

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdYl0awy9p0>

Dear Rising 1Es,

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 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 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 (known as Section 7), 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 these highlights, so that you can start making plans for that week.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025: 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 20 between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. 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. Topics this year are likely to include immigration policy, representation of criminal defendants, and the use of AI in the legal profession.

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 and will require registration. You will receive instructions in our next email on how to sign up for any tours which require registration. Tours this year are likely to include a hike of the Anacostia Riverwalk, a Microsoft tour, and a Capitol Hill walking tour, as well as several others. Again, we understand that you may have work or other commitments, but wanted you to know that these are available, also on Tuesday between 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Service Project:

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 the Father McKenna Center to participate in a volunteer service project that helps combat food insecurity and homelessness.

Like our City Tours, this opportunity is available on a first-come, first-enrolled basis with advance registration required. We will share registration instructions in our next email.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 & Wednesday, August 20, 2025: Required Events

Starting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Section 7 will be welcomed by Law Center faculty and deans, as well as participate in your first law school class - Civil Procedure with Professor Jay Thomas. On Wednesday at 5:30 pm, your section will participate in several programs led by Law Center deans that are designed to help you thrive in the 1E courses.

Additional Optional Events & Opportunities

Faculty Moot Court: Always the highlight of the Orientation week, several of our distinguished professors, who collectively have argued and briefed dozens 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 21 on Georgetown’s historic Hilltop Campus, starting at 7:00p.

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 evening program students who are eager to connect with you. You should receive a welcome email from your Peer Advisor in the next two weeks. If you haven’t heard from your advisor by July 18, please let us know by emailing lawstudentlife@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 July 25 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, staff 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 this summer and visit the Office of Accessibility Services website: [How to Request Accommodations](#).

Need Housing for 2025-2026? The Gewirz Student Center is the on-campus apartment community for law students, just steps from all your classes and activities this coming year. The housing application remains open on the Admitted Students website and spaces are assigned when they are available. I'm delighted to report that we still have a few slots available for incoming first years. For more information regarding on- or off-campus housing, please visit:

[Housing | Georgetown Law](#).

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 advice: By no means are you expected to do any advance reading or preparation for classes. If you'd like, check out a few of the suggested resources at the end of this message, which Lisa notes as having been helpful to entering 1Es through the years. 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

Hannah Ward, Director of Student Life

Lisa Curtis, Director of Academic Success and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

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.