How to Answer Tough Law School Interview Questions

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Session Overview

• Introduction
• Who interviews?
• Types of interviews
• Preparing for interviews
• Common interview questions
• Tough interview questions
• Q&A
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- JD, University of Wisconsin Law School
- 10+ years as a test prep educator (LSAT, GRE...)
ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL
5 Major Application Components

- LSAT
- Undergraduate transcript(s)/GPA
- Personal statement/ Interview
- Letters of recommendation
- Résumé
Do all law schools interview?
All applicants can interview at

- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (Chicago, IL)
- Vanderbilt University Law School (Nashville, TN)
- St. John’s University School of Law (Queens, NY)
Invitation Only Interviews

- Roughly half of the T20 interview
- University of Chicago, UPenn, Duke, Harvard, Columbia, University of Virginia, Cornell, UCLA, Georgetown, University of Texas at Austin, Washington University in St. Louis
I have the chance to interview. Should I?

yes.
Group vs Individual Interviews

Individual
• Ex. Harvard

Group
• Ex. Georgetown
Who will I interview with?

- Admissions Rep/Dean
- Alumni
- Recording
WHY I WANT TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL IS...

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Common Interview Questions

- Why do you want to be a lawyer? / What do you hope to do with your JD?
- Why are you interested in X type of law?
- Why are you applying to law school now? / Why are you switching careers?
- What interests you about our school?
- Tell me about a time …
  - you were challenged while working on a team.
  - you showcased leadership.
  - you overcame an obstacle.
- What have you learned at your current job?
- Talk to me about [the hobbies or interests you listed on your resume].
GO TO LAW SCHOOL THEY SAID...

IT WILL BE FUN THEY SAID...
Questions that ask for you to reveal weaknesses/struggles

• Describe a time when you struggled academically and how you responded to that challenge/Name a time you failed and how you handled it
• Tell me about a time you showed resilience
• If you worked in law school admissions, what would you describe as your biggest weakness?
• What is something that you think differently about or has changed about you personally as you have matured?
Questions asking you to talk yourself up

• What is your greatest success story?
• Who is my best friend, and how would they pitch you to the admissions committee?
• Give a fun fact about yourself
Questions about the law school

• What are the pros and cons of this law school?
• Is this school your top choice?
• As someone who’s based in the Midwest, what’s enticing about moving out to [location]?
• What club(s) at our law school would you join?
Issue Based Questions

• Debate Pokemon Go and the issue of whether players are trespassing
• What do you think of the Burka ban in France?
• The ABA is considering a uniform bar exam. Good idea?
• Here are a few sample admissions scenarios. Would you admit this student? What would you give them on a scale of 1-10 and why?
AS YOUR ATTORNEY
I ADVISE YOU NOT TO ROLL OVER
How to Prepare

- Research the School, including Clubs
- Prepare Questions to Ask an Interviewer Ahead of Time
- Research the Area & Prepare a Reason to Move There
- Practice your Elevator Pitch
- Prepare content like a book you can talk about, a social issue you changed your mind on, and have a few really good anecdotes you can tell for “Tell me about a time when” questions
- Practice having someone ask you these questions
- Dress Business Casual (including what they can’t see on camera)
ALL THESE RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

USE THEM
Interview Resources

• 7 Sage Interview Questions
https://7sage.com/admissions/lesson/law-school-interviews/

• Creating Your Elevator Pitch
https://successworks.wisc.edu/the-basics/navigating-career-fairs/creating-your-elevator-pitch/

• Questions to Ask Law School Reps
https://go.wisc.edu/v32446
Q & A

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