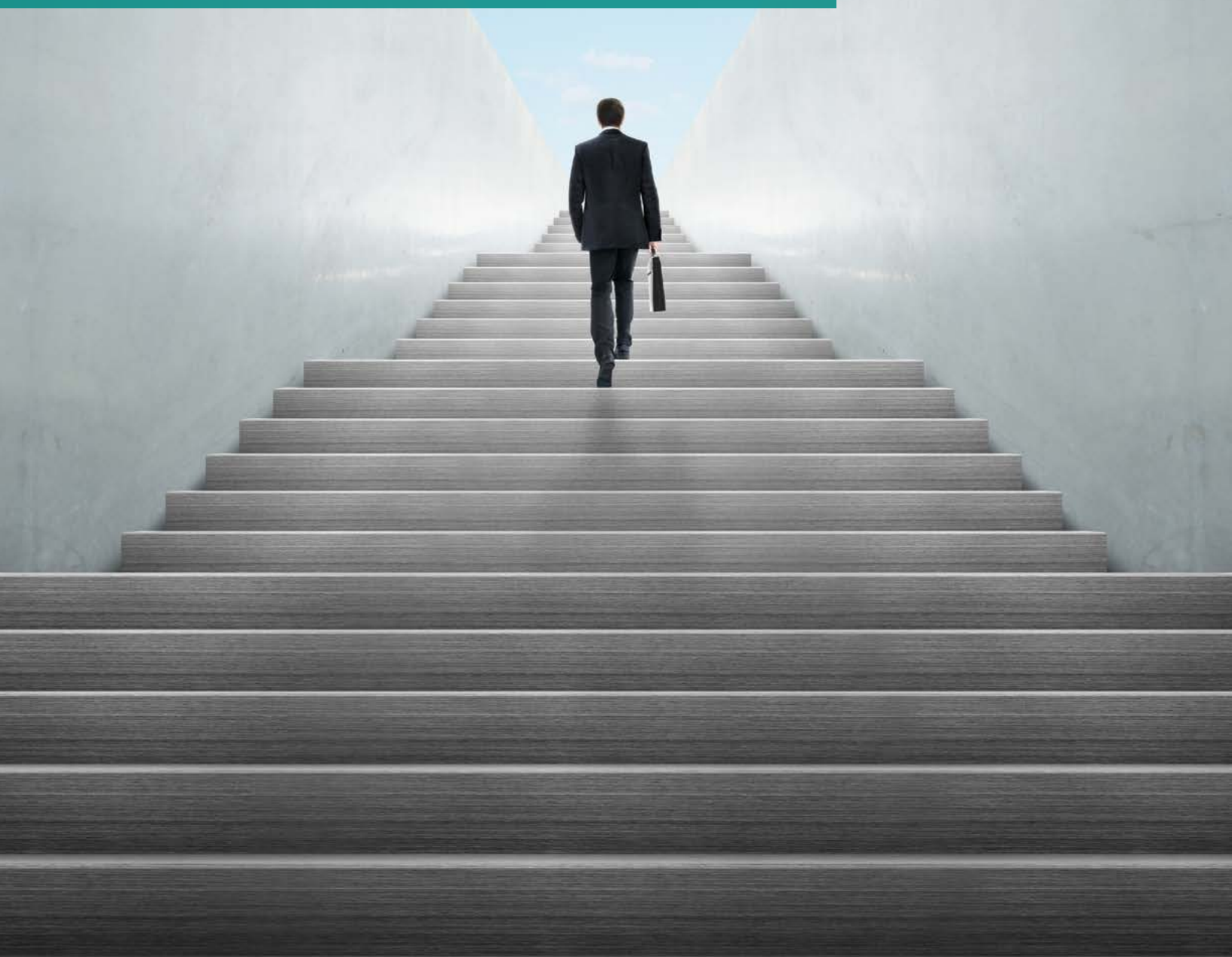


Wisdom for the Law School Journey



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The journey to law school is an amazing road full of different components, requirements, and expectations. It may seem, at times, insurmountable and impossible to complete.

But I assure you, this path is possible and admission to law school is obtainable, but only if you plan accordingly and do what it takes to be a strong candidate. Thus, the three areas of utmost importance are the following: 1) Preparation, 2) Professionalism, 3) Perseverance. Focusing on these three areas will assure you are a solid candidate and will give you the wisdom you need for the journey.

Preparation

Many of us have heard the saying asserting “Failing to plan means you plan to fail.” This piece of wisdom is an important aspect of the law school admissions process. Preparation is vital from the start of the law school journey to its completion. What type of preparation is needed? The type which ensures you are knowledgeable of the expectations of law school applicants, as well as the dedication and commitment needed to effectively prepare for admission to and graduation from law school.

Preparation cannot begin with the submission of the law school application. The components comprising the application should be well thought out and strategically planned. From the letters of recommendation to the personal statement, the law school application has many moving parts and must be undertaken with care and due diligence.

Professionalism

The law profession is a field of advocacy, client representation, networking, research & writing, and a high level of professionalism. The level of professionalism an individual possesses speaks volumes to their integrity, work ethic, and readiness to enter the law profession. Professionalism is not simply how you dress, but also encompasses how you interact with people, how you carry yourself, and how you present yourself to admissions representatives and legal professionals.

One of the most visible components an individual has is their resume. Regarding the resume, applicants must highlight work experience and responsibilities that convey attention to detail and a substantive area of responsibility. This will illustrate the ability and willingness to work hard and an individual’s potential to add to the field of law upon graduating from law school.

Perseverance

Perseverance is the ability to endure in the midst of adversity. The road to law school is not an easy one, this is an unquestionable point. But what ends up being the sorting mechanism for those who gain admittance to law school is the fact that the only people who can be admitted to law school are those who actually apply! This seems like a small point, but the application process itself is difficult, and many who begin the process do not always follow-through to the end.

Persevering through this process is the first step into the legal profession. If the process was easy, more people would complete it! Perseverance is a quality that is transferrable to any profession, but it is especially relevant in the law school journey due to the various moving parts of the law school admissions process and even the coursework law students undertake.

In conclusion, I encourage all who are commencing or in the midst of the law school application process to be prepared, always exude professionalism, and know that only with perseverance can you achieve the reward. Everything has an impact on an individual's career. The goal is to know what it takes to be successful and to move positively in the direction of this success. The practice of law cannot be taken lightly, thus the profession begins with the first step of the journey into the field.



Kendra Brown currently serves as Chief of Staff for Rep. G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) in the United States House of Representatives. Most recently, she was the Senior Director for Diversity, Inclusion and Affinity at American University Washington College of Law where she led the law school's diversity and inclusion initiatives and work. Her other previous roles include Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Representative Dwight Evans of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Policy Director of the Congressional Black Caucus in the United States Congress; and Counsel for Representative Maxine Waters of Los Angeles, California.

She is a former National Chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). During her term as National Chair, NBLSA was active in election protection, leadership training and development, academic planning, career development, and extensive advocacy efforts.

Kendra graduated from Hampton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Management. She began her seminary studies by pursuing coursework at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, completed her Master of Divinity at Howard University Divinity School, and received her law degree from Vermont Law School. Additionally, Kendra attended the George Washington University School of Law for her Master of Laws.

She is committed to community engagement and empowerment as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and The Links, Incorporated. She serves on the Leadership Committee of Street Law, Inc, a global, nonpartisan nonprofit organization that develops classroom and community programs to educate young people about law and government. She serves in a number of additional capacities, including as a Youth Minister and Minister of Music in her local church and has been a part of the executive board of both the Washington Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and the National Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division.