

2026



JD Orientation

SECTION 5

Welcome to Georgetown Law

Dear 1Ls,

You will hear this many times over the next few weeks, but welcome to Georgetown Law! We are delighted you are here and cannot wait to meet you over the course of the coming days and weeks as you embark on your first law school semester.

The Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Life have built a JD Orientation full of opportunities to learn more about each other, about Georgetown Law, and about Washington, DC. We hope that you will review this schedule and take advantage of its many offerings.

As a reminder, you'll notice in your schedule that events starting Wednesday, August 19, are in different colors.

Mandatory sessions are in blue and your attendance is required.

You will also see a series of **"Breakout Sessions" in green**. Throughout the day on Wednesday and Thursday, we have arranged for a menu of six of these sessions, addressing many critical topics for new students. These range from how to think about success in law school, to strategic financial aid and planning, to advice from upper-level students. **These sessions are optional, but strongly encouraged**. You'll note that each session is repeated at a variety of times (sort of like a conference schedule). We strongly recommend you plan to attend most, if not all, of the six.

Finally, there are a number of social, cultural, and wellness activities throughout the Orientation, such as fitness classes, a section dinner, and our always highly-anticipated Faculty Moot Court. We hope you'll join us for as many of these as your schedule allows.

Once again, welcome to Georgetown and Hoya Saxa!

Mitch Bailin, Dean of Students
Hannah Ward, Director of Student Life

TUESDAY 8.18

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Breakfasts

- Welcome for Military-Connected Students, McDonough 520
- Interfaith Welcome Breakfast, McDonough 113
- Welcome for First-Generation College Students, Gewirz 12

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Faculty Talks for First-Year, Transfer, Visiting, and Graduate Students

[See the addendum for full list and descriptions of Faculty Talks](#)

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

City Tours with Faculty, Staff, and Peer Advisors

[See the addendum for full list and instructions for City Tours](#)

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Service Project with the Office of Public Interest and Community Service

[See the addendum/link for description of service project](#)

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

On the Hour from the Tower: Campus Tours

Peer Advisors will be on hand every hour to take you around your new Georgetown Law home. Meet a group at the clocktower on the :00 on the Eleanor Holmes Norton green to catch a tour.

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Lockers and Parking, St Thomas More Chapel Corridor

New students can sign up for a locker and pick up a parking pass with our Capitol Campus Facilities team.

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Library Research Fair, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Atrium

Meet your librarians and representatives from Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw, and explore rare books and archival materials at the Special Collections Open House.

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Tours

All incoming students are invited to participate in a tour of the Law Library. Tours meet in the Atrium of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building and take approximately 30 minutes. [Register for a Law Library Tour](#).

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Fitness Class: Yoga, Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Visa Information Session [Required for New International JD and Transfer Students in F-1 Visa Status], McDonough 201

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pickleball Clinic, Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center

Drop in any time during the Pickleball clinic to learn the ropes, play a quick game, or hone your skills. Stay for as little or as long as you'd like! Open to all skill levels!

WEDNESDAY 8.19

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Check-in, McDonough Atrium (Second Floor of McDonough Hall)

Check-in should be completed before your section's respective Welcome session, even if you are attending other events prior.

Breakout Session I: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

McDonough 207
1L 101: Preparing for Your First Class

McDonough 202
What I Wish I Knew: Peer Advisor Panel

McDonough 203
Balancing the Brain and Body: A Wellness Guide to Prevent a 1L Crash Out

McDonough 110
Take a Break!

Breakout Session II: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

McDonough 207
1L 101: Preparing for Your First Class

McDonough 202
What I Wish I Knew: Peer Advisor Panel

McDonough 203
Balancing the Brain and Body: A Wellness Guide to Prevent a 1L Crash Out

McDonough 110
Take a Break!

McDonough 201
Beyond the Briefs: Respectful Dialogue as a Core Competency in Legal Practice

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Lunch with Peer Advisors

Join us for lunch and meet your Peer Advisor and get the inside scoop on Georgetown Law and 1L year! Lunch pick-up will take place in the Hotung Lobby. Your Peer Advisors will reach out to you to share your cohort's meeting location.

Breakout Session III: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

McDonough 207
1L 101: Preparing for Your First Class

McDonough 202
What I Wish I Knew: Peer Advisor Panel

McDonough 203
Balancing the Brain and Body: A Wellness Guide to Prevent a 1L Crash Out

McDonough 110
Take a Break!

McDonough 201
Beyond the Briefs: Respectful Dialogue as a Core Competency in Legal Practice

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Welcome for Section 5, McDonough 205

Dean Magill and senior colleagues will welcome the section to Georgetown Law and formally kick off your Orientation.

Here are some other things to check out when you have some free time!

Pickleball Clinic, Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Immunization Clinic Student Health Center
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The MedStar Georgetown University Student Health Center will host immunization clinic days at the Law Center. Please call: 202-687-2200 to make an appointment. Ask for the Law Center Clinic.

Lockers and Parking St. Thomas More Chapel Corridor
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

New students can sign up for a locker and pick up a parking pass with our Capitol Campus Facilities team.

On the Hour from the Tower: Campus Tours
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Peer Advisors will be on hand every hour to take you around your new Georgetown Law home. Meet a group at the clocktower on the :00 on the Eleanor Holmes Norton green to catch a tour.

Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center Tours
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a tour of our Sports & Fitness facilities, considered some of the best in the city! Meet at the Sports & Fitness check-in desk any time between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tours will depart on a rolling basis and last approximately 20 minutes.

Campus Ministry Drop-in, McDonough 113
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Stop by McDonough Hall, Suite 113 to meet the team and explore what Georgetown Law Campus Ministry has to offer for building community and finding deeper meaning and purpose during your law school journey. All are welcome!

Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Tours
11:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All incoming students are invited to participate in a tour of the Law Library. Tours meet in the Atrium of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building and take approximately 30 minutes. [Register for a Law Library Tour.](#)

Fitness Class: Total Body Conditioning
Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center
12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

THURSDAY 8.20

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Myths and Realities of Law School, Hart Auditorium

Dean of Students Mitch Bailin will address some common myths—and the more reassuring realities—about the first year of law school. He'll be joined by Lisa Curtis, the Law Center's Director of Academic Success and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, as well as other campus partners. Together, they'll share tips and guidance for how to thrive and succeed in this exciting new chapter.

Breakout Session V: 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

McDonough 207
**Practice Law/Practice Well:
Lawyers in Balance**

McDonough 202
**What I Wish I Knew:
Peer Advisor Panel**

McDonough 203
**Balancing the Brain and Body:
A Wellness Guide to Prevent a
1L Crash Out**

McDonough 110
**Take a
Break!**

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Student Life Resource Fair, Hotung Building

Connect with the Georgetown Law community at the Student Life Resource Fair! Explore opportunities to get involved by visiting with campus partners and some of our 90 student organizations!

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

JD Careers: Support from the Start, Hart Auditorium

This interactive orientation session features Amy Mattock (Assistant Dean of OCS) and Morgan Lynn-Alesker (Assistant Dean of OPICS) who will debunk myths about legal career paths and pressures. Through small group activities and personal storytelling, students will be encouraged to embrace the fluidity of their individual professional journeys and harness available career-related resources.

Breakout Session VII: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

McDonough 202
**What I Wish I Knew:
Peer Advisor Panel**

McDonough 207
**1L 101: Preparing for Your
First Class**

McDonough 203
**Balancing the Brain and Body:
A Wellness Guide to Prevent a
1L Crash Out**

McDonough 110
**Take a
Break!**

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Faculty Moot Reception, Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Lobby

Before boarding the buses to the Hilltop campus for the President's and Dean's Welcome and faculty moot court, enjoy a light reception with your classmates across sections.

5:30 p.m.

Travel to Faculty Moot Court

Join us at Gaston Hall on Georgetown's Historic Main Campus (37th & O St. NW). We'll travel to the main campus by bus. Please meet outside McDonough Hall (2nd St NW) to board buses at 5:30 p.m.. Early arrivals can participate in an optional tour of the Hilltop campus.

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

President's and Dean's Welcome, Gaston Hall (3rd Floor of Healy Hall, 37th & O Sts. NW)

Immediately before the faculty moot court, Georgetown Law's Dean, Elizabeth Magill and President Eduardo Peñalver, will welcome you to the university and the law school at the University's Hilltop campus, in the historic Georgetown neighborhood.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Faculty Moot Court, Gaston Hall (3rd Floor of Healy Hall, 37th & O Sts. NW)

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 fall.

Here are some other things to check out when you have some free time!

Immunization Clinic Student Health Center 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The MedStar Georgetown University Student Health Center will host immunization clinic days at the Law Center. Please call: 202-687-2200 to make an appointment. Ask for the Law Center Clinic.

Lockers and Parking St. Thomas More Chapel Corridor 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

New students can sign up for a locker and pick up a parking pass with our Capitol Campus Facilities team.

Campus Ministry Drop-in, McDonough 113 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Stop by McDonough Hall, Suite 113 to meet the team and to explore what Georgetown Law Campus Ministry has to offer for building community and finding deeper meaning and purpose during your law school journey. All are welcome!

On the Hour from the Tower: Campus Tours 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Peer Advisors will be on hand every hour to take you around your new Georgetown Law home. Meet a group at the clocktower on the :00 on the Eleanor Holmes Norton green to catch a tour.

Fitness Class: SHINE Dance Scott K. Ginsburg Sport & Fitness Center 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 8.21

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Introduction to the First-Year Classroom, McDonough 202 or McDonough 208

A faculty member teaching one of your section's Fall courses will teach the first hour of the course, then spend some time talking with you about why your professors teach what they do the way they do in the first year.

If you are registered for Civil Procedure with Professor Vladeck, your class will be held in McDonough 202. If you are registered for Civil Procedure with Professor Francois, your class will be held in McDonough 208.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Private Sector 101

Join advisors from the Office of Career Strategy (OCS) to learn about the landscape of private sector legal careers, including what private sector lawyers do, how they hire, and the recruiting timeline. You'll learn action steps you can take to increase your knowledge of the market and opportunities within these employers. While there are many jobs available to you in the private sector, the focus of this session is on the structure and recruiting practices of larger law firms.

Legal Practice Sections 50, 51, 42, and 43 - McDonough 207

Legal Practice Sections 40, 41, 44, and 54 - McDonough 206

Legal Practice Sections 52 and 53 - McDonough 205

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Public Sector 101 for Section 5, McDonough 206

Brought to you by the Office of Public Interest and Community Service (OPICS), Public Sector 101 will help students learn the fundamentals of what lawyering can look like in nonprofit, government, and other public interest settings - and how to explore those paths as a law student, whether you are interested in public interest now or further down the line. From discussing nuts and bolts like 1L summer recruiting timelines, to sharing tips on how to stay inspired and grounded amidst the rigors of 1L year, this session will equip new law students with information on what to expect and how to thrive.

Breakout Sessions

Beyond the Briefs: Respectful Dialogue as a Core Competency in Legal Practice

Chief Diversity Officer Anjali Bindra Patel and upperclass student leaders will discuss the significance of open-minded dialogue as a professional core competency and how law students can act as bridge builders across cultural, experiential, and ideological differences.

1L 101: Preparing for Your First Class

Director of Academic Success Lisa Curtis will discuss how to prepare for law school classes and offer some tips for continued academic success throughout the year, on topics ranging from case reading and briefing to class participation to organizing your busy Fall schedule.

Balancing the Brain and Body: A Wellness Guide to Prevent a 1L Crash Out

Join the Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) and Student Health Center (SHC) teams as we take a much-needed pause and provide you with an orientation to emotional and physical wellness as a law student. In this breakout session, CAPS will go over common stressors incoming 1L students may experience, particularly in their first semester, along with some strategies and resources to help thrive through this transition. Our goal is to give you a leg up on having a balanced experience in the midst of the demands and challenges of law school.

Practice Law/Practice Well: Lawyers in Balance

The Lawyers in Balance (LIB) program provides law students the opportunity to explore a variety of mindfulness practices that can help them successfully navigate law school, defuse stress, and develop as leaders and problem-solvers - in a small group setting cultivating a sense of community and connection with other students. During this orientation session, trained facilitators (Georgetown Law staff members) will lead students in a brief sample mindfulness practice and provide an introduction to the LIB program.

Take a Break!

Need a moment to relax and connect? Take a Break is your chance to step away from the formal sessions and get to know your peers in a laid-back, welcoming space. Join your Peer Advisors for fun icebreaker activities, casual conversation, and a chance to meet fellow new students. Whether you're outgoing or just warming up, this is a great way to build connections and feel at home.

What I Wish I Knew: Peer Advisor Panels

The Peer Advisors, a group of upperclass student mentors, will be on hand to give their best advice for 1L, reveal what they wish they knew before starting their first year at Georgetown Law, and answer your questions about the upcoming year and beyond!