

LAW ADMISSIONS INTERVIEWS



APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

*Interview by Dean David Kirschner
USC Gould School of Law*

1.) Number one tip for submitting a strong application?

**Gerald Hepler, Assistant Dean, Office of Admissions
Seattle University School of Law**

No one is a better expert on your lived experiences than you. Know the story you wish to tell and tell it with confidence and authenticity. Showing a willingness to learn from setbacks and demonstrating a mature self-awareness in your own words is key to a successful law school application.

Admission Committees are always seeking candidates who exhibit candor and honesty about their motivations and hopes for the future. Be open to sharing both your perceived strengths as well as weaknesses. This openness can go a long way in exhibiting your maturity and readiness to take on the considerable demands of law school.

**Shannon Phillips, Dean of Admissions and Student Services
Pepperdine Caruso School of Law**

Make sure the reader will come away convinced you can succeed in law school. Law school requires intellectual ability, but also requires tenacity, endurance, discipline, the ability to manage stress, and strength of character.



David Kirschner
Associate Dean of Admissions &
Financial Aid
USC Gould School of Law

USC Gould
School of Law

2.) Advice for a candidate uncertain if law school is for them

**Gerald Heppler, Assistant Dean, Office of Admissions
Seattle University School of Law**

For those considering law school, it's important to reflect on one's willingness to commit to a rigorous educational experience, and an equally demanding career. Law school will change most students' conception of how our society makes, interprets, and enforces the law. Students learn how to analyze complex problems from multiple perspectives while emphasizing professional development and development of high ethical standards. Learning to "think like a lawyer" is both challenging and enlightening.

While attending law school is a must for those who wish to practice law, a JD degree can also benefit those with a passion for politics, policymaking, advocacy, public service, or any career that requires a high level of analytical ability and strong writing and research skills.

Take some time to reflect on the effort and sacrifices that will be necessary to get through law school. The investment you will make in law school is considerable, but the rewards can be truly gratifying and life-changing!



**Shannon Phillips, Dean of Admissions and Student Services
Pepperdine Caruso School of Law**

Law school is three intense years of academic rigor, and it is not a step anyone should take lightly. Examine your motivations for wanting to go to law school. Talk to people who have gone to law school, but don't only talk to practicing attorneys. Talk to people who are using their degrees in other ways. Law school is a good option for many people, including those who may not want to practice law, but want to benefit from the unique value of a legal education. Law school teaches you a way of thinking, a process for solving problems, and that process can be used in almost any career. Lawyers are entrepreneurs, sports and entertainment agents, head up major movie studios, CEOs, and ministers to the broken. If you want to make a difference in a rapidly changing world and are not afraid to work hard, law school may be for you.



Gerald Heppler
Assistant Dean, Office of Admissions
Seattle University School of Law

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Shannon Phillips
Dean of Admissions and Student Services
Pepperdine Caruso School of Law

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