

Your Best Fit Law School

Welcome back!

My name is Alex-Marie Baez. I am a graduating senior PreLaw Ambassador. Recently, I submitted five law school applications all to law schools in the great state of New York! I am most hopeful to attend Brooklyn Law. The area of Brooklyn where Brooklyn Law can be found is an ideal environment for me; safe, a bit more residential, offers on and off campus housing options, and is not too far of a commute to the main city. I am working to become a courtroom interpreter for the Deaf, and Brooklyn has a school for the Deaf where I can continue practicing ASL and learning Deaf culture.

I often get asked, “Why Brooklyn Law?” As you can see, I have a seemingly rehearsed response, but that is not the case. I know exactly what I want out of the next three years, but I didn’t just set goals for myself. I put thought into my dream school. What should you think about when it comes to finding your Best Fit Law School?

Let’s start with this term, “Best Fit Law School.” It sounds like a sales pitch you would expect from an admissions recruitment team, “We are your Best Fit Law School!” It means what you think it means, the law school that fits you best. This is the environment where you can excel and perform well. Law school will be your home for 2-4 years, so you want to be comfortable and confident in your choices. So, what do you think about in order to make secure decisions? Here are five key considerations when searching for your Best Fit Law School:

- 1. Location, location, location:**

If you were born and raised in Lubbock, a large city like Manhattan might sound intimidating. Or, perhaps Manhattan is your dream. Determine whether or not you want to stay residential, be in a small town, or go big. Location may not seem important, but your surroundings can impact your performance. I encourage you to use this opportunity to be adventurous and live somewhere new, but be comfortable and don’t be too distracted by your environment.

- 2. Finances:**

You already knew this one was coming. To address the elephant in the room yes, law school can (and probably will) be expensive. Tuition, though a huge part of affordability, is not the only financial consideration. For example, difference between the cost of living in Lubbock and Austin is huge. Consider the on and off campus housing options with rent, food, utilities, gas, etc. in mind. Ask yourself, is there public transportation, will you be driving, is the commute to and from campus long and pricy? What about traveling home for the holidays and breaks? Smaller local airports, such as Lubbock International, have higher flying rates than larger city airports. Do your research and consider your budget.

- 3. Scores:**

Your GPA and LSAT score are not the determining factor to an admissions council, but they are a significant aspect of your application. Be reasonable when looking at law school statistics. We know that Harvard Law applicants mostly have GPAs above a 3.5 and LSAT scores above a 170. There are always exceptions, and you should put yourself out there by applying to a fancy school like Harvard, but law school is law school. Don't be ashamed to apply to schools within your GPA and LSAT range, be proud of that range! Check lsac.org, type in your scores, and see what your chances are of getting into the school of your choice. Remember, this is not meant to discourage you from applying to other schools, but it doesn't hurt to be informed.

4. **Programs:**

Some of us already know what type of law we are interested in pursuing. For example, I am interested in Intellectual Property. Most students, even while applying, have no idea what type of law they want to study. That is perfectly normal and completely ok! However, if you do know what program you're interested in, seek out the schools who offer your program of choice. If you're interested in Oil and Gas law, you might not find it at Vermont Law, but you will find Environmental Law. Research, research, research.

5. **Lifestyle:**

For some, a community that shares the same beliefs and values may be important. New York is full of diversity, and that is part of what draws me to Brooklyn Law. Consider your faith community and lifestyle. Be sure you're living in a place where you feel safe and accepted. The last kind of distraction you want is feeling uneasy in your own community.

Students, do your research. Between Princeton Review, LSAC, and many more resources, you can find what you are looking for if you put in the time. Once you've narrowed down some schools, dig deeper or even visit their campus. Reach out to their admissions office with questions. In my experience, they have been more than happy to help. If you're still unsure of what to do, don't fret, reach out to TTU PreLaw! Take the time on your own or with us to find your Best Fit Law School.