

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 20, 2024: Optional Events***

#### **Faculty Talks**

A number of faculty will be giving informal talks on a variety of current legal topics on Tuesday, August 20. 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. 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.

#### **Service Projects:**

We've scheduled an opportunity to connect with the Georgetown and DC communities through volunteer service. Join our Office of Public Interest and Community Service (OPICS) at DC Central Kitchen to participate in a volunteer service project that helps combat hunger and poverty. Like City Tours, this opportunity is available on a first-come, first-enrolled basis with advance registration required and we will share registration instructions in our next email.

### ***Wednesday, August 21 - Friday, August 23, 2024: Required and Optional Events***

#### **Required Sessions:**

All students will be welcomed by Law Center faculty and deans on Wednesday, August 21, 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 2024 courses on Friday, August 23.

### **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 22 on Georgetown’s historic Hilltop Campus.

**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 JD 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 should have already received a Welcome email from your Peer Advisor. If you have not, please let us know by emailing [laworientation@georgetown.edu](mailto:laworientation@georgetown.edu). If you’re interested in getting to know our Peer Advisor team, 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.

The various required and optional activities will appear in the finalized Orientation schedule that we’ll share in early August, 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 9 at 5:00 pm EST. If we receive your request by then, we will do our best to accommodate your meal request.

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

**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 summer and throughout law school. By no means do you need or are you expected to do any advance reading or preparation for classes, but if you want to, check out a few of the suggested 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](mailto:lawdeanofstudents@georgetown.edu) or 202-662-9292 with any questions or concerns.

Warm wishes,

Mitch Bailin, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students  
Hannah Ward, Director of Student Life  
Lisa Curtis, Director of Academic Success  
Mary Ellen Vigeant, Director of Accessibility Services  
Chris Hall, Director of Residence Life and Student Programs

Suggested Resources:

***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 that maps a tried-and-true approach to thinking and writing in law school - on exams in particular, but for daily class preparation as well.

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