

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PURSUING A LAW DEGREE?

Dear Prospective Scholar,

We are writing on behalf of All Square, a civil rights social enterprise in Minnesota that invests in individuals who have been impacted by mass incarceration. As of December 2021, All Square has officially launched our “Legal Revolution,” which is a national movement anchored in Minnesota that aims to structurally transform the legal discipline through a series of legal initiatives—all of which center wellness, racial equity, and the expertise of those most impacted by the law. Central to the Legal Revolution is a Prison-to-Law Pipeline, which will provide pathways to ABA-(American Bar Association) approved paralegal and law degrees. This new and revolutionary idea is the first program in the United States, the first of which has commenced at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in Fall of 2022. The Pipeline and Mitchell Hamline now have approval from the ABA to enroll 2 scholars every year for the next 4 years.

With that, we are currently looking for individuals who are interested in taking the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) exam in April of 2023 as a step towards the opportunity to pursue a law degree. Though we cannot guarantee that anyone who takes the LSAT exam will be accepted into law school, our goal is to ensure that we can register as many interested LSAT examinees as possible. The Legal Revolution will support scholars who score competitively on the LSAT and also present a well-rounded law school application.

Eligibility Requirements for Taking the LSAT Exam through the Prison-to-Law Pipeline Include:

- **4-Years Bachelor’s Degree**; Law Schools cannot admit a student who does not meet this requirement, therefore we cannot pay for an LSAT exam for anyone who does not meet this requirement. To qualify, you will need to have graduated from a Bachelor’s Degree program by June of 2023 (before prospective start of Fall 2023 semester).
- **Demonstrated Interest in the Law**;
- **Personal Statement**; To apply to law school, one must write a personal statement essay. This essay should encompass why you are interested in the law, your personal journey to this opportunity, and why Mitchell Hamline should admit you as a student into their incoming class. TLR is requesting you provide a rough draft of this statement.
- **Disciplinary Requirements**: No disciplinary issues or infractions within the DOC within the past 6 months. Any disciplinary issues that arise following your acceptance into the Prison to Law Pipeline could result in your removal from the program.

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the LSAT?

The Law School Admission Test is a standardized test administered by the Law School Admission Council for prospective law school candidates. It is designed to assess reading comprehension as well as logical and verbal reasoning proficiency. This test is required for law school admission. Although there have been recent updates about law schools no longer considering the LSAT scores in the admission process, for purposes of this program, LSAT completion is required and scores are taken into account.

What do I need to score on the LSAT to be admitted into law school?

All examinees will score between 120-180 on the LSAT. The Prison to Law Pipeline is looking for applicants to aim for a minimum of **150** to be considered competitive for application to Mitchell Hamline School of Law. In the past, the PLP required a minimum score of 150 to ensure a competitive application in the first year of our program. We have updated this requirement since developing our understanding of what it means to be competitive for admission to MHSL.

How long is the LSAT exam?

The LSAT breaks down into four sections, each 35 minutes long with a 15-minute break after the second section. This adds up to 140 minutes of LSAT test time—or 2 hours and 20 minutes, excluding the break. If testing accommodations are needed, you can request a time extension from the Law School Admissions Counsel who administers the exam and approves or denies these requests.

How will I register, prepare for, and sit for the LSAT exam if I'm accepted? The Legal Revolution will provide accepted individuals with LSAT studying materials and textbooks, register individuals for the exam, and provide volunteers to proctor the exam at your respective correctional facility.

Does my sentence and/or offense exclude me from participation?

No. The Pipeline is accepting applications for participation regardless of type of offense or prospective release date. Similarly, those who do not have a scheduled release date are welcomed to apply.

How much does taking the LSAT cost?

We are working with local law firms, foundations, and individuals to pay for all of the LSAT exams and preparation materials. So for you, the cost is \$0.

Am I guaranteed to participate in the Pipeline?

No. The PLP is a relatively new program and Mitchell Hamline School of Law is only

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

cleared by the ABA to admit 2 students from the Pipeline per year. Therefore, we cannot guarantee every person who is interested will be able to take the LSAT or attend law school.

What should I do next?

Complete the attached **LSAT Interest Questionnaire** and return it to us as soon as possible. If you want full consideration for the program, please return your interest application **by December 31st, 2022**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all spots are filled. Once we receive your response, we will be in touch via JPay to discuss whether or not you have been selected and any next steps. The sooner you complete and submit your application, the sooner you will be able to commence your LSAT studies should you be accepted.

How do I submit my completed application?

You can submit your application in any of the following ways:

1. Mail application materials to 2550 University Avenue West, Suite #439-South, St. Paul, MN 55414. Address to Prison to Law Pipeline ATTN: Maya Johnson
2. Return completed application to the Education Director at your respective facility who will provide an electronic copy to our team.

Who will review my application to be accepted for opportunity? The Prison-to-Law Pipeline Review and Selection Committee will be responsible for reviewing applications and selecting candidates. This Committee consists of Legal Revolution team members, board members, and community partners. Candidates will be selected based on the strength of their application, their educational background, and their demonstrated interest in the law.

A big thank you to the Department of Corrections & MCF-Shakopee Education Departments, for being such strong partners in this Pipeline.

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Application Instructions: Please answer each question to the best of your ability within the space provided, though feel free to use additional paper if desired. If you include additional pieces of paper, please put your name and page number(s) at the top of each page to ensure we receive your full submission.

Name:

DOB:

OID#:

Date of Application:

**Feel free to use the other side to answer questions; include additional paper if necessary.*

Question 1: Why are you interested in taking the LSAT examination, and potentially attending law school?

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

Question 2: How have you demonstrated an interest in the law or advocating for yourself or others?

Question 3: In what ways have you demonstrated your involvement in your community (ex: groups/organization facilitation or participation, educational programming, peer mentorship, etc.)?

Question 4: Do you have a 4-year bachelor's degree? If yes, which institution is your degree from? And what is the approximate month and year of your graduation? If you are approaching completion of a bachelor's degree, what is your anticipated graduation date and from what academic institution?

THE LEGAL REVOLUTION

Question 5: Personal Statement Rough Draft - Please provide 3-5 paragraphs of a personal statement essay and please consider several of the following topics to include:

- Your reasons for applying
- Life and career goals
- Particular experiences or background applicable to law school
- Academic abilities or special skills, talents, or strengths
- Leadership and interpersonal skills
- Reasons you believe Mitchell Hamline is the right school for you, including information about why you chose to apply for part-time or full-time enrollment, on campus or in a blended format.
- We also urge you to discuss any obstacles or disadvantages that you have had to overcome, such as poverty, culture, hardship, or disability.

Suggestion: Part of your potential application to Mitchell Hamline is required to include an essay related to your conviction/incarceration, integrating some writing on this topic into this draft would be greatly appreciated.