



# Chicago LegalTrek Syllabus Summer 2020

A Pipeline Initiative of the Chicago Committee for Minorities in Large Law Firms  
and DePaul University College of Law

## I. Purpose

LegalTrek’s mission is to increase the pipeline of diverse law school candidates entering the Chicago legal community. Legal Trek is a college summer program designed to provide a hands-on, comprehensive overview of the legal profession to historically underrepresented students. The LegalTrek program strives to diversify the legal profession by encouraging and supporting minority and first-generation college students to attend and succeed in law school.

## II. Expectations and Goals

### A. Attendance

Simulations and other hands-on learning experiences are scheduled for each class session. If you are absent from class, you will disrupt the exercise experience for yourself and your classmates. Additionally, class discussion and instruction are essential to your development as a future law student and attorney. For these reasons, attendance at all classes is required. If you must miss a class-please notify Anna Lloyd in advance. If you miss more than two classes for any reason (except an emergency) you will be asked to withdraw from the LegalTrek program. Classes will begin promptly at the scheduled time unless otherwise noted. All students will be in class and ready to begin at each session’s starting time. Repeated tardiness is not professional and will not be tolerated in this professional program.

### B. Mentorship

Each LegalTrek Scholar will be paired with a mentor from the Chicago legal community. You will be expected to meet with your mentor at least three times over the summer and keep your mentor apprised of your progress in LegalTrek. Your mentor will attend one of your class sessions, and you and your mentor will review your law school personal statement.

### C. Law School Planning Sessions

Each LegalTrek Scholar will be matched with an instructor. You will be expected to attend one “Law School Planning Session” together with your match for approximately 30 minutes. At this session you will discuss:

- Taking the LSAT and LSAT prep course options;
- Your personal statement (you are expected to bring it to the meeting);

- Your GPA and classes to take to boost your GPA or to prepare for law school;
- What law schools you want to apply to and attend-and what the median GPAs and LSATs of those schools are, and how your numbers fit in;
- Who you will be asking to write you letters of recommendation for law school and how to get great recommendation letters.

#### D. Schedule

This class will normally meet on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from June 9<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup> with changes to the regular schedule noted below:

- LegalTrek Scholars will attend a court tour in July. Business dress is expected for this visit. There will be an optional social event following the court tour from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm at a venue near the courthouse. We encourage you to attend to hang out with your classmates!
- On July 21, 2020 will meet at a law firm for a program and tour at 2:30 p.m.
- The LegalTrek Celebration will be held on Tuesday, July 21st from 5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. at DePaul Law. This event will celebrate your success and LegalTrek graduation!

#### E. Business Casual Dress

LegalTrek is a professional program whereby you will be interacting with mentors, attorneys, and on some occasions, judges and law clerks. We want to always look professional, and this means a dress code that is business casual. Business Casual attire generally means slacks, a shirt with a collar or a blouse, and appropriate length skirt/dress. **BUSINESS CASUAL MEANS NO: blue jeans, sleeveless tops, midriffs, low-cuts tops, too short or too tight clothing, flip-flops, T-shirts, or gym shoes. Business dress is expected for our Court Tour event.**

#### F. Assignments

Please turn in all assignments promptly by the deadline via e-mail to: [legaltrekchicago@gmail.com](mailto:legaltrekchicago@gmail.com). Please put your name on each assignment

#### G. LSAT PREP

LegalTrek encourages all eligible scholars to sign up with the LegalTrek discount for the session of the Princeton Review LSAT prep course.

### III. Syllabus

#### Class 1

June 9, 2020

#### Introduction to the Legal System and Law School Admissions

Prior to Class 1 students should complete a LegalTrek Assessment

12:30–1:30	Introductions & LegalTrek Overview
1:30–2:30	Intro to Legal System
2:30–3:30	Getting Admitted (DePaul Law)
3:30–4:30	LSAT OVERVIEW

Assignment:

- Contact your mentor and set up a time to meet with them.
- Please schedule your one-on-one personal law school admissions meeting with your assigned instructor.
- Read the IL Supreme Court Case, City of Chicago v. Morales, to prepare for class discussion.
- Read Public Interest Law Article

- Start writing your law school personal statement. Please follow the format and instructions in the handout. This is certainly a big assignment, but we will be working on edits and revisions during the summer. You will get the most constructive feedback on your best work, so please write like you are applying! Please e-mail your personal statement to legaltrekchicago@gmail.com.

## Class 2

June 16, 2020

### Public Interest Law

- 12:30–1:00: Introduction to Public Interest Law  
 1:00–2:00: Public Interest Panel  
 2:00–3:00: How to read a case  
 3:00–4:30: 1-on-1 Meetings

#### Assignment:

- Continue working on your law school personal statement. Please e-mail your personal statement to legaltrekchicago@gmail.com by Monday, July 9th at noon.
- Read the negotiation scenario and prepare general negotiation strategies using the Pre-Negotiation Assessment Worksheet (PNAW). Bring your PNAW to class on June 23rd.

## Class 3

June 23, 2020

### Litigation and Transactional Practice

- 12:30–1:30: Practice Area Panel  
 1:30–2:30: Practice Area Roundtables  
 2:30–3:00: Students break up into teams to strategize with their partner. Students will use their PNAWs that they completed for homework.  
 3:00–3:45: Students negotiate in groups. One Coach per team of students will observe the negotiation. Each team of students may call one “caucus” where they can meet privately with their coach and ask questions, and the coach can call a caucus as well to meet with one team or both teams of students.  
 3:45–4:00: Students receive negotiating feedback from their coach.  
 4:00–4:30: Students regroup and engage in a class discussion (with coaches) about the exercise. Coaches will be asked to share examples in their own practice of win-win negotiating, using creativity, dealing with a tough negotiator etc.

#### Assignment:

- Read “Federal Courts and What They Do” in preparation for your Court Tour. Prepare some questions for lawyers, judges and/or law clerks.

## Class 4

July 7, 2020

### Court Tour

- 12:30–1:00: Mock Trial Information  
 1:00–4:30: Court Tour; PLEASE WEAR BUSINESS DRESS AND BRING A PHOTO ID.  
 4:30–6:00: Optional LegalTrek Social Event! Come join your classmates and LegalTrek staff for a fun outing at 2Twenty2 Tavern, 222 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60604. We will walk there together as a group.

Assignment:

- Prepare for the Mock Trial by reading the State v. Grubb case file and writing your portions of the trial preparation. Scholars will read the entire case file and draft either their opening statement, and cross examination of one witness OR their closing argument and direct examination of one witness depending on your assigned role.

**Class 5**

**July 14, 2020**

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Mock Trial

LegalTrek Scholars will conduct a full mock trial in teams of two. Chicago Committee Attorneys and Mentors will serve as trial coaches and judges.

**Class 6**

**July 21, 2020**

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Graduation

- 2:30–4:30: Chapman & Cutler LLP Law Firm Visit: LegalTrek Scholars will meet in the lobby of Chapman and Cutler LLP at 2:15 to go upstairs together for a pizza lunch followed by a panel discussion and firm tour with Chapman & Cutler LLP attorneys
- 5:00–6:30: LegalTrek Celebration! The LegalTrek celebration will be held from 5:00p.m.–6:30p.m. at DePaul Law School, 7th Floor of the Lewis Building. Your families are welcome to attend. Scholars will receive certificates for their participation in the program, and will have an opportunity to network with their mentors, professors, law students, LegalTrek alumni and others in the legal community.