

CART ROUGH DRAFT

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2-22-22. Captioner standing by.

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>> Good afternoon everyone. We are excited to have you with us today. We're going to just wait a few seconds here in order to let everyone get in the room, so to speak, before we officially begin. So, just thank you for your patience, we'll be just a moment before starting. If you're just joining us, your camera, your screen is not frozen. We are here and live. See, I'm moving. We're just waiting for everyone to get in the room and then we're going to begin. Thank you for your patience.

Okay. All right. I think we can go ahead and officially begin. All right. So good afternoon everyone. And welcome to today's Stetson University College of Law prospective and admitted student webinar. The topic for today's webinar is, why Stetson? A look at

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the student experience.

My name is Karla Davis Jamison and I'm the Assistant Dean for enrollment here at Stetson. My co-host this afternoon is Mr. Darren Kettles, our Director of Admissions. Darren and I are both excited that you joined us today to learn more about Stetson, our community and the Stetson student experience.

At Stetson, our mission is to be a diverse and selective law school whose faculty and students will have meaningful and far reaching impacts on the law, the profession, and society.

As for this first law school, we have a national reputation for delivering excellence in teaching and extraordinary practical skills training opportunities for our students.

We have a terrific program lined up for you today, and we hope that whether you're considering applying or whether you've recently applied or are waiting a decision, or you've already been admitted, we hope that today's program will allow you to not only learn more about Stetson Law, but also envision yourself here.

So, before we get started, I want to give you a quick sort of program run down so that you know where we're going and what to expect over the next 75 minutes.

First Darren Kettles will submit a brief overview showing where we are in the admission cycle and some of the national trends that we're seeing.

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Following that, Darren will share some of Stetson's history. As I said, we are Florida's first law school. We have a 122 year history. So Darren is going to share some of those highlights F highlights. And also what we call points of pride. So, very interesting facts and figures that he'll be sharing with you.

After Darren's presentation, he'll see other faces on our screen. We have five Stetson Law students joining us. And they are here to share their stories and to respond to your questions and to help you learn more about their experience as students at Stetson.

We could want this program to be highly interactive, so we encourage you to get, you know, get engaged with us. Post your questions. Post your comments. You can use the Q&A feature at the very bottom of the screen. And throughout the admissions presentation and the student panel, if you have a question or a comment, just drop it there. We will reserve plenty of time at the end after the panel discussion, to take questions and engage with you.

Also, one last note. This webinar is being recorded and we will be forwarding the recording link to all attendees. So in case you missed something you will have an opportunity to do so.

I'm going to stop there, and Darren Kettles is going to do an admission presentation for you now, providing an overview of where we are in the cycle. Some. National trends that we're seeing. Some of the more local trends that we're seeing as well. And then give you sort

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of those highlights regarding our history and our points of pride. Darren is a very valued member of Stetson, of the admissions team. He's been at Stetson for 16, 16, 17 years.

>> 16.

>> 16 years. So he is for all intents and purposes in our office, our respect Defendant's Exhibit historian. And a very talented and passionate admissions professional.

So, Darren, take it away.

>> Thank you. Thank you Dean Davis.

So, welcome to all of you, I'm Darren Kettles, as you've heard. And thank you for the admitted students, congratulations to will all of you who have been admitted in this very intense cycle. We have students here that are on our wait list or priority wait list. And we also have students that are maybe in the applicant pool that are actually waiting on a decision, and we have students that potentially might be still to apply.

To briefly get started as Dean Davis talked about, I was just going to share my screen a little bit. I just wanted to show you something quite interesting here. And hopefully you can all see that.

Karla, yes?

>> Yes, we do. We see it.

>> Excellent. So what I'm showing you right now on the screen is actually kind of right hot off the press. For those of you don't

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know, law school admission counsel puts out and they call them current volume summaries too and I like to share them with students especially for this they know and for those admitted to school. They can see where things are and how selective the applicant pool is nationally right now.

So what you're seeing right now is the map of the United States too. But what we're looking at is applicants. So I draw your attention right here. So I'm going to focus in the southeast because that's where we are, right?

As of right now, applicants, these are applicants to law school in this cycle, applicants are down about 7% in the southeast. You can see the different parts of the country where they are down even more than they are here.

In the State of Florida, you can kind of see last year at this time, you know, we were probably about 175 less applicants to law school in the southeast and in the State of Florida.

I'm going to point out also, applications. So, those were applicants, this is application. Most of you probably applied or submit more than one application. So this would make sense to you. So, again focusing on the southeast. If you look at the trend all in the country, everything is pretty much negative except us, right? The southeast, we're just under 5% in terms of applications. Which really translates very well to us because we have been up in

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applications pretty much the entire cycle which opened October 1st. It goes until May 15th.

So, for us, right now, we're a combined full time and part time, about 25% from last week's internal report. You know, full time applications are up 30% right now. So, we're seeing quite a bloom in that area which is kind of nice. It's nice to know people are interested in Stetson. I think our location has really been quite ideal in terms of that.

So I'm going to stop sharing this slide. But I thought it would be an interesting snapshot for you to see where we are. And the level of competitiveness that we are seeing in our pool which is also very exciting that people think enough about Stetson and they think this could be a great fit for them too.

So, today is really about you learning about us. As crew accepting our offer. You know, remaining hopeful on the wait list. We do have a long way to go with the wait list. Hang in there, wait list applicants. Know those will ultimately come we're just getting through the cycle right now.

And we believe as Dean Davis talked about, our welcoming, supportive and strong academic community is a real strength in legal education. So, I mean, visits schools. We do have tours going on right now. If you haven't gone on our website go on and sign up for a tour. This is a spectacular campus in terms of its beauty owe, it's un, it's

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unrivaled in terms of that, of all law schools. There is beautiful campuses out there too, but this is quite exceptionally special. So, I also was going to just quickly get into, you know, Stetson sort of trail blazing history. Dean Davis talked about Florida first law school and yes we are. So, I'm going to actually share my screen a little bit more. And just kind of show you a little bit more, hopefully you can see that now.

>> Yes.

>> Our beautiful campus. As we talked about. It's one of the and served us very well during the last couple years, of the level pandemic and the things we've experienced and for students.

Thankfully we've had for the past two years, even the height of the pandemic, we have had 1L classes in person for our students. It's probably made all the difference to them in the world and giving them experience. Every law school has been in that situation, thankfully. We only deal with professional students so we do have the opportunity to keep our school safe with very strict standards and it served us very well.

As we could just get into a little bit of the history. You know, the law school started in 1900 on the main campus in Deland Florida, which is just north of Orlando. And it pretty much operated there on a (indiscernible) you can see some of these photos, I thought it would be interesting because it's a long history. In the State of

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Florida there are now eleven law schools. It was us in 1900. 1909 was the next law school, the University of Florida law school. Stetson being the first law school (indiscernible).

In 1926 the University of Miami Law School opened. It was a Stetson Law school Dean that went to open Miami law school. And in 1907 Florida state graduated its first law class.

So you can see how the evolution of law schools actually transpired. You know, with being part of the trail blazing history in the State of Florida. You can kind of see, you know, there was a lot of things involved in that.

So, John batter son Stetson was part of the original Board of Trustee, over Deland Academy which is where the main campus is. It was a private southern prep school. It was Mr. Stetson who actually ended up even Doug the university, creating Florida's first private university.

For those of you that might know, kind after neat history. John daylight step he was the founder of the cowboy hat and that's why we're called the Hatters, the olders hat company in the United States. So it's quite an interesting conversation. If you don't wear them, I'm sure maybe a grandfather or maybe an uncle has in the past too. So, as you can see, just back to this one, so we moved here from the main campus in like, it was the main campus as you can see. During 1943, during the great depression and WW-2. The law school did close

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for a short stint too. It opened back up in Deland to some naval barracks just a few miles from campus. The ADA we became credited with the American Bar Association in (indiscernible). The ABA came to (indiscernible).

Because neighbors there were probably not going to, would tor a law school.

So in 1954 we moved to this spectacular campus which is a 21 acre Spanish revival property too. It's home to seven courtrooms. We just actually launched plans to build our new advocacy center which would include probably another half a dozen courtrooms, including briefing rooms and the such. So it's just the expansion of this really beautiful space. And the level of access, the autonomy you're just dealing with professional school students here.

So, hitting on a bit of the school at first. We do talk about being the first law school too. Stetson was the first law school to actually graduate a female attorney in 1908. And in fact when there were three law schools here in the State of Florida we were the only ones to be graduating them in the first three decades of the 19 00s. And interesting too, Stetson graduated the first female Attorney General out of the State of Florida. It was the first woman injury wrist in Tampa Bay. (indiscernible) for those of you that don't know, Tampa is? Hillsboro County.

And some of you will know about Stetson's really, really strong

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advocacy program, practically the last quarter of a century, Stetson has been the top advocacy school in the entire country. You can't come to Stetson without getting skills training it's an integral part of what we do and served our graduates very well.

In 1989 a school of First, we won the first national competition as you can see. Stetson has gone on to win 174 National Championships since then. And hopefully that will continue. They call it the long green line. Green, if you haven't noticed already, is our color. It's our signature color. We love it.

Anyway, but just recently in 2018, under the umbrella of advocacy, you have trial, you have moot, moot court and you have ADR which is dispute resolution. And one of our panel is, Jessica Mercer she's heavily involved in our advocacy board. She can talk further too. But in 2018 all four of our teams under dispute resolution for the first time in ABA accreditation history, all went to national championships. So, mediation, negotiation, arbitration and client counseling teams, all went to the national championship.

We've always been in sort of the top six nationally when it comes to legal writing. Stetson is highly known for our skills training. As we talked about. But it also includes legal writing. So Stetson has always had that ranking we're currently ranked number 5 in the nation for that.

Stetson was also the first law school to start clinical education

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back in 1960s, of a public defender clinic in the State of Florida. Is ours. And it is one of those things that served our students remarkably well. Every single student is guaranteed one clinical experience when they come to Stetson and most do more. So be sure to touch with our panelist here on what their plans are to do that. You can see, all the way back from the beginning of our history, we always require hands-on experiential skills training in terms of aspects of what we do.

And you can see, we require as part of our graduation requirements too, the ABA credits you need to be convert your JD here at Stetson. You all and there is lots of specialty areas that you need to satisfy. And certainly those involved, practice court and advocacy programs too.

We did start our first trial practice class in 1961. We were the first law school in Florida to require pro bono as part of graduation. It is 60 hours. It's about 20 hours a year. 30 law related and 30 nonlaw related. It's a wonderful way to give back. We believe getting a JD is a privilege that not everyone gets.

And our students have been giving back in terms of pro bono in the thousands and thousands of hours back to the community to help those in need, maybe of Legal Services. Some of our students actually do wills and stuff. Or they help, you know, with Veterans and working with migrant farmer workers. Helping them with their legal issues

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that comes up.

So, I mean, Dean Davis and I talked we're potentially sort of tagging this April 9th. We're looking to have an on campus event much and at the same time admitted students event. And at the same time we will host actually for probably the 24th time the international environmental moot court competition. We have six concentrations here at Stetson of the ABA credits you don't have to term these until your 2L year. But we've always been a global leader and extending advocacy and this is another attention of that that (indiscernible). Highlighting our Elder Law concentration it's one of our six concentrations but Professor Becky Morgan is so globally known for her work in elder law. So wills and trusts and estate planning. But she was integral in the design of the Eleazer courtroom and William Eleazer is contributing to establishing advocacy at Stetson. There is a lot of accolades to him. But that is to provide national model for equal access to the court.

If you come on tour, to do the ambassadors do a really great job in highlighting what it is and our features and really our physical plan, which is really exceptional in so many ways.

So, Stetson for those of that might have interest in Higher Education Law and Policy, we have hosted a national Higher Education Law and Policy. We have a center here on campus. Professor Peter lake is just outstanding in that center that. Very nationally known.

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So, just another area of specialty for Stetson.

I'm going to stop sharing now, because that is really kind of some of the first and just sort of conclude that and we can get onto the next part of our program too. But think about all these things. There is great law schools all over the place for all of you to choose. And to apply to. I hope you will strongly look at Stetson. Dean Davis, myself, we're all here, available to assist you even beyond today's event.

So, let's move into student panel. And we have a really tremendous group of people here that have agreed to join us. And I'm going to allow them to do some intros on their own too, but we are grateful for them and they've all known what it's like to be in your shoes. They've been applicants. They've had decision. They've had lots of opportunities to consider lot of law schools. And we're grateful that they chose us.

So, why adopt we start with this. I wrote down the order too. So Edward Hong is on here too. He's part time student, Edward why don't you bro dues yourself and hit on some of the points that we talked about in your intro, that is.

>> How are you?

>> Good, thank you.

>> How are you. Thank you.

So, I went to school at Northwestern University for undergraduate.

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And then I went to medical school also at Northwestern University. I was part of their seven years Honors Program in medical education where you go just straight through.

After I did that, I did my general surgery residency followed by cardiac residency fellowship. I did a additional year of minimally invasive thoracic surgery. And ended up working as a noncardiac chest surgeon, which I still am.

And so, went up the leadership path. Achieved a lot in terms of what I wanted to achieve as far as career goals as a surgeon. And then started thinking about what's next.

And at a very early age I had achieved some leadership goals and was chairman of a department for awhile, within my hospital. And then, so, but then I got, then I realized what the political situation is in terms of leadership in healthcare. And it became obvious that that's not something that I wanted to do. It's contrary to my personality. I'm highly introverted. And the politics were just horrible.

And so, at a relatively young age in my career path but at a much older path as far as law school applicants, I decided that I wanted to pursue further education and started thinking what degrees. Of course every person in healthcare wants to get an MBA. You can get MBA if you pay enough money. But as far as healthcare that was something I was not interested in. So I decided to apply to law

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school. Everybody including my wife thought I was crazy.

And so, I guess one of the questions is, why law school? And in particular why Stetson? And the answer to why Stetson actually answers why law school in many regards.

So I've been living here in Saint Petersburg for nine years now. When I first moved here, having moved from Chicago, it wasn't, it wasn't what it is today. And I think at this point, you know, with Super Bowl winning team, the Tampa Bay lightning with the Tampa Bay rays. The top rated beaches in the country consistently year upon year. By the way, Gulfport of which is like 15 minutes away from ones that continually earn awards.

And so, the campus here is about 15 minutes from where I live.

Gulfport is actually quite an amazing little city. Not only in your little breaks or off time can you go sit by the beach and watch the ocean, but the amount of, I'm really into eating. I love really good food. And there are some really spectacular restaurants there that I knew about from even before applying to law school.

And so, part of it was April geographic draw, because I had looked at positions and what to do with my life in other areas. And I don't want to live anywhere else.

I think part of it is the beaches, the fine dining, and a lot of other things to do. Like the Grand Prix for instance. They take down town Saint Petersburg, take down some of the streets and put up concrete

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and make a race track here. They're going to have Grand Prix here next weekend which is one of the reasons it's so crowded right now. But yeah, the city is just, it's a place I think where people want to come live now. So to spend, for me, since I'm a part time student, four years here. It was a no-brainer because I don't want to move anywhere else.

I think one of the biggest things for me having been from Chicago when I first moved here, it was difficult, was Chicago is a big city, it's a major city, it's got a lot to do. More than here, but here I think the balance is better as far as it's not as crowded and there are still really great things to do. But the biggest thing is the sunlight.

And so having been born and raised in Chicago, one of the reasons why I can't move from here anymore is the fact that it's sunny every day. Literally it's 360 days where it may rain during the day, but you can count on the fact that it's going to be bright and sunny ooh. Like right now. And there is something about that. There is something, actually, stated another way. There is something about living in darkness where it's dark and gray like Chicago. It's an amazing city, but for 6 to 7 months, it is consistent that you rarely see the sun for entire weeks to months on end. And after awhile, it just becomes depressing.

And so, I think that's probably the biggest thing here that keeps

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me here. The biggest reason why I would not be able to move from here, is just having, having it be sunny every day is amazing. So that was one of the factors.

Another factor was the, academic scholarship. So, once, Dean Kettles, when I first applied, my LSAT score was mediocre at best. He says, well, we offer academic scholarships that are based on merit and you can earn up to a full ride scholarship.

He says think about it as if you're being paid to study. And so, I studied. I took the LSAT again and I actually enrolled in blueprints, because I hit a wall by myself. And I shelled out the cash for a course and it paid off huge, because I ended up getting, you know, significantly higher score. Not the highest, but you know, as high as I think I could possibly have done with help.

And once I got that scholarship with my wife and everyone else, at that point it was a no-brainer. So.

>> Excellent. Good. Thank you. Thank you Edward for that too.

And we'll swing circle back to that too. So, yeah, Edward actually had a great start. He booked one of his first classes too. So he's doing exceptionally well as a part time student here.

Gabby, do you want to briefly share a little about yourself and we'll move on and introduce the rest of them and maybe get to some questions. Thank you.

>> Absolutely. So, I am also part time student but I am here as

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deck -- I am nowhere near as decorated as Edward. We are opposite in several ways. I'm Florida native. So I have been surrounded by sunlight and do kind of crave occasionally a bit of colder weather. So the last few months have been excellent to just like have to put a sweater on and not sweat. It's ideal.

I graduated from Florida State University. And this is my third year at Stetson. I chose Stetson because like I said, I've been in Florida my whole life. I have a really big family in South Florida. That I didn't want to be too far away from. But also didn't want to be too close to, you know. Distance makes the heart grow fonder and whatnot.

But Tallahassee was also a bit too far away. We also, I am newly engaged, so my boyfriend who is now my fiancée is a Tampa native. And he wanted to go to Stetson. And I was like, well, Tampa is not that far. And you know, it checks a lot of boxes. Saint Pete is a city. I like city vibes. I'm not really into small towns.

So, it kind of checked a lot of location natural boxes for me. I'm close enough to my family that I can get there, you know, at the drop of a hat, but I also get the freedom to be myself.

The first time I came to Stetson, I was just like in love. I was embraced with so much warmth from the faculty and especially Carmen Johnson who used to be in the admissions department, she just really made it such an easy choice.

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I felt so embraced immediately by the entire community and now that it's my third year, I love, I love my classmates. I just like, I love the community. I love Stetson. I would not be doing this panel if I didn't think that our community was worth like sharing and bragging about.

Currently, I am involved in a lot of extracurricular activities. I am currently the part time student society President. I am the Chair of the social committee for the Student Bar Association. I am also a teaching assistant for Professor Morgan in her trusts and estates class and I recommend everyone take it. Because death and taxes are the two things we're all guaranteed and you want to be ready.

And I'm also speaking on clinics and internship experiences, I am also participating in the community associates program through the alliance of advocacy and philanthropy, which is a wonderful experience so far. It is helping me get those nice pro bono hours and also exposing me to the nonprofit world. So I'm currently working with NAMI, which is the National Alliance for, the National Association for Mental Illness.

So I'm getting great exposure to nonprofits and the grant writing process and things like that. So, there is so much to do at Stetson, so much to be, you can really carve your own path and make a mark. So that's why I love it.

>> Thank you Gabriella. Very interesting track that you've laid out

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for yourself. So, thank you for sharing that and hopefully it will encourage others to see the bed this of what this community can offer. All right. So, Lamine. So nice to have you join us. And we would love to have you introduce yourself and just share some things that are going on in your 1L year.

>> Sure. Thanks a lot Darren. My name is Lamine Gaete. First year student here at Stetson. I'm from New York City. I got my bachelors agree there in English literature (indiscernible) and quite sometime, almost a decade later I got my Master's in public health and community health education at the community school of Public health the community service system.

In between and even afterwards I applied to a different jobs.

Working in a bakery to being a custodian to working in high schools. So it's kind of cool that prospectors, throughout being in law school is kind of a different way of thinking, but definitely some of the lessons that I've learned at those plays, I can apply here. It kind of makes the law tangible.

In terms of choosing Stetson, actually, I think Darren has gotten a lot of praise thus far. I will just continue. I remember one of the first conversations that I had was sort of in your shoes inquiring about school and trying to figure out where I should go. And I was concerned about the cost of law school much and I don't know if Darren remembers this but he was quite on he is with me much he said law

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school is a great opportunity and it's a choice that people make. And no one has to attend.

When I think about that, it may be off putting to some put it does put things in perspective. Anything in life that is worth having is going to cost something. It's going to cost money. It's going to cost energy or time. You think about your relationships. Think about your jobs. Those things that are worth having are worth investing. I think coming to Stetson, that he was off telling a perspective stew he want. This is a cost, and a choice. -- I think I respected how truth he was.

And then following that, receive a scholarship, I think it was really cool, because the faith in me and looking at my application, but also telling, shooting straight from the beginning, I was like, I love how those things paired.

Along with that, the whole staff has been really welcoming.

Including counter many different styles of teaching here, but generally, I think professors really want their students to do well. I know it sounds cliché. But whether they're teaching you how to think like a lawyer for referring you to support services or just encouraging to sit down and talk with them in office hours. I really see a community that's conducive to people who want to see you succeed. And they're invested in your success and well being. And continuing that's very special to have in an environment where

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people can easily feel, just from the context, super scary your first go around.

So, currently at Stetson, I'm working with Professor (indiscernible) on the Florida law school's consortium for racial justice. It's been quite interesting. The purpose of which is just to galvanize the support of the 11 law schools in Florida to think about the ways in which they can help further people's understanding of racial justice through the law. So I've had a fun first year. A filled first year. I hope it continues to be so.

>> Thank you Lamine, thank you for background and everything you've done too. Really nice to hear your remarks.

So, Jessica Marker is joining us. Wonderful young lady that has joined us here. She's 3L now. I remember you know her application when she first applied. So thank you Jessica has done really great things here. Do you mind sharing a little bit with the group here Jessica.

>> Absolutely. And thank you for having me here.

So as Darren said my name is Jessica. My story in reaching this point of being in law school and now a 3L which is insane to think about. Started with me actually wanting to be an educator. So before anything, I was actually a teacher. I went to undergrad at the University of Florida. I studied education there and grad school. Got my EDS in curriculum and instruction. Never thought I would go

to law school.

I went to the Peace Corps after I finished my grad school studies. Was in Ecuador for two years. That was phenomenal. Came back and taught English writing for four years and just all of my frustrations as a teacher were rooted in law and policy. And that's what really kind of brought upon the shift of looking to law schools.

And so, when I was looking for the right place to begin my legal studies, I was looking for a couple of different things. I believe that Lamine and Gabby and Darren all mentioned to me the physical location of Stetson, of Gulfport and Saint Pete being phenomenal and that is certainly true.

The community, the second that you step foot on campus, the community is so welcoming and the environment is just such a great place for learning. Just walking around Gulfport, around Saint Pete. My wife and I really wanted to find a communal environment that was LGBT friendly was that dog friendly that would fit where we are as people. And this was it. There was we felt supported and safe here from day one.

That's a really big deal. When you're embarking on law school on your studies, you want to be in a supportive environment that is really going to kind of be there in your time of, you know, you don't want to have to we're about the external things. You want to be able to focus on your studies and be supported. And that's this

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environment for sure.

But, you know, even beyond that, when you're looking at Stetson's programs offerings from what Darren mentioned about legal research and writing. The most fundamental skill that you can have as a lawyer is to be a good researcher and a good writer. And then third to that is a good communicator orally.

If you can understand the law, that's one piece of this, but to be able to understand the law and then convey it in a way that others can understand your perspective, your arguments, that's what makes you a great advocate. And that's what Stetson does really, really well, beyond I would say almost any other law school that I've had the chance to interact with. And that's to me what makes Stetson so special, is that the skills that you gain here are phenomenal. So, I looked at the Higher Education law program here. Professor Lake, that was spoken about earlier, he is nationally known in his field for Higher Education law. That tied perfectly with my background in education. I've worked for him as a research assistant. I'm now his teaching assistant for the Higher Education law class. I'm getting really great experience in net, working in the community with those who are involved with Higher Education Law and Policy.

That's been phenomenal. Some of the other things that I'm involved with at Stetson as have been mentioned I'm on the mute court board

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I'm on the dispute resolution board. And those two advocacy pieces are incredible. The amount of time and dedication and really just thought that goes into how Stetson has built its advocacy program makes it like no other.

It's true in 2018 the Stetson won the ABA tournament of Champions and we won it again last year. And that due in no small part to the professors who dedicate their time helping us develop our skills to people who have gone through the program who are now sitting judges, who are practitioners, who come back and coach us. And those skills, like I mentioned before, are foundational to everything. They build your confidence. They help you in your classes and they translate perfectly into practice so, some of the other things that I'm involved with on campus, I'm also in the social justice advocacy concentration on a law journal Stetson advocacy in a law journal and I'm also involved in Deland legal.

I often find it really hard to express in words just how phenomenal this place is. When you're picking where you want to go to law school it's a important decision. This is an investment, it's your time, it's your money. And but more importantly, it's the things that you're learning, the tools that you're going to gain. And I could imagine going nowhere else, this is absolutely the place for me.

>> Thank you Jessica. Lamine. Gabby. It's really quite remark I believe to see these young people and what they've done here, really

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have taken everything that we have to offer here and they just really make me proud that I'm here.

So, Rawan, we're very happy to have you here. Rawan has helped us in the past with many things. Genuine with her remarks too. Why don't you share a little about yourself.

>> Hi, I'm Rawan. I'm from Jackson Florida I'm a 2L. I went to undergrad in University of Miami and graduated in 2020 and came straight from undergrad. I was kind of in the boat, I don't know which shoes everyone else is in, but coming at any rate from undergrad and not having any work, real world work experience in between was a little nerve racking, because I was kind of sure a lot of people I met had work experience but ended up like finding out that once you're in law school you're all in the same boat. So you should never feel I'm not matured enough. I haven't had the experience that everyone else. Everyone first year is kind of in the same boat. This is all new. New language. New for them.

I am currently on the Business Law review journal. I am in the Student Bar Association. And I am a TA for Contracts with Professor Zurich.

And yeah, I basically chose Stetson. I went to University of Miami for undergrad but it's kind of a hard decision having to leave Miami, because I loved it there. And I felt like I was almost not ready, because COVID hit and I wasn't really ready to leave it. It had the

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big city, it had diversity.

But when I toured Stetson that pretty much made my decision. It wasn't the city as much as I love Stetson. It was the people. Everyone was super inclusive. The culture, it was not that competitive. And it wasn't, you didn't get the competitive vibe that you would get at other schools. Students were super inclusive in wanting to help each other. Teachers were, I've realized after the first year, just so approach able.

When I walked around I toured with a family friend of ours. And just like having walked around campus with her, and her other students communicating watching them interact. And everybody just wanting to help each other how the. And invite each other to dinner. And find some things going on. I have a study room. Let's all work on this one assignment and attack this one case together.

Like that's kind of what made my decision for me, was the people. But also it's its own campus that was another big factor. I was at UM so the law school was literally on the undergrad campus and I kind of liked the idea of starting a new chapter and being in our own area and being separated from like undergrad and everybody being on the same campus.

But that was like my two main factors that made the decision. And yeah. So far great.

>> I really appreciate it. Yeah, they talk about the student

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organizations. We have about 50 organizations here, sport journals like they talk about being part of the SBA. The entire advocacy board and what that encompasses. The level of involvement and these students are really being active. So they can give you great ideas. Dean Davis, why don't we shift to maybe some questions. Thank you all for these wonderful oversights into everything. I appreciate it very much.

>> Yes. We are ready for questions. And there are a few already in the Q&A that we've tagged to get us started. If you haven't posted a question and have one, feel free to go ahead and start doing so now.

I do have to make a comment though about the sunshine, since Edward brought it up. And Darren and I have talked at length about the fact that when I first looked at Stetson, I saw this sort of claim that we experience 361 days of sun a year. And I was like, that cannot be true. You know, there is just not anyway that only four days out of the year there is no sun, right?

And I had a conversation with Darren very early on when I started here and I brought that up. He was like, well it is true. It actually is. Even when it rains, the sun eventually comes out most days.

So, that, I think was it 361 days of sun? It was only like four that there would be.

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>> 361. Yeah. That's what they tell us anyway.

>> So, I thought that was interesting that will Edward brought that up. And it made me chuckle just a bit.

Gabriella, congratulations on your engagement. I hadn't heard that news. So yay. Exciting news to hear from you regarding your recent engagement.

And Gabby, I'm going to go to you for this first question because it was addressed to you. And it's related to you mentioned that you were a TA for a Professor and this question is how did you go about becoming a TA for a law Professor? And I think that's a common question. So if you want to just start us off with that question.

>> Sure thing. Thank you so much. We're very excited to thank you. I became a TA for Professor Morgan after taking her class. Because you can not be a TA for a class that you have not taken. And she actually approached me after final exams and asked me if I would be her TA.

Which usually means that you did well, but I actually hadn't had my grades posted yet, so I was like, freaking out that day. I was like oh my gosh, I think I did well on the exam and I'm not really sure yet. So I was super excited, she kind of blew the surprise for me. But typically you take the class. And if do you well and the Professor needs a TA, they may already have one. But if they need one, they will reach out and ask you if you want to be one.

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>> Thank you. We had another question and Rawan, you started talking around this concept of how competitive is the community? And I know you shared your thoughts regarding, you know what your experience was with, sort of seeing and understanding what our community competition level is. So just wanted to see if we could get some other comments related to that.

Lamine, have you, are you able to address how competitive the 1L year has been for you? You know, are students mostly collaborative? Or are you, can you discuss that? I'm not going to give you the words.

>> No problem.

>> If you have the words on your own, I'm out.

>> No problem. Yeah. I second everything Rawan said. I think the cool thing is, when you think of competition, you know, the goal is that you want to win. And I think obviously as law students we all want to win. We all want to do well.

But the down side is oftentimes competition can mean back biting and divisiveness and trying to slander one another. So, I think the cool thing is we're competitive here in the sense of that goal to win is definitely apparent. Like students are working super hard. The answers people give in class are well thought out. They're researching things, they come to class prepared.

So the competition to excel in law school is there, but what's absent and the good thing that it's absent is that just kind of malicious

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nature. I've not seen it. I have not seen it. And even any whispers that I've heard of it, they are no longer existing. So, I think exactly what Rawan was saying, people here are coming together to study. And people are all sharing each other's burdens. Man, this class is really tough. I don't understand. People are offering insight.

So I think the idea of competing to do well and excel as law students and legal professionals in the future is definitely here. I think the means through which we do it is like so healthy and encouraging, that like people are definitely going to be successful if you enroll at Stetson.

>> Thank you. Perfectly said.

So, this question, I'm going to pitch to you, Rawan. Just a general generic question about sort of the dress code or the dress expectation for classes or other activities on campus.

>> So there is no like set rule dress codes. I would always try to tell myself to dress maybe with jeans and professionally for two times a week. But you can kind, whatever you're comfortable. If you're comfortable in dressing professionally, you can. If you're comfortable in maybe something a little more casual with a sweatshirt, you can too. I don't think, I don't think it really reflects on you too poorly. I mean obviously dress appropriately, because we're in a professional school, but if you mean like we need

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to be wearing a suit every day, not really. But, yeah. I think that's kind of playing it how you feel comfortable in and just as long as you look presentable.

>> Perfect. Thank you. And so, this question I'm going to pitch to Edward and to Gabriella relate I had to part time students. Tyson is really excited to see part time students on this panel and appreciate the feedback and perception that you're providing. But have a question about part time students having the ability to get highly involved outside of classroom, those extracurricular activities and organizations.

Gabriella, I know you mentioned a few of them. And Edward and you would both take a stab at that question, I would appreciate it. Let's start with Edward and we'll go to Gabriella.

>> Yes. I'm going to have to phrase this in a way where I don't look like the bad guy.

>> Okay.

>> Let me make my ex accuses then. So, I'm married. I've got three kids. So I've got a five year-old little girl, I've got a two year-old little boy and actually during torts class this past October, we had a surprise little girl. Which has been amazing. So, in answer to your question, I've been asked several times and some of my classmates have asked me to participate in Mock Trial, thing like that. And the answer, hopefully this is an advertisement

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for some. At this point I have had zero co-curricular involvement.

My apologize.

>> You have a lot going on.

>> It's also still early and you're right, Darren, you've got a lot going on just yet. And there is plenty of time ahead.

>> Plus I work full time as a surgeon. There is that, but I will get involved, I promise.

>> Gabriella. Do you want to take it from there?

>> So, as Darren said, there are a lot of student organizations on campus. One of which is the part time student society, which I am the President of. And will shamelessly plug whenever I can.

We are a fully part time organization. We are all part time students.

And our main objective is to give voice and opportunity to part time students, especially when it comes to things like pro bono hours, which are notoriously more difficult for a part time student to get, just because of our schedules. You know, you work during the day,

where there are some opportunities that logistically you can't get.

So we try to find opportunities that are part time friendly.

But there are a lot of ways to get involved on campus. The Student

Bar Association is another one. Because we actually have an

allotment of our legislative council that is for part time

representatives. So you're not competing with a full time based

student for one of these slots, which is really wonderful.

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And you know, it's one hour every two weeks usually during your lunch hour or this semester we are alternating our meeting times so there is a meeting at 5 p.m., an evening meeting. And if you can't make it then, you can always, you know, have somebody else vote for you and fill you in on what you missed. So there is a lot of ways to get involved on campus if you kind of just plan and manage our time accordingly.

And there is also a lot of events that happen at night. And you know, organizations on campus are always interested in as much inclusivity as possible, so it's very amenable to a second session in the evening or on a night that part time students don't have class and things of that nature. So you can definitely find something and carve a little piece of the universe for yourself.

>> All right. Thank you Gabriella. This next question is for you, Jessica. Comes from a Brianna. She is also a former teacher, so has that in common with you. And embarking on her journey into law. So her question is, specifically about your transition from education to law. She says that she recently began working at a Law Firm and working towards a paralegal certificate. She would love to know your opinion on other opportunities or other things she could be doing to help transition from education to law school.

>> Thank you for that question. And I have actually two things that I'm going to say in response. The first is education specific and

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then the second is for anybody because I think anyone who doesn't really have a strong legal background can benefit from that part. So, first I think just recognizing that you have an education background is going to be a big deal. And you know, when you think about teaching and learning, that skill is going to translate super well on its own. And remembering for anybody, that this is an educational experience, right? So, the first thing is, keep your educator mind with you, because when you go into a law school class, you're going to be at least in your first year courses, trained to read case law with the specific goal of understanding key legal principles.

So, if the case law that you read is being used as a teaching tool, it's so important to recognize that's what's happening. So there is I think a huge learning school in law school generally where you're thrown into this situation, and sometimes it's hard to figure out what, what the goal is, what do we need to be doing here. So as an educator I think that's a huge strength to be able to look at a situation and say, all right, I'm reading a case, and this is the specific reason why. I'm going to pull these key principles out from it. And then that's, that's the key knowledge that I need going forward and then I'm going to apply that knowledge in a new situation. So, like, A, B, C. Like being able to connect the dots. Your education background is going to be huge in that regard. And also

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I think it will keep you calm in situations where you, you're going to take risks, right? So you'll ask a question. And you'll feel much more comfortable doing this, because you can remember, this is just an educational experience, right? You can participate in an oral argument your first year and not be as concerned because you remember, we're here to learn.

And so, that's one of the great things about Stetson being such a supportive environment, that the community is built, built in to be, you know, kind and teach you, right? But you'll have that strength because you have the educator mind.

The second thing that I would tell you to do, you're already doing. You're getting the Law Firm experience. You're getting the paralegal experience. That's all great. But I also think, just for anybody, if you have an opportunity to look at some resources, and again you have to do this I think in a very specific way. Because remember, law school is all about building foundational skills. So, when you think about your first year classes, they're all structured to help support you in taking the Bar Exam when you graduate, right? So, all of your first year courses, and you can go online and Stetson will show you what those courses are. You're going to do contracts, you're going to do civil procedure. I know you're not going to remember anything I'm telling you, but that's okay. Go and look it up. You have R and W classes, research and

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writing. Your cripple that will law classes, right? All of those are foundational courses.

So, it helps a little bit to step into a program where you have, or I had no knowledge of any of these things. I think if I had a little bit more knowledge of some of the basics that were operating behind the scenes of each of those courses, that might be a little bit helpful to you.

So, Stetson has resources that you can get in terms of the you know prep in that regard. And I would also look for some outside resources. To give just give you an overview of what your courses are going to kind of touch on so you're not coming in completely with nothing. You can do it. I did it. It's fine. But I think it will give you a little bit more confidence. Just like that educator mind set will give you confidence. I think if you had a little bit of an understanding of how some of these basic principles operate from like a contracts perspective. And it's not crazy. You can do this. And if you want to speak with me later, I'm more than happy to do that. Those things might be helpful.

>> Thank you Jessica. Our next question is for Rawan. We've actually had two people ask similar questions, specifically for you Rawan. So it's your moment. And the question is, you know, you mentioned that you came straight from undergrad. So these two students have similar experience, Morgan and Darren, and want to hear

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a little more about your adjustment coming straight from undergrad to law school.

There is some nerves. There is some anxiety. And wanted to get your thoughts on that adjustment and transition.

>> Yes. And I completely get those nerves, because law school is a different ball game. Different, everyone told me that going in, that it's just a different vibe. And it is.

I think preparing and thinking of law school versus college is thinking of law school like a job. You come in, you get to the library, you do your 9 to 5. I think people kind of have this idea, that I'm going to be working all night. You're fought going to get any sleep. I think it's also important to like see it as a job. Okay I'm going to work from 9 to 5. And even when studying for the LSAT that's how I saw the LSAT too. I would study in the morning, take a break and study in the afternoon. If I had a lunch break and I was working at a job.

That's how I handled it and I think that helps. Just to know, if you're working 12 hours a day, you're not going to be able to retain as much as you can. As much as that's possible. So just taking it step-by-step and working 9 to 5. Seeing it as a 9 to 5 job is my best advice.

Working in a workout and taking care of your mental health is just so important.

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>> So, thank you. Related to that, we did have a question about students getting involved in sports. Are there sports teams? And you know, I know we have intramurals. Has anyone participated in any intramurals? Okay. Can you speak to that Rawan, thank you?

>> So I'm on the softball intramural. But I think the boys just needed a girl on their team. Because there is girl requirements. And I'm not very good. But it's fun. It's so, it's just like so much like of a great break that's needed. Like nobody is talking about school. Everyone is out there just like talking trash. Like joking around. And so I would definitely recommend doing intramural sports. They're pretty easy. The school is always sending out communication emails. I've made so many friends just through that an people that I now say hi to in the halls that I wouldn't have before. So definitely recommend doing intramural sports.

>> Thank you. And this question pops up a lot, related to housing. You know, how did you search for housing? Are you, would you have any recommendations or advice for students who are looking for housing in the area? Anyone interested in taking that one? Lamine, I saw your.

>> Sure. So I had an interesting adjustment moving over in Tampa for the first semester of law school and making the drive 80 miles a day back and forth, you know, 400 a week is a lot of money and a lot of time and energy.

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So I think one thing that was helpful, along with makes total sense encouraging environment that you see from the students and professors, the staff as well. I reached out to housing. And although I didn't procure a place with them. Just the steps they walked me through in terms of what it's like to secure on campus housing and Stetson provides some of those facilities. They really just engaging. And they want you to have things you need to succeed. So, I don't know if either you or Darren, Karla have the information specifically for housing but maybe that's something that perspective students can look into but it's on the Stetson law website.

The woman I spoke to, her name is escaping me now but she was very helpful and very open point with her emails and letting me know what I need to secure housing for the next year. So, I think Stetson does a good job of providing.

>> That may be Tracy rich.

>> Nodded.

>> And Tracy is actual absolutely wonderful. She's been here 30 plus years, maybe 35 years now. So, she is truly an expert related to Gulfport, Tampa Bay, and goes above and beyond to try to pull resources together for students. So they have lots of options regarding housing.

We do have quite a nifty little digital piece that we can pass along. We got it from Tracy a few days ago. So we'll pass that along by

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email. We also will, you know, be sure for those of you who are admitted and are admitted students, who are receiving our admitted student resource, make sure you get it there as well. Because it is quite helpful in terms of you know, how to make this big decision regarding housing in this area.

This question he is for Edward, related to the part time program and sort of the balance and you know, you've already said, you know, you have a lot going on. Working full time, and little ones. How do you, how do you balance that? The specific question is, you know, what is the schedule look like for part time? How do you, how are you able to still work and this person, it's Christopher, always heard the first year of law school is really the hardest. So how, how do you manage that?

>> So, the schedule for a part time program is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday for us at least. So Monday and Tuesday, it's single class each day. I think it's just shy of two hours. Yeah, just shy of two hours. And then Thursday, is the tough day. So that's two classes back to back. And it's a total of pretty close to four hours. So that's like from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday it's like 6 to 8. So it takes a lot of getting used to.

I think parsing out where you're going to do your studying is a big question. Because the class itself is a time commitment, but the preparation they say that I think you spend a couple hours prepping

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for every hour that you spend in the classroom, is the general rule of thumb.

So, putting enough prep time and review time I think is the key. And so, I'll confess that at some point, my prep during maybe the middle of the first semester, my prep was not, going as well. Especially with the newborn baby. If I can do it with my, you know, my schedule and the newborn baby, I think that it just shows that it's doable. I did fall behind and I paid the price when it came time for finals. I ended up having to really just cram and put in long days. And so, I guess what it boils down to is if you set aside some time every week and do it in a more controlled fashion, do it better than I did at least in the second portion of the semester, you will do fine. And I was really worried that the amount of time that I was putting in or the fact that I have a science background. None of this really, all of this is pretty foreign to me, that it would affect my performance and I would do really poorly. But I was able to pick it up pretty quickly. And for the part time at least, it's like half the volume, I think of the full time. And so, and it's engineered for working people. And it makes it imminently doable.

April in fact the part time program is one of the top part time programs in the country. And probably for that reason, is they're able to Taylor it to the students. So it is definitely doable.

>> Thank you. So, this next question I'm going to ask Rawan and

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Lamine to chime in. It specifically, for full time students, can you sort of describe your day in the life of. Like what is your average day look like as a full time student? How is your day segmented? When are you doing what? Can you take us through your 1L day Lamine and your 2L day Rawan?

>> Sure. So, funny enough, my first semester was similar to Edward's, as you know I was trying to balance between working and going to school, as a 1L, as a full time student. And the approach that I took, it wasn't successful, it was okay, I'm working and I'm also in school. So I'll try to just make sure that my school stuff is okay. And it was much less structured and much more relaxed. I attended my classes but I have to get work done. So I think things like studying and reviewing and completing the assignments, they were done with a lot of energy, but it was working hard and not necessarily working smart.

So I think the day in the life right now is probably ideal so forget everything I just mentioned the last 20 seconds about your first year. I think the day in the life now is I get to campus about 7:30, 8, and I, my first class starts at 8:30. That gives me time to just kinds of prepare my mind, aside from school. And read, pray. I go into reading, reviewing my notes. I have my first class. After that, actually there is a Professor here, Linda Anderson. She really sat down with me and just helped me to come up with a structured

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schedule so that I can complete all my assignments for work and school.

So after my class I do calls for work and I'll read for torts, let's say your torts class. Then I'll go to class and take my notes and everything.

By 3:00 I am done. But 3 to 5 p.m. I am in the library and that's where I'm tackling different things, whether it's reviewing, completing an assignment, doing things for work.

And so I think it would vary depending what else you have outside of your class. The schedule I would say to you is definitely find a space and a time that's consistent and also conducive to you being able to focus. Because I think in the library why it's so great is sometimes it's not a lot of people around. And if you get there and get your little seat that's not really yours, but you start to think it's yours because you're always there. You can sit down and focus. So I think the day in the life is just getting here as early as you can so you can kind of approach the day just ready as oppose Todd rushing into things.

And then completing your classes as you see fit and you'll get a sense of that as the semester goes on.

>> Thank you.

>> Yeah, I agree with a lot of what he said. I think it just comes down having a routine. Every semester your routine changes based

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on your classes. What nice about 2L is you get to pick your class. So if you're not an will a.m. class you don't have the pick an 8 a.m. You can change based on maybe what your ideal hours of work are. Just like a job, sometimes I'll wake up, get my work done in. And then I'll work from, I try to do schoolwork from about 5 hours outside of class each day. Like four to five hours outside of class. So, if I have three hours in between two classes I'll go to the library. If I have three hours before class I'll try to knock it out that way.

But I have one class online, so there are some online classes. If the teacher decides to go remote. 1L year I had none. But 2L this year I have one online. So I kind of just make a habit of thinking I'm in class, I hand write my notes. I have the computer up in the library or at home and I try to act like that is, keep it, a routine going like I'm going to class.

But yeah, like everyone said so far, just having a good structure and really dedicating time. I think one of the most important things of law school is showing up to class prepared. I don't think anything is more important than being able to sit down in class. You might not be able to follow along because it's complicated stuff did you tell doing your best because you did the reading. And being able to see how to teacher came to the right answer and came out to the process of thinking, is just so important. So getting behind on

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reading assignments is probably one of the biggest mistakes people make.

So I think reviewing is always important. After class if I have time reviewing my notes from class but being repaired is the biggest thing in law school.

>> And Jessica was going to chime in here with another perspective on a day in the life of a student. As a night owl.

>> I figured I needed to jump in and represent.

>> Night owls.

>> Yeah. I think consistent theme of course is being prepared and then understanding like how long things are going to take you. I think that was a really huge challenge for me early on was understanding how long a reading was going to take me. Or how long you know, reviewing notes or preparing was going to actually take in practice.

But I don't keep a consistent schedule like day-to-day. I'll plan out my week and that will be like the extent of it.

My wife works nights so I alternate my schedule to fit her time where I know we can be together like in the morning one day and the evening the next day. So my schedule is always changing. An as a night owl, sometimes I'm the type of person that would rather stay up until 2 a.m. reading as oppose to getting up the 6 a.m. to read.

So inch understanding who you are and not feeling like to you fit

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yourself into this sort of like, you know, 9 to 5, which it's not anyway. But this sort of 9 to 5 structure in law school. There is a lot of flexibility built in. Of course your classes are scheduled for you in your first year. But when you study and how you study, I think can be really, it's beneficial to know you and what works for you. So don't feel stressed.

When I was hearing people tell me, you should do it, like get to school at 7 and stay until 8. That freaked me out. But you can make it work. So T.

>> Okay. All right. This question is related too action assess and internships and externships. Is that process overly competitive to get the opportunities to get the one that you want? Can anyone speak to that, Rawan, I saw you nodding your head. Can anyone sort of tackle that one for me?

>> I don't know if anyone else the externship or clinic. I'm in externship right now, with one of the federal judges. I'm externing with her.

But Stetson makes it really available to talk to advisors about maybe you're not sure what externship you want to do, and what would be the best fit.

So I met with Professor core anything Leah. She a I had a really good conversation. We walked through all the different externships and clinics that Stetson offered. Because I was unsure what type

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of law I wanted to do. And she kind of helped me narrow down which one was going to apply to. You can apply up to three. So if you don't get your first choice, you can always apply to three different ones. Hopefully get one of them.

But if you don't get it one semester you can always apply for the next semester. So, there is always opportunities. And the clinics I haven't applied yet but that's something else I want to do.

>> And I'm going to quickly take a question or kind of a group of questions related to scholarships. And opportunities to increase scholarships after your 1L year. That is possible by way of a, we have sort of, we call them class rank awards or academic merit scholarships.

And essentially, after the 1L year, we are able to, the Office of Student financial planning is able to review the list of students in the top 15%, top 10, top 5% of their first year class. We'll take an analysis of each student's scholarship, their incoming award. And based on where their class rank is, it may warrant adjusting it, increasing it, right, in order to acknowledge their high grade performance in their first year.

So, we do have the potential to increase awards based on strong Academic Success after the 1L year. So that is an option.

We also have a pretty robust list of endowed, sort of donor funded scholarships. And those are scholarships that have different

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criteria. Some are just sort of need. Some are merit. Some have criteria specific to an area of law, you know, this scholarship is intended for someone who wants to graduate and practice criminal law. Or this award is intended for someone who intends to be a public defender, right?

So, those scholarships do have more criteria based evaluation, but we announce those scholarship opportunities every October. The awards are usually distributed in the spring, so the application opens in October. The distribution happens in the spring.

We also have a small list of more need based scholarships that are available in a spring announcement that usually rolls out in March. And those awards are, you know, one time distributions in the fall. So, we've got other ways of sort of picking up additional funding beyond the incoming award that you receive.

And we also post for students, whenever we hear or learn of external or outside scholarships, I think that was a question too. We post those scholarship announcements in the campus docket so that students can see those opportunities and where appropriate apply for scholarships that are supported from a local Bar Association, or a local community organization.

So, we do a lot of messaging around scholarship opportunities both internal and external for students to take advantage of. So just wanted to put that in there.

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I have question, I'm going to combine parking and computers. They don't really relate, but I wanted to make sure we touched on both of them.

The one question was, I guess, you know, how convenient is parking? And so, I know coming from sort of a large State University, parking can be a nightmare. And you know, we as we've said TA campus all unto ourselves. So we're not competing with parking with other colleges or schools. So all of the parking that is here, is available for students, staff and faculty.

So I think parking is not as nightmarish, right as it can be on a large sort of large university or state of university campus. And hot off the press, we are actually getting some new parking, public safety is laying some new concrete and expanding our parking options. So there will be even more parking available in short order.

So, that's one.

And then computers, there was a question about a computer requirement, or advice related to which computer you'll choose, chose in order to have a system or platform that would work well for you. Gabriella, do you want to tackle the computer question?

>> Sure. You know, I feel like the world is divided into like Apple people and everyone else. I am an Apple person. My phone, my watch, my computer. My life. You know. So it really is just whatever system you are used to and comfortable with. My fiancée is not an

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Apple person, he is a windows person. So it is just whatever you prefer. But I think as long as your computer can like get you on the Internet and has a camera for Zoom now in the age of COVID, that's really all you need.

Can you type on it, are you come or fort table, can you see? And that's, I think that's really the most important thing.

>> Thank you. And I forgot one other question related to sort of a scholarship somewhat. That was about paid working opportunities on campus. There are an abundance of work positions on campus. Some are federal work studies supported. Others are sort of OPS. Other personal Nell services. So those announcements are going to be again in the campus docket; or as some of our students suggested here, you know, the Professor reaches out to you directly and says, hey, would you be my TA, right? And that's how some of those paid positions do happen. So just wanted to mention that we have a of.

We have a couple of questions, dialing back to the LSAT and how, how to best prepare for the LSAT. One of the questions was for Edward. I think Edward, you mentioned using a system called blueprint. How did you choose that, that specific test prep? And is there any advice from anyone else on an LSAT prep program or tool that you used that you would recommend for others? Edward. And the first pardon is for Edward and the rest is for everyone else of. So we'll start with Edward.

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>> So, a lot of things that I do in terms of commercial consumption as far as companies and services, I'll Vet through the Better Business Bureau. Because they may not hit on who is technically the best in every regard, but they do hit on people whom there are minimal complaints or they satisfy all their complaints.

When it comes to something like test prep for graduate school, since obviously extremely stressful, I think to keep customers happy, such I think it's either an A or A plus rating with the Better Business Bureau. Is quite an accomplishment. And none of the other test prep companies that I looked at when I look the them up in Better Business Bureau had an A plus rating so what I did is contacted blueprints and their representative. I told them I need help with logic games. The rest, I'm okay. I don't know that I can improve my score that much. But you must give me someone that can help me improve my logic game.

And they gave me a tutor that was specifically good for that. And boy, he delivered. I mean it was, it was a twelve point increase for me.

>> Okay. All right. Anyone else have any advice regarding LSAT prep program that you used? That you would recommend to others?

>> Yeah. For me, I just, I didn't even think about the Better Business Bureau. So I'm glad Edward you mentioned that. But I just literally went to Barnes and Noble. I went to the good old, Princeton

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review textbook. And I just, that name kind of just rings. Like you always think about test prep and you hear that name often.

So I got it. I was like should I get this or another book that was less expensive. I thought well, it was law school. Make sure we do everything we can to get the best score.

And kind of like what Rawan was saying, for that period of time just treating it like a job. You're on a mission to do the best you can.

So for that frame of time, just structure when are you going to study and go over. And the books are really helpful and engaging. I think

they many look at it, they're standing the solidarity with you, and we know this is stressful but we'll help you get through it. But

Princeton was good for me.

>> Rawan?

>> Yes I used test Master's. But I hit turning point with my studying is doing a lot of practice tests. I did a lot. I took the LSAT twice and after the first time, I did test Master's and then I took the test. But the second time I just dedicated practice tests. I would take a test and the next day I would dedicate to seeing what I did wrong on that test much and writing explanations and redoing sections.

And I think that's kind of where I hit a turning point with my second exam. But yeah, I just kind of have to find what works for you. And the timing of it. But that's what helped me was dedicating to sitting

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down and doing a whole section or three sections at a time.

>> Yeah. Go ahead.

>> I would also say, like I know that doing like by practice tests and reading in notebook for days on end started to drive me mad. And so, I also found that just keeping my mind engaged in similar but not like the same activity helped keep like, helped me not stagnate. So, I would buy like a little book of logic puzzles. So like now you're doing like Sudoku and you're kind of keeping your brain moving. When you're taking your breaks. And I found that really helpful. I would read a lot. Just like any book, any novel for fun. Just to kind of keep the mind moving without kind of overfocusing on my practice exams, because after being in a library for, you know, three days, and stressing out, you were like, I can't look at another A does this, then this. And you know, now five people have cars. So, I don't know, I found that very helpful.

>> Okay. So, kind of extending on this section, and I'm going to be wrapping us up because we're approaching 1:30. But I want to say on sort of the application documents. The personal statement. We talk about the personal statement a lot. We have a blog that specifically sort of outlines what is best, how best to approach the personal statement.

Do any of you have any words of advice regarding how you approached your personal statement and what that process looked like for you?

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Lamine, I see you're nodding. Because the personal statement is, obviously every component within the application is important. The personal statement is an important one in that it allows us to get to know you better, right? We don't have, you know, interview process per se, where we can sit down with every candidate and enter have you them and ask them questions and get to know them that way. So we are relying on that personal statement a great deal.

So, can you talk to us a little bit Lamine as far as your approach to your personal statement process?

>> Sure. Actually make me really happy when I reflect on it.

>> Oh good.

>> Yeah. Because I think the words are so powerful. You know. And especially in a process that can be, an understandably so, depending on numbers, where you rank perhaps as an undergrad or you know the scores you get on the LSAT. I think the personal statement can serve as a great vehicle for what ultimately this is really all about. It's becoming a professional to help people. And whatever realm you're going into. Estates, property law, whatever you're doing, you want to be somebody who can be looked at with confidence by the public and also your peers. So I think a personal statement gives the admissions committee an opportunity to put the numbers aside for a second and let's say maybe you didn't do as great as student X or Y or Z. They can get an image of who you are and what your purpose

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is. And I think that is really important.

What is your purpose in attending law school? There are many brilliant students who attend law school but perhaps their purpose is not incredible. It's just maybe make a lot of money. Something superficial. But I think if your purpose is generally to attend law school because you want to be an asset to society. The personal statement is an opportunity for you to show case that.

And so the two things I would say that you would need in order to do that well is the form. And that can be a tutor or like websites, you can look at how to write and how to structure. And then the second part which is like the part just as exciting to me and everybody has the capacity to do it is just your passion, your inspiration, the why. And I think people who are really skilled at writing can help you format your why and passion so that it comes through in a clear way and an impressive way. And that can take somebody's application from being really good, to, we definitely need to have this student here.

>> Well said. Very well said.

Darren, you had a question that you wanted to make sure we didn't lose track of.

>> Yeah. I just wanted to, for those people that might be interested in the aspect of maybe the advocacy board and trying to secure some type of opportunity there. Because Jessica has just a strong

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background in this area. I just thought maybe we could hear from Jessica just about the process that she went through and the opportunities and what maybe the schedule would be like, the preparation. Just kind of in a nutshell, Jessica, if you could touch on that. I think there are students out there that would really appreciate that.

>> Yeah. Absolutely. So, my starting place in talking about advocacy boards is really to distinguish between the three that are offered at Stetson. So you have the dispute resolution board which I'm a part of. That's kind of like all of the pretrial stuff. So anything that goes into resolving a dispute before it gets to trial. So we're talking about mediations, negotiations, arbitrations, client counseling, that kind of stuff. Where you're resolving the issues before you get to trial. So you're settling and that kind of thing.

Then you have the trial team, which deals with everything in court. So the moment that you have a date set, it's all about the opening statements, the cross examination, the direct examination, looking at deposition files. And really interacting, you know, with judges and clients and opposing counsel in the courtroom.

And then the moot court board which I am also a member of. What happens when a case go up on appeal. After it didn't settle in a resolution process. After it didn't get fully resolved on trial.

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After the peel, you get the facts and everything, so with the moot court you're arguing a legal issue in front of a panel of judges after you submitted a written brief that you're advocating for your clients. So it's a pairing of the research and writing and then the oral advocacy in front of a panel of judges.

So, each of those three boards has a distinct tryout process that you can participate in after your first year. And I would highly recommend that you do that. And throughout your first year, you can take advantage of the trial team offers different competitions that you can kind of get your feet wet and see how you like it. And so does the moot court board and the dispute resolution board also has opportunities where you can volunteer and see what it might be like to be on advocacy board.

But to me I think being on advocacy board, by far it's the highlight of my Stetson experience in terms of academics. I've learned so much just from interacting with the law in a different way. In a more practical way.

So, competitions are scheduled each semester. You prep with your team. You get assigned coaches and people in the community to help you. And you know, that can look like anywhere from, you know, two to four times a week you're meeting and practicing and preparing. And then you compete. And that's true for both the dispute resolution board and the court board and fairly certain from what

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I know from the trial team as well.

I think that Stetson does a great job at many things, but I think they do, an amazing outstanding excellent job at how they structure their trial advocacy boards. And I can say that from experience, because we go and we compete nationally and we get to interact with students from other schools. And at the end of the competitions, at the end of rounds, we get to find out where these schools are coming from. And when you look at the list and we end up beating schools like Georgetown, or you know, schools like Texas Tech, who are top of the field as well in trial advocacy. It's no, it's no coincidence that this is happening. And it's really because of the time and the education that goes into how the advocacy boards are set up. It's truly phenomenal. I love every moment of it. We have a competition this Thursday, actually. It will be the start of my last one. It's a very emotional experience I think for me because I don't want to stop doing it, I love it.

>> Thank you Jessica. And so my last question or the last question that we're going to address and we are just past 1:30, but I thought this was an important one, and wanted to make sure we inserted it really quickly. And that is, you know, what is one thing you wish you had known before starting law school or a piece of advice that you would give to a new student?

I want to start with you, Gabriella on that one and maybe we get a

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few other responses. Maybe not the whole panel. In the interest of time. But Gabriella, I saw you nod. So I want to hear what you have to say on that one.

>> I think the singular piece of advice that I could give myself if I was to go back in time and anyone else, is to trust the process. Trust that your professors know what they're doing, even in the midst of like the panic and the complicated concepts. Trust that they are going to help you understand and trust yourself enough to know that you can do it. You are already doing it. And you will be fine. Like one way or the other, you will be fine. And it is just believe in yourself. Believe in the process and trust that people come and gone through this a million times, and you are like no different.

>> Does anyone else want to add on? Nope. Okay. Well said.

Rawan?

>> That was really well said. Honestly being very patient with yourself. Don't be so hard on yourself. I think I was just putting so much pressure and there is no need. Like you have so much support. Just know there is always a teacher to go talk to. There is always an advise sore. So, like never feel alone, almost in this sense of feeling like you're alone and not understanding stuff. But it's everybody. And even though it feels like that, just be proud of yourself, believe in yourself, and be really patient.

>> Thank you. Thank you, thank you to all of you. And Gabriella,

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Rawan, Jessica, Lamine, Edward. You're wonderful and amazing. Thank you for sharing your stories. Darren and I clapping. Thank you for sharing your advice, your perception. I really appreciate the time much and of course there are lots of comments in the Q&A that just said thank you so much, you know, this is so helpful. So, you really have done a terrific job here and we appreciate the time.

One question that we had was, and I know there was, there was some interest in connecting with Jessica and some interest in connecting with Edward. You know, so we may be reaching back out to you all to make some connections as prospective students reach out to us, we'll help to connect them to you all, okay?

With that, we're a little over time, so sorry about that, but we wanted to give you as much as possible. We hope you enjoyed today's virtual event. And that you are able to learn more about Stetson, about our history, from Darren, our community, and our student experience. If we didn't get to your question and I think we got to most of them, some of them are, are saved for our response in writing, but if question didn't get to a question, feel free to drop us an email at lawadmit@law.stetson.edu. I think at least one attendee said, I'll be writing with a long list of additional questions. So that's totally fine.

Lawadmit@law.stetson.edu for your additional questions.

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Just want to sign post too. We have two up coming webinars in our sort of why Stetson series, that's what we're calling it. The next one is March 17th. And we will host that webinar and partnership with our career and Professional Development staff. So they will be able to talk to you about their services and resources that they provide to students, along the pathway of navigating their career outcomes.

Then on March 30th, we will host a webinar featuring our clinical and experiential opportunities at Stetson. That came up a few times today. So if you're interested in that, you definitely want to tune in for that webinar Professor (indiscernible) who is the Director of That program will be here to provide lots of information on exactly how that process works. So we invite you to join us for those two topics.

And, you can register for those events on our connect with us page. Also, Darren briefly mentioned, he sort of slipped it in there a little bit, that we are working on an in-person admitted student event. I think there was at least one question in the Q&A asking, are there any in-person events being planned? Yes. The answer is we are. We're still in the very early stages, but we are anticipating hosting an in-person admitted student event Saturday, April 9th to be held here in Gulfport on campus.

So, as those details are finalized and confirmed, we will be sending

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out invitations to attend.

So mark your calendar for now and watch your inbox for details on the coming weeks so, with that I want to say again. Thank you to our current students. Again Edward, Gabriella, Rawan, Jessica, and Lamine, thank you so much so much.

>> Thank you for participating.

>> For participating yes. And thank you to Darren Kettles for your presentation. Wonderful presentation. Very informative. And then big thanks to all of you, our attendees for participating and engaging with us, and bringing your questions. We really appreciate you doing that today to carve out an hour and a half of your day to be with us. So thank you so much.

With that we're going to close and wish you a good rest of your day. And week. Thank you so much.

>> Thank you every single one of you, thank you so much.

(End of session).