



Jump-Start a Legal Career

CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute

The Road to Law School is paved with motivation, perspiration and preparation—preparation provided by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity's Sophomore Summer Institute. Held during June at Northern Illinois University College of Law, the institute is a four-week residential program available at no cost to the participants. The aim of the institute is to bring together students from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds and provide them with the training necessary to successfully prepare and navigate the road to law school.

PREPARATION

For the past six years, highly motivated students have competed for admission into the Sophomore Summer Institute (SSI), the premiere pre-law program for undergraduate students seeking one day to attend law school. Hosting up to 30 students annually, the program is structured to alert participants to the challenges of law school admission and provide instructions on how to build the competitive credentials necessary to gain admission. The training acquired in the curriculum also enables participants to enhance academic performance throughout the remainder of their undergraduate experience. Participation in SSI is a critical initial investment in their future as a law student, and the gains are exponential.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

During the course of the program, students are exposed to two substantive legal courses. The 2006 students were introduced to the Socratic method through coursework in criminal law and legal writing. The content of the courses exposes students to actual law school material in a way that is appropriate for undergraduate students and enables them to sharpen critical reading and analytical thinking skills, both of which will be essential for success in law school. Participants can bolster their academic performance back at their home colleges by applying the skills acquired in the legal writing course. Last summer's class worked on a personal statement that could be used for their law school application and a legal brief that they

used in oral arguments. Reasoning skills and the confidence generated by strong oral skills are also developed and honed as students prepare oral arguments for the moot court segment.

Because performance on the LSAT is a heavily weighted factor in law school admissions, participants receive intensive LSAT preparation. A number of assignments are devoted to answering the LSAT essay exams. In addition to these practical skills, students are taught how to ameliorate any fear associated with standardized tests. Students can monitor their progress over the course of two practice exams. The individual counseling that follows helps participants to develop an action plan for tackling the LSAT that they can implement when they return to college in the fall.



CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute



2006 CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute

INFORMATIVE

Students who participate in SSI overwhelmingly agree that it is a huge success! In addition to the coursework and LSAT preparation, students glean pertinent information about financing law school, selecting a school, the admissions process and various practice areas through a series of afternoon-long workshops. The workshops are designed to be interactive so that students may ask questions and emerge from the workshops prepared to make career choices based on timely, accurate information.

FUN

SSI is an intensive pre-law preparation program, albeit not one that overlooks the importance of balancing work, play, rest and sleep. During the program, meals are provided to the students and offer a great opportunity to socialize and meet the other participants. At the conclusion of the four-week program, a banquet is held to celebrate the hard work and commitment of all who are involved.



"Because of CLEO, I have learned skills for taking the LSAT and was able to learn concepts that may prove priceless to my future law school career."

*—Sharrika La'Shay Laneair,
SSI 2006*

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

If you are an aspiring attorney, make the CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute your first stop on the road to law school. To apply you must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate institution, have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better and must have completed 45 credit hours by the time you submit your application, while currently enrolled in 15 credit hours to be completed by the time the program starts in June 2008.

Supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Thurgood Marshall Legal Opportunity Program, SSI is open to students who are minority, low-income or otherwise disadvantaged. Meals and lodging are provided during the four-week program.

Finally, because CLEO offers two six-week summer institutes for college graduates, the SSI cannot extend an offer to students who have completed more than 72 credit hours.

For further information or to apply, visit our website at www.cleoscholars.org. Applications must be postmarked by **April 1, 2008**.



2008 CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute Application

Application Instructions: Please type or print clearly. Mail the completed application and a copy of your transcript, along with a short essay (2 pages maximum) on one of the following: **“How lawyers benefit society,” “How lawyers shape the morals or ideals of a society,”** or **“Explain your interpretation of equal justice.”** Complete the top portion of the letter of recommendation form, and ask your professor to complete and forward it to CLEO. GPA Requirement: You must have at least 3.0 GPA. You may also download this application on-line at: www.cleoscholars.org. **DEADLINE: April 1, 2008.**

Name _____ SS No. _____
Last First Middle

Permanent Address _____
Number and Street

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Present Address _____
(If different from permanent) Number and Street

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Place of Birth _____

Male Female Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No What is your State of Residence? _____

ACADEMIC HISTORY

High School from which you graduated: _____

Address: _____ Date of Graduation: _____
(of High School) City, State

List in reverse chronological order (most recent first) all undergraduate colleges attended:

(1) Institution: _____ Major/GPA: _____

(1) Address: _____ Dates attended: _____

(2) Institution: _____ Major/GPA: _____

(2) Address: _____ Dates attended: _____

(3) Institution: _____ Major/GPA: _____

(3) Address: _____ Dates attended: _____

If you answer “Yes” to either of the next two questions, please attach a letter of explanation with your application.

1. Have you ever been suspended or required to withdraw from any college/university? Yes No

2. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? Yes No



2008 CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute Application

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - In order to participate in the CLEO College Scholars Sophomore Summer Institute Program, you must be either a minority, low-income, or otherwise disadvantaged student.

Ethnicity - I hereby certify that I am: (check all that apply)

- African
- African American
- West Indian/Caribbean
- Caucasian
- Asian, Pacific Islanders
- Asian, other
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Other, _____
- Hispanic, Mexican
- Hispanic, Puerto Rican
- Hispanic, other

Low-income, Economically, or Otherwise Disadvantaged

1. A student may be determined to be low-income only if he/she earned less than 150% of the HHS poverty guidelines AND his/her parents earned less than \$40,000. An independent student may be determined to be economically disadvantaged if his/her income is less than 185% of the HHS poverty guidelines.

Low-Income and Economically Disadvantaged Table

Size of Family Unit	150% of HHS Poverty Guidelines	185% of HHS Poverty Guidelines
One	\$15,315	\$18,130
Two	\$20,535	\$24,420
Three	\$25,755	\$30,710
Four	\$30,975	\$37,000
Five	\$36,195	\$43,290
Six	\$41,415	\$49,580

a. Are you Low-Income? Yes No b. Are you Economically Disadvantaged? Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to questions "a" or "b" please submit a copy of your Student Aid Report.

2. An individual may be determined to be otherwise disadvantaged if he/she meets at least one of the following criteria (*check all that apply*):

- First generation college graduate
- Resided in a public housing facility
- Participated in a TRIO program
- Attended secondary school in a Title 1 School District
- Exhibits limited English proficiency
- Disabled, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act

I understand that if I am selected I will be required to submit the appropriate documentation relevant to my eligibility to participate.

How did you find out about this CLEO program?

- CLEO website
- Mailing
- Other _____
- Posted Flyer
- Career Center
- Email message
- Pre-law Advisor (Identify Advisor & Institution) _____

Have you participated in other CLEO Seminars? (*check all that apply*)

- Road to Law School
- Sophomore Super Saturdays
- Juniors Jumpstart the LSAT

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Along with your application to the CLEO College Scholars Sophomore Summer Institute Program, please send the following materials:

1. Copies of your transcripts from any colleges attended.
2. A short essay, not to exceed 2 pages, on one of the following topics: "**How lawyers benefit society,**" "**How lawyers shape the morals or ideals of society,**" or "**Explain your interpretation of equal justice.**"
3. Student Aid Report, if applying as low-income or economically disadvantaged.
4. Your Recommendation Form should be mailed separately by your professor.

I certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false or misleading statements may constitute grounds for denial of admission or later expulsion.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit completed application to:

CLEO College Scholars Sophomore Summer Institute
 American Bar Association Building • 740 15th Street, N.W., 9th Floor • Washington, D. C. 20005
 Phone: (202) 828-6100 • Fax: (202) 828-1009



2008 CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute Application

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Name of Applicant _____ SS No. _____
(Print)

WAIVER OF ACCESS

I have requested that this recommendation form be filled out by (Professor's Name) _____ for the use in the admissions process and in counseling by officials of the CLEO College Scholars Program. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (check one):

- I waive access to this report, which shall be considered confidential
- I do not waive access to this report (non-confidential)

Date: _____ Applicant's Signature: _____

(Note - If the applicant has agreed to the waiver printed above, we shall preserve the strict confidentiality of this document, and it will be made available only to CLEO/Thurgood Marshall officials. If the applicant has not agreed, this report will be made available to the applicant on request. If this portion of the form is not completed, CLEO will assume the applicant has NOT waived access.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR PROFESSOR

Please rate the applicant on the following scales in relation to other students in his or her graduating class (check only one box in each row). You may submit additional comments on an attached piece of paper.

	No Basis for Judgment	Below Average	Average	Very Good	Outstanding	Exceptional
Demonstrated Abilities:						
Analytical						
Critical facility						
Imagination						
Creative intelligence						
Independent Thought:						
Originality						
Imagination						
Creative intelligence						
Effectiveness of Communication:						
Oral						
Written						
Industry and Motivation:						
Persistence						
Self-discipline						
Study techniques						
Judgement and Maturity:						
Conscienceness						
Common Sense						
Leadership Ability						
Personality Attributes:						
Ability to relate						

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Institution: _____

Name & Title : _____ Telephone: _____
(print clearly)

Please return no later than **April 1, 2008** by mail or fax to:
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 Phone: (202) 828-6100 • Fax: (202) 828-1009