



Chicago LegalTrek Syllabus Summer 2021

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. LegalTrek 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 twice 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 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from June 8th through July 20th with the exception of the first session. This schedule is subject to change.

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. 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. More information about the prep course will be discussed in class.

III. Syllabus

Class 1

June 8, 2021

Introduction to the Legal System and Law School Admissions

Prior to Class 1 students should complete a LegalTrek Assessment

2:00–2:30	Welcome/Introductions & LegalTrek Overview
2:30–3:30	Law School Admissions (DePaul Law)
3:30–4:00	Financial Considerations for Law School
4:00–4:15	LSAT Overview
4:15–4:45	Intro to the Legal System

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 15, 2021

Public Interest Law

2:00–2:30	Introduction to Public Interest Law
2:30–3:30	Public Interest Panel
3:30–4:30	How to read a case

Assignment:

- Continue working on your law school personal statement. Please e-mail your personal statement to legaltrekchicago@gmail.com by Monday, July 5th.
- Read the negotiation scenario.

Class 3

June 22, 2021

Litigation and Transactional Practice

2:00–3:00	Practice Area Panel
3:00–4:00	Intro to Legal Negotiations
4:00–4:30	Students break up into teams to strategize with their partner. Students will use their PNAWs that they completed for homework.

Assignment:

- Meet with your team to finish preparing your negotiation strategy.

Class 4

July 13, 2021

Mock Negotiations

2:00–2:15	Instructions for mock negotiations
2:15–3:00	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.
3:00–3:30	Students receive negotiating feedback from their coach.
3:30–4:00	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.
4:00–4:30	Mock Trial Instructions

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 13, 2021

Mock Trial

2:00–4:30 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 20, 2021

Chapman & Cutler Panel and Graduation

2:00–3:00 Professional Development in the Law
3:00–4:00 Meet Chapman & Cutler Attorneys
4:00–4:30 LegalTrek Graduation Celebration!