



## ACADEMIC SKILLS CLASSES

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:05-12:50 p.m.  
Moot Court Room

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This is an open-attendance program dedicated to helping first-year law students adjust to law school. Through weekly/biweekly Academic Skills classes, 1L students receive ongoing instruction on the skills necessary for success in the law classroom. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

First-year students also receive support through individual conferences throughout the fall and spring semesters. Although I am available on campus during regular office hours, students may also schedule appointments via Zoom. Regular office hours for the upcoming semester will be Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

- Every student attending our ASP sessions in the Moot Court room will wear a mask and spread at least two chairs from other students. Masks may be removed while eating.
- Students may feel free to grab your lunch and eat during our session.
- Our ASP sessions immediately follow another class finishing up in the Moot Court room. To facilitate everyone entering/exiting and settling in, class will begin at 12:05 p.m. Feel free to join us at any time during the session.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Review class announcements to see if the topic discussed will be helpful.
- Ask any and all questions.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**\*\*NOTE: Topics may change as the need arises to address specific concerns of the first-year class.**

### Learning IN the Classroom

#### Week 1- 8/31 & 9/2

The law classroom can be challenging for note-takers under the Socratic method of teaching. This session tackles the secrets of note-taking by helping you understand WHAT to write down.

#### Week 2—9/7 & 9/9

Briefing cases and preparing for class can be daunting. This session acknowledges the frustration some students experience with slow reading in the beginning of the first year. This session will walk you through extracting information from your assignments to craft useful case briefs.

### Learning OUTSIDE the Classroom

#### Week 3 – 9/14 & 9/16

There are many study aids, supplements and digital resources available to law students. This session helps students: 1) know what is available, 2) know how to access it, and 3) know how to choose between resources.

#### Week 4 – 9/21 & 9/23

Second-year students were in your shoes one short year ago. We get together with them at our annual Q & A panel so that 1L students can ask them looking back what their law school survival secrets were/are. **\*ONE SESSION THIS WEEK day/time TBA**

### Learning New Skills

#### Week 5 – 9/28 & 9/30

Why do we have the *Blue Book* and what is its relevance to me? This session details basic citation forms step-by-step, including full citations, short forms, pin cites, string cites, parallel citations, signals, and explanatory parentheticals.

### Preparation: Outlining

#### Week 6 – 10/5 & 10/7

It can be difficult to remember what your professor said weeks ago in the semester. This session shows you how to create an outline for your courses, using Torts as the framework. For many students, the process of creating an outline produces an ah-hah

moment for understanding the course.

## **Demonstrating What You Know**

### **Week 7 – 10/14**

This workshop teaches you how to get the most possible points out of a mid-term or exam essay answer. We also discuss testing patterns and pitfalls typically found in Torts mid-terms.\*

### **Week 8 – 10/19 & 10/21**

ASP Workshop for Torts mid-terms.\*

## **Assessment and Re-grouping**

### **Week 9 – 10/26 & 10/28**

This week is dedicated to individual conferences with 1Ls. Let's discuss the feedback you are getting from your professors on mid-terms and legal writing assignments.

### **Week 10 – 11/2 & 11/4**

Trying to get everything done can be stressful... outlines, editing, and studying...whew! This session will deliver effective Time and Stress Management from week 10 through the end of the exam period.

## **Exams**

### **Week 11 –**

First-year students meet with a panel of members of the McNeill Law Society. Panel members discuss their exam strategies. **DAY/TIME TBA**

### **Week 12 – 11/16 & 11/18**

This final session focuses on exam preparation, practice resources, and crafting the perfect answer.

### **Week 13 – Nov. 23      *Thanksgiving Break***

*\* In this time frame you can expect to see changes in the schedule to reflect mid-term preparation workshops as professors schedule their exams.*

