**ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF LAW**

**1L SURVIVAL GUIDE**

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**WEEK 1/INTRODUCTION:**

Welcome to St. John’s University School of Law, and **congratulations**! In your first week of law school, you may feel a mix of excitement, nervousness, and a little bit of fear. These feelings are perfectly normal. Law school is an entirely different environment than what you are used to, and this guide will attempt to help you make the most of your 1L year.

In your first week at St. John’s, you will be taking your Introduction to Law class. This class will ease you into law school life with case readings, written assignments, and an exam. You will learn how to brief a case, and many other practical skills that you will need to succeed in your first year of law school. Although this class is pass/fail, it is incredibly important, and you will get out of this class what you put in. The skills that you learn in your Introduction to Law course will help you throughout your 1L year and allow you to adjust your study techniques to the flow of law school.

Outside of the Introduction to Law course, use your first week to mingle with other students (both in your section and other 1Ls outside of your section). You will meet great friends in law school, make solid study-groups, and create a network that will last in the years to come after graduation.

Further, take some time to explore the school. Locate your classrooms before classes start and get acclimated to your new environment. Find places in the library that work for your study habits and meet the Law Library team! They are great connections to have.

Finally, enjoy your first week!

**PREPARING YOUR LOVED ONES:**

There is a lot to be said about preparing your friends, family, children, and significant others for the trials that you will face in law school. Prior to the start of law school, or at the beginning of your 1L year, it may be helpful to brief your loved ones about the journey you are about to take.

First and foremost, your loved ones will be a good support system to have when embarking on your law school journey. However, you will not have the same time as you may have had in the past to spend with them. It is a good idea to discuss with your loved ones how law school will fit into your priorities. Here are some ways that you can do this:[[1]](#footnote-2)

Significant Others:

* Explain that law school is a rigorous program of study, where each day you will be expected to think and act in a professional manner.
* Share your calendar; make time where possible to spend with your loved ones.
* With a significant other, it may be smart to discuss tasks such as how cleaning, cooking, laundry, and bill paying will get accomplished.
* Give your spouse or significant other a sense of the rhythm of the semester; help them understand what to expect each month.
* Protect blocks of time at the end of the semester for exam study.

### Children:

* Decide how children and law schools fit in your set of priorities.
* Show children around the law school campus.
* To the extent they are able to understand what you are taking on, explain to them what law school is and what it will require of you and them.
* Regularly protect time to spend with the children and away from your books.
* If their age and maturity permit, use household tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, and laundry as opportunities to work and talk together.
* Develop playgroups and/or a network of other parents with children to help you cover times when you need to study.
* Complete any regular medical/dental exams before the start of the school year.
* During the first few days of class, obtain the contact information for at least one student in each of your classes in the event you have to miss a class to take care of a sick child or other emergency.
* Mothers-in-Law and PALS is a student organization dedicated to students with children and/or caretaking responsibilities. Becoming a part of this organization could be a great resource and support system among other students in your position. For more information on student organizations, visit our section on student organizations/extracurriculars (see infra).

### Parents

* Make certain your parents understand how they and law school fit in your system of priorities.
* Discuss the obligations that law school will place on your schedule; help them to see that not only is law school a rigorous intellectual challenge, but it is also a professional school, where you will be expected to think and act in a professional manner.
* Prior to the start of the school year, discuss any financial expectations you have of your parents or that they may have of you.
* Let your parents know how they can help you; give them specific jobs, such as cooking for you once a week if they are local or planning a weekend when they can visit you and spoil you if they are not.
* Prior to the start of exams, let your parents know that you will need protected blocks of time to study and that you may not be available to respond to their every call or e-mail.

Friends:

* Brief your friends on your class and study schedule.
* Let them know that you may be less available than you have in the past, so that they can adjust their expectations accordingly.
* Set boundaries up front, so that future canceled plans or lack of responses don’t create a divide, or cause feelings to be hurt.
* Understand that pre-law school friends may not understand the nature of law school, and that is O-K.

**BRIEFING A CASE**

As previously stated, you will learn how to brief a case in your Introduction to Law course. However, at the end of the day, your case briefs are a study tool to help you learn. Case briefs are the final product that come from reading a case, rereading it, taking it apart, and putting it back together again. Briefs allow students to take a large amount of information and encapsulate it in a readily understandable way; they are also a great “cheat sheet” for class participation and cold-calling. One standard way to brief is:[[2]](#footnote-3)[[3]](#footnote-4)

**Title and citation:** The title of the case shows who is opposing whom. The name of the person who initiated legal action in that particular court will always appear first. Since the losers often appeal to a higher court, this can get confusing, so it is important to understand who is bringing the case to the court whose opinion you are reading. The citation tells how to locate the reporter of the case in the appropriate case reporter.

**Facts**: In this section you will give the name of the case and its parties, what happened factually, and the judgment. It is recommended that you keep the facts section short and memorable, for easy studying and class participation.

**Procedure**: In this section, you will give the procedural posture of the case. In other words, it is the disposition of the case in the lower court(s) that explains how the case got to the court whose opinion you are reading. You should describe what procedural steps led to the particular issue (in a trial court) or what happened in the court below (in an appellate court).

**Issue**: The issue of the case is: what is in dispute? Further, what are the issues or questions of law raised by the facts peculiar to the case? (These are often stated explicitly by the court.)

**Rule**: This is the rule of law that the court applies to determine the substantive rights of the parties. The rule of law could derive from a statute, case rule, regulation, or may be a synthesis of prior holdings in similar cases (common law). The rule or legal principle may be expressly stated in the opinion, or it may be implied.

**Holding**: The court’s answer to a question presented to it for answer by the parties involved or raised by the court itself in its own reading of the case.

**Reasoning**: The reasoning, or rationale, is the chain of argument which led the judges in either a majority or a dissenting opinion to rule as they did. This should be outlined point by point in numbered sentences or paragraphs.

**Dissent(s)/Concurrence(s):** A concurring opinion is a written opinion by one or more judges of a court which agrees with the decision made by the majority, but states different reasons as the basis for their decision. A dissenting opinion is an opinion written by one or more judges expressing disagreement with the majority opinion of the court which gives rise to its judgment. These are not controlling case law but are beneficial as persuasive law.

**OFFICE HOURS**

While it is important that you participate in class by asking relevant questions, briefing cases, and discussing the material, it is equally as important that you attend your professor’s office hours.

Office hours are a great way to get individualized help from your professors. Attending office hours shows that you are motivated and want to do well in the course. Also, there may be times that you don’t understand something that you read in a case or learned in class. Using your professors’ office hours to clarify any questions that you may have will only help you by the time finals season rolls around.

You will also have Teaching Assistants in all of your classes. Your TAs are upper-level students that have performed well in that specific class. They know the expectations of the professor, they have taken the final, and they are a great outlet for questions or help within the course. Attending your TA’s office hours will help you to get a firm grasp on the course and what is expected of you. Your TAs are also a great network to maintain.

**COLD CALLING**

A ‘Cold Call’ is a tool used by professors who subscribe to the ‘Socratic Method.’ Cold calling is where a professor will randomly call on a student to answer questions about the assigned reading. Professors may ask a student to brief a case, ask questions, follow up, change the facts, and push back on students to enhance the class’s understanding of the material. Not all professors use cold calling as a tool in their classroom. Additionally, some professors use a group or panel method, so you know the days you are expected to be on call.

Your first law school cold call will undoubtedly be a little scary, but it is nothing that you can’t handle. In order to survive your cold calls, it is important that you have read and understood (as best as you can) the reading that was assigned to you. Having clear and concise case briefs is immensely helpful when it comes to cold calling. It is also a good idea to re-read your case briefs before class to refresh your memory.

If you want to stand out in your cold calls, supplemental research is a great idea (i.e., any background on the court, the parties, the judge, if the case had some unusual facts, etc.) Many times, your professor will ask you about words that appear in a case that many people wouldn’t know the meaning of off the top of their head. It is *crucial* that if you do not understand a word in your reading, **look it up!**[[4]](#footnote-5)

It is also important to remember that cold calls will likely not have a bearing on your grade unless you show that you did not read the material. It is a participation tool that is designed to help you understand the legal concepts you are learning, as well as get experience in thinking on your feet. If you mess up on a cold call, don’t worry! No one can get a cold call perfect every single time, and the professors are not there to shame you, and they are certainly not out to get you.

Finally, remember that you are in law school for a reason. If you ever find yourself feeling that your peers are rocking their cold calls while you are falling a little behind, this is normal. Remind yourself that everyone is nervous when they take a cold call their 1L year. There is no “winning” at cold calls, and if you have to tell your professor “I don’t know,” this is *absolutely fine.*

Now, when that cold call comes, *stay calm*, take deep breaths, and remember that no matter what, everything will be okay.

**OUTLINING:**

Outlining is a framework of the laws and principles that you learn throughout the semester. By outlining, you are forced to synthesize the information that you have learned, see how everything fits together, and form your own process for understanding and applying the rule.

One important thing to remember about outlining is that it is a study process just as much as it is a study tool. Through the process of creating your *own* outline, you are actively studying. You will have access to others’ outlines, through TWEN and the Student Bar Association Outline Bank, or just from upper class connections. However, creating your own outlines will help you during finals season.

When it comes to outlining, it is important to start early. It is a long process, and there is a lot of information to capture. You should have the bones of your outline by the time October rolls around. Your 1L professors will usually have a timeline for you to begin outlining (usually after you finish your first big topic of material). Don’t leave outlining until Thanksgiving break; you will find yourself falling behind in preparation if you do so. Further, many students find that creating a schedule for outlining prevents them from getting behind in any particular course or waiting until the last minute to put together their outlines. For example: **October 1-5 Civil Procedure → outline Jurisdiction** (this is just an example and not reflective of civil procedure topics and time).

To create an outline, at first you may find it helpful to incorporate *all* of the materials that you have learned. However, as finals season approaches, you will likely want to cut your outline down to the most important materials for more focused study. This is especially true if your exam is closed book and you have to memorize a lot of information. A good method for starting to outline is to use the Table of Contents within your course books. These will have titles and sections that you can put in your outline as a start. Another option is to use the course syllabus as the bones of your outline and fill in the material as you go.

If your professors allow open-book exams,[[5]](#footnote-6) you will likely want an ‘attack outline.’ This is a short, hyper-focused outline that you can easily navigate during exam time. Exams fall anywhere from 2-4 hours. This may seem like a long time, but you will not have the time to flip through a 100-page outline.

Finally, you should be constantly reviewing and revising your outline. This will ensure that you have a solid understanding of both the material and your outline’s set-up.

**TIME MANAGEMENT:**

Time management is a huge factor in law school success. It is important to allow yourself ample study time, but also time to decompress. Some law students find it helpful to schedule one weekend day to not think about law school or do any work. Taking time for yourself will help prevent burnout. In your weekly life, try to allocate at least 30 minutes – 1 hour of time daily for you to do something you enjoy, such as: cooking, sharing a meal, exercise, speaking with friends and family, etc. As finals approach, you may be forced to shorten the time you have to yourself, but you *can* find little sections of relaxation time throughout the day. You may find it helpful to do: 15-minute meditations, quick stretches, self-care, or whatever you can do to take the stress out of your mind for a few minutes.

Outside of decompression time, you should try to create a rough outline of what your weekly schedule will look like. You should plan times that you will allocate to reading, studying, and outlining. You may choose to work on specific classes on certain days of the week or carve out a few hours each evening to do general readings/study. In either case, you should always have an idea of where you are in your readings and outlining. A general guideline is to plan for approximately 2 to 3 hours worth of class preparation per credit (i.e., a 2 credit class would equate to about 4 to 6 hours of preparation). This is, of course, an average, and will vary depending on your work style and your personal class load. However, it is important to keep in mind when beginning to schedule your time.

Time management is a skill that takes time to develop. Over the course of your 1L year, you will fall into habits and improve your time management skills. Every student will have different ways of allocating their time. To avoid external stressors and pressure, try to find what works best for you and your schedule. You’ve got this!

**STUDY TIPS FOR FINALS:**

* Start early and study material in smaller, manageable chunks, such as by topic (cramming will not work).
* Be sure to utilize the Law Library’s exam archive,[[6]](#footnote-7) as well as any old exams your professors may give you, to test your knowledge. The West Academic Study Aids Collection (free through St. John’s Law), is another great way to practice for exams, especially their multiple choice books.[[7]](#footnote-8) One good method is to do a practice exam, under exam conditions (i.e., closed-book, open-book, as well as any time limits), and then exchange your completed exam with a friend/study group member (or even your professor or TA during office hours) to compare answers.
  + If your exam is open book, taking practice exams with your outline is a great way to gauge your progress (as well as familiarizing yourself with your outline’s layout).
* Take advantage of having TAs. Normally, they were former students of your professor or at the very least took the class and received a good grade. You can ask them as many questions as you like, and they usually have great tips for excelling on exams for your specific professor. Additionally, sometimes it is easier to talk to someone your age who you can relate to.
* If commuting, be sure to arrive at school with plenty of time to spare the day of an exam. This will allow you to do some last-minute reviewing, settle into your exam room, and mentally prepare for the exam.
* You will take your exams on your laptop using Examsoft. The night before the exam, make sure your laptop is completely charged, since it is not guaranteed that you will get a seat near an outlet in the exam room.
* Try to make a study schedule for finals. This way, you can ensure that you block out time to sufficiently cover each course.
* **Go to review sessions.** Even if you do not have any questions, hearing the questions that other students have will jog your memory and might remind you of a topic that you have completely forgotten about.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

**Always remember** that it is both perfectly normal, and okay, to ask for help when you feel overwhelmed. Law school is challenging, and you are not the only person at St. John’s Law who is struggling. During your first year, utilize your support system as much as you feel comfortable. Your family, friends, significant others, law school peers, and professors want to help you.

Further, take advantage of mental health awareness events that St. John’s hosts throughout the semester. Past events include making bouquets of flowers, a trail mix bar, succulents, sensory activities, and group meditations. The Law School’s in-house counselor, Tanya Weekes, LMSW, is a great resource for individual and group support as well.[[8]](#footnote-9)

Here are some general tips to avoid negative feelings in law school:

* **Imposter Syndrome, and How to Combat It:**
  + What is imposter syndrome?
    - Imposter syndrome is “feeling undeserving, doubting your accomplishments, and thinking you are a fraud.” Imposter syndrome is quite common in law school.[[9]](#footnote-10)
  + How to fight imposter syndrome:[[10]](#footnote-11)
    - Stop comparing yourself to others. Everyone learns at a different rate, so do what is best for you.
    - **You belong.** If you did not belong in law school, you would not have been accepted to St. John’s.
  + Other ways to fight imposter syndrome:[[11]](#footnote-12)
    - Find places to express your feelings.
      * Sharing your feelings with others can be cathartic and uplifting.
    - Lean on your support system.
    - Know your strengths and be open to learning from others.
      * Although everyone learns differently, one of your classmates may be doing something different that works for you.
* Sleep is **extremely** important (*especially* during finals season).
  + A good night’s sleep can help with learning new material, and, more importantly, *retaining* that material for the exam.[[12]](#footnote-13)
  + Getting the right amount of sleep will also help your immune system function properly, preventing you from missing classes due to illness.[[13]](#footnote-14)
* **Exercise.** It is a great study break, helps clear your mind, releases any pent-up energy/stress, keeps you healthy and in shape, and can even help with mental health.[[14]](#footnote-15)
* Make sure that you are eating properly. Your brain needs fuel in order to function at its highest capacity. Eating properly can also help your mood and how you feel.[[15]](#footnote-16)

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:**

Joining student organizations is a great way to meet new people, network, and add to your resumé. You can find a comprehensive list of the St. John’s Law student groups here: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/student-groups>.

For your first year, you may want to find one or two groups that you would like to join. Joining too many organizations right off the bat may overwhelm you, but it is entirely up to you how many you feel you can handle. Each student organization will have its own meetings schedule, executive board, and activities. A great way to get involved in student organizations is to attend the “Fall Fest,” presented by the Student Bar Association. At Fall Fest, students will have the opportunity to hear from different student organizations and sign up for membership/email lists. Additionally, most organizations will seek “1L representatives,” who act as representatives to advertise the organization to their sections.

Joining student organizations and participating in extracurricular groups such as journals, PTAI, DRS, Moot Court, and more, is a great way to meet friends and broaden your abilities (see infra).

**NETWORKING:**

Throughout your 1L year, it is extremely important that you build your network. Building your network will help you in the future in terms of finding a job, securing recommendations, or simply having connections in the field. St. John’s Law offers many opportunities for students to network.

The law school hosts events throughout the year that professionals in the field will attend (i.e., judges, alumni, big-law lawyers, etc.). It is important that you try to attend these events, as they are great opportunities to expand your network. Also, keep an eye out for any other networking opportunities, such as: mock interviews, career fairs, student organization events, and more. Take advantage of every opportunity presented to you, as you never know when it may assist you in the future. For example, many students have kept in regular contact with their mock-interviewers, some of which have even helped them to find jobs for their 2L year. Finally, make connections with your professors where possible. Many times, your professors have practiced law and they will have sound advice on anything career-related.

Not only is expanding your professional network significant, but expanding your internal network at St. John’s Law is equally as important. Upperclassmen are great resources because they have a bit more experience, but were in your shoes not long before you. Becoming involved in student organizations will introduce you to upperclassmen, perhaps even in your area of interest, that can offer advice or recommendations based on their recent experience. Many student organizations have mentorship programs that will connect you with an upperclassman as well. The legal community is smaller than you think, and it is extremely likely you will become colleagues with or cross paths with your current classmates in the working world. The relationships you build now will follow you in the future, and you never know what opportunities those connections may bring.

Outside of St. John’s hosted events, take the time during your 1L year to perfect your LinkedIn page. LinkedIn is a great platform to connect with lawyers and peers and to expand your network.

**1L SUMMER INTERNSHIPS:**

During your 1L year, another aspect you will be thinking about is securing an internship for the upcoming summer. Here are some tips to make your search as smooth as possible:

* **Build your resume.** Although it is a little tough to build your resume early on in your 1L year, focus on your strengths, while being conscious of what employers are looking for. Many employers like to see that students have built solid skills in legal research and legal writing. As a result, it is important to try your best in your legal writing classes. If you get a grade that you are disappointed with, this is okay too. Talk with your legal writing professor about areas that you can improve on, and edit your papers after grades come out. These small tasks will be a talking point in interviews, so that you can show initiative and a desire to grow as a legal writer/researcher.
* **Keep in contact with your career counselor.** They are employed by St. John’s for a reason, and they can be an invaluable resource for securing an internship. Be sure to update them periodically throughout the internship – and later on, job – search.
* **Use your professors.** Your professors may have colleagues/friends in the field who are looking for interns or who may know someone who is looking for interns. Some professors may also be looking for summer research assistants.
* **Frequently check Symplicity.**[[16]](#footnote-17) Symplicity is the Law School’s job and internship posting site.
* **Practice, practice, practice.** Do as many mock interviews with Career Development as you can.[[17]](#footnote-18) Mock interviews will help you learn how to better market yourself to an employer, as well as identify little things that you do subconsciously that you should avoid (i.e., fidgeting, eye contact, posture, saying “um,” speaking too quickly, etc.).[[18]](#footnote-19) It is better that you make your mistakes during a mock interview than during an interview that counts.
* **Think outside the formal Law School network for connections.** Maybe you have a family friend or neighbor who works at a law firm/office that is looking for a summer intern. The field of law is all about connections.
* **Put your best foot forward.** Even if your first internship is not in the area you hoped for, you must still put your best foot forward. Because the field of law is all about connections, you don’t want to prematurely burn any bridges. Nevertheless, you will gain invaluable experience (and future references) during your summer internship.

For more information on 1L summer internships, see our student testimonials located at the end of the guide.

**PTAI**

Trial advocacy refers to representing clients in legal proceedings, particularly during litigation and trial. It is the practice of orally advocating a case in front of a jury or judge on behalf of a client. Trial advocacy differs from Moot Court, which uses an appellate style of advocacy.

The Frank S. Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute (“PTAI”) is the Law School’s trial advocacy/mock trial program. Throughout the academic year, students participate in national and regional competitions around the country.[[19]](#footnote-20) If you want to work in litigation in the future, PTAI is great practice for real-world experience.

In the beginning of your second semester of your 1L year, PTAI will hold its annual 1L competition. You can sign up for this competition with a group of four 1L students (or get randomly paired up). Participating in this competition is a great way to decide whether you want to try out for PTAI or pursue litigation. For this competition, you will take on the role of either the defense or prosecution and embody the mind of witnesses on the stand. You will have a complex fact pattern that will guide you through the trial and provide all of the information that you will need as the defense, the prosecution, or the witnesses.

How to Join PTAI

* PTAI will host tryouts during the summer following your 1L year. The tryouts will be after the writing competition (generally in early June).
* To try out, you will have to give an opening statement (about five minutes) and cross-examination (also around five minutes) of a witness from a fact pattern that will be provided to you. You can choose whether you want to represent the People or the Defendant during tryouts.
* You **do not** have to do the 1L competition to join PTAI*.* Although whether or not you participate has no bearing on potential PTAI membership, the competition is a lot of fun (do your best Joe Pesci impression from *My Cousin Vinny*), a good way to interact with students from other sections, and a great way to connect with current PTAI members, who will be your coaches and a great resource.

How Do I Find Out If I Made PTAI?

* A few weeks after tryouts, the E-Board will reach out regarding their decision.
* If you make PTAI, you will be required to enroll in a trial advocacy course (which will fulfill your applied skills requirement for graduation), either in the fall or during the fall pre-session, which runs during the last weeks of summer on an intensive schedule, similar to how your Intro to Law class operates.[[20]](#footnote-21)

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION SOCIETY**

The Dispute Resolution Society (“DRS”) is the student division of The Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution. Formed in 2007, DRS seeks to meet the demand for practical education in the constantly developing field of alternative dispute resolution (i.e., ways that lawyers help resolve disputes other than litigation in the courts). DRS specializes in negotiation, mediation, and arbitration through events, seminars, intra-school competitions held at St. John's, and external competitions locally, nationally, and internationally.[[21]](#footnote-22)

DRS hosts several competitions throughout the year, including one specifically designed for 1L’s in the spring, as well as one that allows 2L’s and 3L’s to participate. In the spring, 1L students are invited to apply to be a member of DRS to compete internally and externally the following year.[[22]](#footnote-23) Even if you are unsure if you want to join DRS, the 1L competition is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and step out of your comfort zone.

How to join DRS

* DRS will advertise their application period during the spring semester. The application usually requires a written statement of interest and an interview.
* You **do not** have to do the 1L competition to join DRS. However, it will be a great introduction to what being in DRS is like.

**MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY**

Moot court is another term for simulated appellate advocacy. Appellate advocacy is the practice of representing a client's case before an appellate court, which has the power to review the decision of a lower court and affirm or reverse the decision of the lower court.

The Moot Court Honor Society is the Law School’s only co-curricular appellate advocacy honors program. Members sharpen their written and oral advocacy skills, argue cutting-edge legal issues, and compete in a range of internal and external competitions. Students participating in the Moot Court Honor Society regularly engage with top legal professionals, including celebrated St. John's alumni and state and federal judges. They also build relationships with future colleagues and mentors.[[23]](#footnote-24)

How to Join Moot Court:

* Membership in Moot Court is determined through three criteria:
  + Your oral argument performance in the Beauchamp Ciparick Competition, held in August (materials provided through Moot Court’s TWEN page),
  + Your Legal Writing II grade, and
  + Your overall 1L GPA.[[24]](#footnote-25)

**JOURNALS**

Law school journals are student organizations that publish periodicals of legal scholarship. Students select and edit the articles and case comments that they publish under the mentorship of one or more faculty advisors. Students on some journals also research and write their own academic paper on a novel legal topic, called a "note." Some student notes are chosen for publication in the journal.

Introduction to Journals

* St. John’s has six journals:
  + St. John’s Law Review,
  + American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review (“ABI”),
  + Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development (“JCRED”),
  + New York Real Property Law Journal (“NYRPLJ”),
  + New York International Law Review (“NYILR”), and the
  + Commercial Division Online Law Report (“CDOLR”).[[25]](#footnote-26)
* Journal membership is a great way to hone your legal writing and research skills and might even satisfy your scholarly writing requirement.
* Journal membership also looks *great* on a resume and is another excellent avenue to grow your professional network through various symposia, alumni panels, and other similar academic/professional events. Journals will also hold fun social events for members throughout the year, including going to see a Mets game at Citi Field, going to the Garden to watch a St. John’s basketball game, trivia nights, and the annual inter-journal kickball tournament.

How Do I Become a Journal Member?

* Tryouts for the journals will take place through the 1L Writing Competition, which will occur after the conclusion of your 1L year (usually the week after spring semester finals).
  + In order to be eligible for the Writing Competition, you will be required to attend an informational session during the spring semester.
* For the Writing Competition, you will have one week to write a case comment, complete a short, open-book Bluebook Exam, which will test your proficiency in citations for legal writing, as well as write a Voluntary Information Statement (“VIF”), which gives you the chance to tell the journal’s editorial board something about yourself that you think is important (i.e., first-generation law student, first-generation American, parent of a small child, etc.).
* All six journals use the same prompt, so you do not have to write a separate comment for each journal. This is a good thing, as it increases your chances of making a journal. That being said, try out for **all** of the journals, even ones in which you might not have any interest.
  + The case comment will ask you to discuss a recent court decision (the “lead case”). Basically, you will write about whether or not you agree with the outcome and/or reasoning of the court in the lead case and why.
  + **Your comment will fall into one of four approaches:**
    - Disagree with result and rationale,
    - Disagree with result, but agree with, limit, or expand rationale,
    - Agree with result, but disagree with rationale, or
    - Agree with result, but limit or expand rationale
  + You will not need to do – and are **forbidden** from doing – *any* outside research for the Writing Competition. Doing outside research is grounds for disqualification from the competition and may involve initiating academic dishonesty proceedings. Everything you need to write your comment will be provided in the competition packet.
* **If you do not participate in the 1L Writing Competition, you cannot try out for a journal later.** It is better to try out for a journal and not make one than to not try out and never know if you could have made a journal. No one *wants* to write an academic paper right after finals, however, everyone that is a current staff member on a journal *did.* Think of the writing competition as an extension of your finals.
* **Do not wait until the last minute to write your case comment.** You will need at least two days to edit your comment before submission, so time management is crucial. In addition, waiting until the last minute to submit your comment puts you at risk of unforeseen computer problems (which is why it’s a good idea to back up your case comment on a flash drive and/or on Google Drive) interfering with your submission. A good way to block out a schedule for writing your case comment is (this is a rough schedule, and is not indicative of what your Writing Competition schedule will look like):
  + Spend two days reading (and taking notes on) the cases and materials in the competition packet.
    - It is helpful to make a chart for the cases and materials (a separate chart for cases and non-case materials may be helpful) in the packet listing the:
      * Name of the case/material
      * Citation
      * Court (if applicable)
      * Year
      * Holding(s) (note which page the holding is located; this makes it easier when you start writing your comment)
      * Outcome
      * Reasoning (note which page each point of the reasoning is located)
      * Relation to the lead case
  + Spend three days writing the comment and endnotes.
  + Spend two days proofreading and editing before submission.
* **Read all of the instructions in the competition packet thoroughly.** Among other things, the Writing Competition tests your ability to follow instructions, so do not jeopardize your potential journal membership by overlooking the instructions.[[26]](#footnote-27)
* Remember, just like everything else in law school, the Writing Competition is a marathon, not a sprint, so *relax*, pace yourself, and put your best foot forward. You’ve got this!

How Do I Find Out If I Made a Journal?

* After the competition, you will be contacted by phone from a member of the journal’s editorial staff, who will extend you an offer. The offer will also likely be memorialized in an email, which will contain further instructions on how to accept the offer, including any deadlines.
* If you do not make a journal, it is not the end of the world. There are many other organizations at St. John’s for you to join.

**CLASS REGISTRATION:**

As a 1L, unless you are a part-time student, you will not choose your 1L courses. Starting in your 2L year, registering for classes will generally take place during the break between semesters (i.e., during Winter Break for the Spring Semester, early spring for the Summer Semester, and during Summer Break for the Fall Semester). About two weeks before registration opens, the class schedules for the upcoming semester are released to the online student center,[[27]](#footnote-28) so begin planning your schedule at this point. In order to register, you will first need to log onto UIS to get your Priority Registration Number (hereinafter, “PRN”), which allows you to log in to register for classes.[[28]](#footnote-29) Before registering, you should also make sure that you do not have any holds (financial or otherwise) that would prevent you from registering.[[29]](#footnote-30) In addition, take stock of which core electives, as well as any other graduation requirements, you plan on fulfilling that semester.[[30]](#footnote-31) Keep in mind that for a full-time student you need to be taking a minimum of 12, but no more than 16, credits per semester (this includes pre-session courses).[[31]](#footnote-32) If you have any questions/concerns, reach out to your career counselor. That’s what they’re there for!

**General Tips:**

* Coursicle is a great tool to use when building your schedule, as it helps you visualize your schedule, as well as how many credits that schedule would involve.[[32]](#footnote-33)
* You can run a personalized Degree Works Advisement report to review any degree requirements you have not yet met via the <https://signon.stjohns.edu> portal.
* Make a few schedules, ranked by order of preference, since some classes may fill up and you’ll need a plan B. When you get to registering for 3L classes, getting into the class that you want should no longer be an issue.
* Make a Word document with your PRN, as well as the course registration numbers (hereinafter, “CRNs”) for each course you plan on taking. This will allow you to quickly copy and paste the CRNs when registering.
* **Be ready to register the second that registration opens (usually at 7:00 A.M.)** (perhaps even at least 10 minutes before registration opens). This maximizes your chances of getting the schedule you want, as classes can fill up extremely quickly.
* If you are not on a journal that requires writing a note, take a paper course to fulfill your scholarly writing requirement. Having concrete deadlines provides excellent motivation to get your paper done. Most paper courses also involve giving and receiving peer review for your work.
* Don’t give up if you get put on a waitlist for a class. Most of the time, people do get into classes off the waitlist. Be sure to frequently check your email during your time on the waitlist, since you will only have 24 hours to claim your spot off the waitlist when and if a seat in that class opens.

**CLINICS:**

Clinics are like small not-for-profit law firms operating inside or in partnership with the law school. Students perform legal work for real clients in a particular field of law under the close supervision of a professor who is a practitioner in that field. Clinics are graded classes for academic credit, and students must apply to enroll.

Clinic participation is a great way to build practical skills doing real legal work for New Yorkers in need. St. John’s Law has 10 in house and partner clinics:

* Bankruptcy Advocacy Clinic
* Child Advocacy Clinic
* Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic
* Domestic Violence Litigation Clinic
* Economic Justice Clinic
* Prosecution Clinic
* Refugee and Immigrant Rights Litigation Clinic
* Securities Arbitration Clinic
* Tenants’ Rights Advocacy Clinic

*To learn more about these clinics individually, see here:* <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/clinics>.

**STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS:**

**Public Interest Fellowships** may be awarded to qualified first or second year law students for full time summer positions with non-profit organizations representing traditionally underrepresented clients, groups, or interests.[[33]](#footnote-34) For more information, see: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/centers-institutes/public-interest-center>

St. John’s has:

* Public Interest Fellowship
* Pro Bono Service Project

*St. John’s University School of Law also offers student fellowship opportunities through its academic centers:*

**The** **Center for International and Comparative Law** offers the opportunity for a student fellowship to rising 2L and 3L students who have a demonstrated interest in international and comparative law. Student fellows work closely with professors on research projects and have the opportunity to be published. They lead teams of students on Pro Bono for International Justice projects. They also assist in preparing Center events, such as the Global Issues Series and the annual symposia.

**The Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy** also has a fellowship program. For more information, see: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/about/places/center-international-and-comparative-law>.

**The Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law** offers a fellowship program to SJU students. The Mattone Institute offers an outstanding educational and pre-professional experience for selected St. John's Law students ("*Real Estate Fellows*") who have a strong interest in real estate law, including real estate development, finance, and investment. The Real Estate Fellowship Program is comprised of 2Ls and 3Ls. Students apply for the Real Estate Fellowship Program either in the summer as a rising 2L or 3L or during the winter of their 2L year. Students are admitted to the program based on a competitive application process. For more information about the application process, see: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/about/places/mattone-family-institute-real-estate-law>.

**EXTERNSHIPS:**

An externship is an unpaid internship for which a student receives course credit where the student is supervised by a licensed attorney. In addition to gaining valuable work experience at a placement, you will also take a contemporaneous seminar that will help develop your lawyering skills. During the summer, externships are three credits (two pass/fail credits for the placement and one graded credit for the seminar) and require 168 hours at the placement. During the fall and spring, externships are four credits (two pass/fail credits for the placement and two credits for the seminar) and require 140 hours at the placement. The seminar meets once per week. For students who have completed the regular externship, an advanced seminar is available.[[34]](#footnote-35)

How to apply:

Pre-approved externship placements are listed on Symplicity under Career Opportunities. The deadline for most Summer placements is February; for the Fall, it is June; and for the Spring it is October. However, deadlines vary by employer. Some placements require only a resume, while others ask for a cover letter and other documents. Consult with your Career Development Office Counselor for advice on externships. Some placements are more competitive than others, and you should not apply for an externship that does not match up with your long-term career goals. Check Symplicity frequently for new externship placements.

You can also apply for internships on your own and, if you receive an offer, request that the placement be approved for course credit. Not all internships will qualify. The placement must provide the student with a substantial lawyering experience. Jobs in which you receive compensation are **not** eligible for course credit. Also, you can extern at a placement only once (with limited exceptions).

After you apply, you may be granted an interview, and then an offer. Most placements will give you some time to think about whether you want to accept an offer. However, for federal judicial internships and externships: “to apply is to accept.” If you receive an offer to extern for a judge, you must accept the offer immediately. The final step is to register for the Externship Seminar. To register, you must have secured a placement or be in the process of securing a placement. Registration for the Externship Seminar is done online during the class registration period. Once registered, complete the Externship Placement Registration Form (available on the Online Student Center). Your Placement Registration Form will contain the name of the employer, the semester for which you are applying (fall, spring, or summer) and the name of and contact information for your mentor attorney.

For more information, see: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/externships>.

**ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWING (OCI)**

What is OCI?

* On Campus Interviewing (“OCI”) is the process where law firms and legal employers visit law schools during the fall semester to interview students for summer positions. Usually, this happens during your second year.
* Generally, students who perform well in these summer positions may be extended an offer of permanent employment for after graduation.
* Due to the pandemic, employers have recently opted for a virtual interviewing process.

Preparing for OCI

* **Build your resume**. Starting to build your resume early is key to securing interviews from employers. Grades are a big factor in summer employment, so try to do as well as possible in your first-year courses. However, grades are not the only thing employers look for. Extracurriculars are also important, and they are a good indication of a well-rounded student. For example, participating in 1L competitions or becoming 1L representatives for your respective clubs are all great ways to get involved and show leadership.
* **Talk to your career counselor**. Your assigned career counselor is there for a reason, and they want to help you in any way they can. Do not be afraid to email them or schedule a meeting with them to help you through the process or ask any questions. Before OCI, it is a good idea to send your resume and cover letter to your career counselor to ensure everything is ready.
* **Be sure your resume is updated and accurate**. It is important to put everything on your resume, and everything must be accurate. It is important to make sure your resume is well formatted and free of any spelling or grammatical errors. Additionally, employers want to see your current GPA and class rank. Your career counselor can help with this.
* B**e sure your cover letters are personalized and free of errors.** During the OCI process, you will be writing a lot of different cover letters. Your legal writing course will teach you how to write an effective cover letter. It is important to make sure that each cover letter is updated and personalized for each employer. It is also crucial that each employer is correctly spelled in the cover letter. Your career counselor can help with this as well.
* **Research the employers participating**. It is easy to want to apply to every employer through OCI, but it is important to do your research on each employer and make sure they would be the right fit for you. Significant factors to look at are location, practice areas, and size. Good places to do research are their website, LinkedIn, and current employees.
* **Practice, practice, practice!** After you have collected all of your documents and decided which employers you are interested in, the last thing to do is practice. Career services offers mock interviews multiple times throughout the year, as well as one right before OCI, as well as any non-OCI interview, begins.

The OCI Process

* Leading up to the commencement of interviews, employers will work with career services to post their job announcements online. These announcements usually have specific requirements for their firms, such as GPA and class rank minimums.
* After all of the employers are confirmed, there will be a designated time period where students can “bid” on the employers they want to apply to by uploading their application documents, which could include your resume, cover letter, writing sample, and/or transcript.
* After the bidding period is over, employers will decide whether or not they would like to extend you an interview. Employers will either grant you an interview, deny you an interview, or give you an alternate slot, where they will contact you if there is an opening for an interview during the OCI process.
* After initial interviews are conducted, employers will usually take up to 48 hours to contact you if they would like to move forward with your application. The second round of interviews are called “callbacks.” Employers will usually make their decision to extend an offer or not after your callback.
* Employers are known for being very quick in making their decisions after your interview, sometimes even the same day. Because of this, it is important to send a thank you email to your interviewer(s) shortly after your initial and callback interviews.
* OCI can feel like a long and intimidating process. It is okay to ask for help and to talk about the process with your career counselor, professors, and friends. And remember, it is **okay** if you do not get an offer out of OCI, and it does **not** mean you will not get a summer job. OCI is not the end all be all. This is only one opportunity, and career services are constantly posting new jobs.

For more information on OCI, see our student testimonials located at the end of the guide.

**GENERAL TIPS**

* Use your career counselor as much as possible, they are there to help you market yourself as a candidate.
* The Starbucks in the Law School Cafeteria does not accept Starbucks cards/Starbucks gift cards.
* Generally speaking, the second and third floors of the library are silent study areas that make for quiet concentration. You can also book study rooms using your X ID on the Rittenberg Law Library website (<https://law-stjohns.libcal.com/allspaces>). You can book study rooms in the library up to two weeks in advance. If you want to secure one, do it ASAP because they book fast.
* Parking gets a little harder as the day progresses. Make sure you have sufficient time to find a spot, so you are not late to class.
* When ordering books for the semester, be sure to do so early to ensure that the books arrive in time for you to complete any reading assignments for the first day of the semester.
  + Since casebooks can be expensive, reach out to upperclassmen to see if they have copies of any books that you may need. The library also has a copy of each 1L casebook for you to make copies.[[35]](#footnote-36)
  + Try looking on other websites such as Chegg for cheaper books, just make sure it is the correct edition.[[36]](#footnote-37)
  + If possible, renting a used book is generally cheaper than buying new or used. Plus, you will not be stuck with the book once the course is over.
* Get a locker in the law school. Your spine will thank you when you are not lugging around every casebook you need for the day. The form that you will need to fill out to get a locker is found on the St. John’s Law Online Student Center.
* Utilize the St. John’s Law Online Student Center website: <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/online-student-center>. The student center website contains a lot of useful information and forms (including the law school handbook, which is another important resource).[[37]](#footnote-38)
* Barbri videos are extremely helpful for some subjects (*especially* Civil Procedure). You will receive information from SJU on how to access Barbri/activate a Barbri account. From there, you will have access to videos and practice questions on a variety of different classes.

**STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:**

“I interned at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York. I applied through St. John’s simplicity portal — this is a great resource for students who are unsure where to start looking for jobs! It is usually very self-explanatory and consolidates many job postings into one convent location. For this job I had to send in my resume, writing sample, and cover letter. About a month after doing this an attorney from the USAO’s office reached out and I had an interview with her over zoom. Prior to my interview I watched and completed all the Professional Development modules about interviewing and did a mock interview with my career counselor. This was very helpful and made me feel more comfortable and confident going into the interview. During my time at the USAO, I was assigned to a supervising attorney. Most of my responsibilities included researching, drafting 12(b)(6) and summary judgment motions. The motions would often go through multiple rounds of revisions, and I would ultimately use the research I had found earlier to help compose the motions. I would also sit in on settlement conferences and depositions. I would also draft questions with my supervising attorney for depositions. During moments when I was not assigned work (far and few in between), I would go sit in on trials going on at the federal court next door! Overall, this internship made me a better writer, more confident in my research skills and a more well-rounded law student!” — **Evgenia Mallas (‘25), United States Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of New York**

“The first semester of law school was a very difficult time in my life. I just moved to New York from my small rural town in Ohio to attend St. John’s Law. I struggled finding close friends to study with and my grades suffered because of that. Looking at summer jobs during the spring semester was a very daunting task due to my first-semester performance. The job process was even more difficult for me because I needed a paid job my first summer. Moving to New York for law school meant I had to find housing, and New York housing isn’t cheap. Luckily the online job platform St. John’s Law uses, *Simplicity*, allowed me to filter the paid jobs. After filtering, I applied to every paid position with an office location I was able to get to via public transportation. I recognized that so many students would be applying to these jobs and I would need to stand out. What I did after applying to stand out is my word of advice to you reading this. After applying I would go on LinkedIn and connect and send a brief message to either (1) the contact given on Simplicity or (2) a St. John’s Law alumni who was currently working at the firm. LinkedIn allows you to see who also studied at St. John’s Law, so please take advantage of this! I secured so many interviews with reputable firms because I reached out to someone who worked at the company and asked for a short meeting with them to discuss their position and career path. When you show you care about the lawyer/firm, that employer cares about you! After a couple interviews (and let’s be honest a lot of non-responsive messages as well), I landed a position as a paid summer intern at one of the biggest personal injury law firms in the nation in the heart of Manhattan. Despite your first-year performance, throw yourself out there, you never know what will happen after sending a simple message.” — **Michael Fields (’24), Napoli Shkolnik PLLC**

“As a rising 2L, I served as a judicial intern this summer to the Honorable Victor A. Bolden of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. I applied for this position through the federal judicial collection with the St. John’s Law Career Development Office. The application process included a thirty minute interview with the Law Clerks in Judge Bolden’s Chambers where I was asked questions such as: (1) why law school; (2) what was your favorite 1L course; (3) what are your interests are outside of law school; and (4) why do you want to be a judicial intern. A few tasks as a judicial intern included drafting orders and rulings, researching legal questions, and observing various legal proceedings. I also had an opportunity to attend weekly summer speaker series events with the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, District Judges, Federal Prosecutors, Public Defenders, and Probation Officers. The unique opportunity to observe the inner workings of the court system from the neutral perspective of the court, far surpasses reading cases from a textbook!” — **Christopher Colbert (‘25), United States District Court, District of Connecticut**

“I had a fantastic experience during my summer program. I truly felt welcomed by the firm and met so many great people. I had the opportunity to take on assignments in practice areas at my choosing that I was interested in and gain first-hand experience. From the program, I gained a perspective of what life at a big law firm looks like and feel prepared to begin my career after graduation. My takeaway from the OCI process is to remain positive throughout the entire process, and just power through. It is a long and exhausting process, but it all works out in the end. Be excited for your conversations with the interviewers and be confident in yourself.” — **Nicholas Scambia (‘24), Wilkie, Farr, & Gallagher LLP**

"This summer, I was fortunate to work for Jackson Lewis, P.C., a premier labor and employment law firm in the United States with over 61 offices. I served as a summer associate for Jackson Lewis at their Long Island (Melville) office. I was placed in this position as an applicant through the Long Island Legal Diversity Fellowship offered at St. John's University School of Law. As a summer associate, I helped research and draft answers to complex legal questions, transcribed witness interviews and advice and counsel calls, and prepared an article covering all labor and employment developments throughout the past year (2022-2023) amongst other responsibilities. More importantly, the experience has given me a unique perspective of working in a large firm, managing workflow, and integrating into a corporate legal culture. I am very grateful for having the experience, as I found that I fervently enjoy the practice of litigation."**— Julio Almonte (‘25), Jackson Lewis, P.C.**

“After 1L, I interned for the United States Attorney's Office E.D.N.Y in the Criminal Division. The St. John's Law Career Development Office promoted a virtual information session regarding internship positions with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and after attending, I decided I wanted to apply. While I applied for positions with federal judges through St. John's Symplicity system, I actually applied for the U.S. Attorney's Office on my own by following the directions on their website. After submitting my application materials, I was contacted by an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the E.D.N.Y who said the office wanted to interview with me. I had one interview which took place over zoom, and I ultimately got the job.

In my role as an intern, I helped my assigned Assistant U.S. Attorney with trial preparation by researching legal issues, writing motions and responses and assisting with witness interviews. I also had the opportunity to observe court proceedings including sentencings, arraignments, and trials. My time at the U.S. Attorney's Office was one of my greatest life experiences to this day, and I hope to make my way back to the United States Attorney's Office later in my career.

I am really glad I worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office because I had the opportunity to work on different cases and assignments almost every week. I felt like I had the opportunity to do a lot more substantive work than I would have expected. Also, before accepting my position, I was nervous that working for the criminal division would limit my opportunities to work for a big corporate law firm as a Summer Associate the following year. However, that wasn't true in the slightest. Big law firms were very impressed with this internship, and they seem to be impressed by federal government work in general. My internship gave me a lot to talk about during my summer associate position interviews. I ultimately accepted a summer associate position with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where I will be returning full time as a Litigation Associate after graduation. It is not uncommon for "big law" lawyers to work for big law firms and eventually leave to do government work, which was something I did not realize as a 1L.”

**— Kelly A. Donovan (‘24), U.S. Attorney’s Office**

**MORE CONTACTS:**

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1. <https://www.stetson.edu/law/academics/success/preparing-your-family-for-the-law-school-experience.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/lawschool/pre-law/how-to-brief-a-case.page> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/how-to/brief-a-case> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [Law Dictionary Website](https://dictionary.law.com) (A good practice is to have a legal dictionary website open as you are doing your reading. Through Westlaw, you also have access to Black’s Law Dictionary). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Just because an exam is open-book **does not** mean that you should not study for that exam. You will **not** be able to look up the answer to every question during the exam. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [Law Exam Archive](https://law.stjohns.libguides.com/examarchive) (the password to access the archive is lawexam). However, some professors are better than others with keeping their section of the exam archive updated (some professors don’t even have exams uploaded on the archive), so do not solely rely on whatever your professor has posted to the exam archive for practice. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [West Academic Study Aids Collection](https://www.westacademic.com/study-aids-collection-1). I would recommend the “Exam Pro” series for multiple choice practice. Barbri’s Mastery Series is another excellent resource for multiple choice practice. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. [Wellness Guide for SJU Law Students](https://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/2023-03/2022-Wellness-Guide-for-SJU-Law-Students-no-QR-code.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://lawschooltoolbox.com/how-to-fight-law-school-imposter-syndrome/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/school-and-sleep/final-exams-and-sleep#:~:text=Good%20sleep%20can%20pay%20off,the%20night%20before%20your%20exam>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/physical-health/how-sleep-affects-immunity> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. <https://health.gov/news/202112/physical-activity-good-mind-and-body> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/nutritional-psychiatry-your-brain-on-food-201511168626> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. [Symplicity Login](https://law-stjohns-csm.symplicity.com/students/?uri=%2Fstudents%2Fapp%2Fhome%3F&signin_tab=0) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. [Career Development Office Info](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/online-student-center/career-development) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. [Interviewing Tip Sheet from St. John's Law](https://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/2023-03/website%2012_interview_tip_sheet.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. [About PTAI](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/journals-co-curricular-programs/frank-s-polestino-trial-advocacy-institute) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. [About DRS](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/journals-co-curricular-programs/dispute-resolution-society) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. [About DRS](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/journals-co-curricular-programs/dispute-resolution-society) [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. [About Moot Court](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/journals-co-curricular-programs/moot-court-honor-society) [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. [St. John's Law Journal Info](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/journals-co-curricular-programs) [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. A not insignificant number of points for the case comment can be earned by simply following the formatting instructions given in the competition packet, so don’t start the competition at a disadvantage by not following directions. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. [Online Student Center's Page on Class Registration](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/online-student-center/office-registrar/registration-class-schedules) [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/online-student-center/academic-advising#advice>. Here is a handy checklist of graduation requirements, prepared by the school. [JD Graduation Requirements Checklist](https://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/2023-04/_JD%20Checklist_Revised%20Apr.%202023.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. [JD Graduation Requirements Checklist](https://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/2023-04/_JD%20Checklist_Revised%20Apr.%202023.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. [Coursicle](https://www.coursicle.com/stjohns/)  [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. [Public Interest Center Info](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/centers-institutes/public-interest-center) [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
34. [Externship Info](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/academics/externships) [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
35. [Law Library Casebook Reserve](https://www.stjohns.edu/law/rittenberg-law-library/resources-collections/resources-students#OD) [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
36. <https://www.chegg.com/?c_id=sem&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=tb--brand-chegg_variants_exact&utm_content=chegg+book&gclid=Cj0KCQjwl92XBhC7ARIsAHLl9anDhZQziQwtzgFhjYBT60WxAN-WaQYxX51y3NzhWU1q5T_HGTllik4aAl82EALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
37. [2023 Student Handbook](https://www.stjohns.edu/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022%20-%202023%20Student%20Handbook%20%28Final%29.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-38)