any allergies or dietary restrictions, please fill out [this form](#) by August 11 at 5:00 pm EST. If we receive your request by then, we will do our best to accommodate your meal request.

Disability Accommodations: The [Office of Accessibility Services](#) at Georgetown Law works with our students to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations in order to remove barriers for disabled students in curricular and co-curricular environments. Students seeking accommodations during Orientation or the academic year are encouraged to email accessibilityservices@georgetown.edu this summer and visit the [Office of Accessibility Services website](#) for registration information.

How To Prepare: One of the most frequent questions we receive over the summer is “What should I do to prepare for law school this summer?” Our wonderful 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 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. Lisa will also offer academic success sessions for every section during Orientation week, including specific advice about how to prepare for class in your first weeks of law school.

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.

Meanwhile, 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
Hannah Ward, Acting Director of Student Life
Mary Ellen Vigeant, Director of Accessibility Services
Chris Hall, Director of Residence Life and Student Programs

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

Getting to Maybe by Richard Michael Fischl and Jeremy Paul. This is a well-regarded resource for understanding a 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.