



13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL HBCU PRE-LAW SUMMIT & LAW EXPO
STUDENT AUDIENCE EXERCISE

INSIDE THE ADMISSIONS ROOM

A Live Mock Law School Admissions Committee Meeting

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	FORMAT
Friday, September 25, 2026	5:30-6:30 PM EDT	NCCU Student Center Event Hall	Live mock committee

Welcome to the Committee

You will watch seven experienced law school admissions professionals review seven fictional applicant files and decide whether each applicant should be admitted, waitlisted, or denied. Follow along, form your own judgment, and record the evidence supporting your decision before the committee announces its final outcome.

IMPORTANT: All applicants, institutions, employers, recommenders, and circumstances in this packet are fictional. The exercise illustrates holistic review generally and does not represent any school's confidential admissions process.

How to Evaluate Each File

- Read the entire record before deciding. Numbers matter, but they do not tell the complete story.
- Identify the strongest evidence of readiness and the concern that is hardest to overcome.
- Consider whether the personal statement, resume, recommendations, addenda, and school-specific materials reinforce one another.
- Base your judgment only on the fictional facts provided. Reasonable reviewers may disagree; every decision should be supported by evidence from the file.
- For character-and-fitness matters, disclosure requirements vary by school and jurisdiction. Applicants must answer the exact questions asked and seek current guidance from the appropriate institution or licensing authority.

Your Task for Every Applicant

- Choose Admit, Waitlist, or Deny.
- Record the strongest factor, greatest concern, and one change that would most improve the application.
- Listen for evidence or reasoning that changes your initial view during the committee discussion.



APPLICANT FILE A: MAYA THOMPSON

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	22
Undergraduate Institution	Langston State University, a fictional public HBCU
Major	Political Science; minor in Data Analytics
Academic Record	3.82 cumulative; 3.91 major; no significant grade decline
Test Record	161 LSAT
Applicant Status	College senior applying in October
Transcript & Academic Context	Completed honors seminars, statistics, constitutional law, and a writing-intensive senior thesis. Earned one C+ in calculus during the first semester and mostly A/A- work thereafter.
Employment & Experience	Twenty hours per week as a residence-hall desk assistant; summer intern with the city public defender; two semesters as a research assistant.
Leadership & Service	Student Government Association vice president; voter-protection volunteer; peer mentor for first-generation students.
Personal Statement	Opens with helping her grandmother contest an improper housing eviction notice, then connects that experience to data-driven housing advocacy. The essay is specific, restrained, and clearly explains why legal training is necessary for her goals.
Resume	Polished, chronological, accomplishment-focused, and free of errors.
Recommendations	Two detailed letters: a professor describes exceptional analytical writing and intellectual curiosity; the public defender describes judgment, reliability, and respectful client interaction.
Addendum	Brief optional statement explains the first-semester C+ and transition to college without overemphasizing it.
Character & Fitness	None.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	School-specific supplemental essay identifies a housing clinic, local externships, and a faculty center; shows informed interest without flattery.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE B: DARIUS COLEMAN

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	31
Undergraduate Institution	Metropolitan University, a fictional regional public university
Major	Business Administration
Academic Record	3.18 cumulative; final 60 credits 3.72
Test Record	158 LSAT
Applicant Status	Career changer; graduated eight years ago
Transcript & Academic Context	First two years include several C grades and one academic-probation semester. After returning from a one-year stop-out, completed the final five semesters with mostly A and B+ work while employed full time.
Employment & Experience	Eight years in banking compliance; promoted twice; currently supervises six employees and leads internal-investigations training.
Leadership & Service	Volunteer tax-preparation coordinator; mentors formerly incarcerated adults seeking employment.
Personal Statement	Describes discovering the gap between formal compliance and meaningful access while reviewing account closures. Explains a goal of consumer-protection and financial-regulation practice. Mature, reflective, and grounded in sustained experience.
Resume	Strong progression and measurable results, but slightly dense at three pages.
Recommendations	Current vice president provides specific examples of leadership and ethics; former professor recalls major improvement and classroom engagement but taught him six years ago.
Addendum	Directly explains early academic problems: worked overnight shifts, lacked structure, and temporarily withdrew. Takes responsibility and supports change with later grades and career performance.
Character & Fitness	One traffic-related misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license at age 20; fully disclosed with certified disposition and concise explanation.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Explains how an evening clinic and business-law concentration align with current responsibilities and goals.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE C: JORDAN ELLIS

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	21
Undergraduate Institution	Atlantic Private College, a fictional selective PWI
Major	Economics
Academic Record	3.68 cumulative
Test Record	166 LSAT
Applicant Status	College senior applying in late January
Transcript & Academic Context	Consistent grades with rigorous quantitative coursework. Two pass/fail electives during a semester abroad. No significant academic weakness.
Employment & Experience	Two summer internships: one at a commercial bank and one in a congressional district office.
Leadership & Service	Member of pre-law society; occasional food-bank volunteer; limited sustained leadership.
Personal Statement	Competently discusses enjoying debate and wanting to make a difference. The essay is grammatically strong but generic and could be sent to almost any professional school.
Resume	Clean but task-focused; provides few outcomes or examples of initiative.
Recommendations	One very positive economics professor letter; one short letter from a prominent elected official who appears to know the applicant only minimally.
Addendum	None needed.
Character & Fitness	None.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Why-this-law-school essay praises reputation, location, and alumni success but names the wrong law school in the final paragraph.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE D: AALIYAH BROOKS

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	24
Undergraduate Institution	Prairie View Institute, a fictional private HBCU
Major	English
Academic Record	2.94 cumulative; last three semesters 3.61
Test Record	160 LSAT
Applicant Status	Two years after graduation
Transcript & Academic Context	Sophomore and junior years include withdrawals, two D grades, and uneven attendance. Final three semesters show a strong upward trend, including A grades in advanced writing seminars.
Employment & Experience	Full-time legal assistant at a small family-law firm since graduation; promoted to case coordinator; previously worked 25-30 hours weekly throughout college.
Leadership & Service	Founded a campus mutual-aid book fund; continues volunteering with a domestic-violence shelter.
Personal Statement	Powerful but controlled essay about translating complex court instructions for a shelter client and recognizing the importance of trauma-informed advocacy. Demonstrates purpose without presenting herself as the client's lawyer.
Resume	Strong and substantive; clearly distinguishes administrative work from legal advice.
Recommendations	Current supervising attorney provides detailed evidence of diligence and writing growth; professor describes final-year excellence but notes earlier inconsistency.
Addendum	Explains that she became the primary caregiver for a parent after a stroke during sophomore year while working to cover household expenses. Includes dates, describes later support arrangements, accepts responsibility for waiting too long to seek help, and ties the explanation to the upward trend.
Character & Fitness	Campus disciplinary warning for repeatedly missing residence-hall duty as a student employee; disclosed, but the explanation is only two sentences.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Identifies family-law clinic, wellness resources, and academic-success programming; explains why each matters.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE E: CAMERON PRICE

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	23
Undergraduate Institution	Southeastern Research University, a fictional flagship PWI
Major	History
Academic Record	3.91 cumulative
Test Record	171 LSAT
Applicant Status	One year after graduation
Transcript & Academic Context	Exceptional record, honors thesis, Phi Beta Kappa-equivalent recognition, and no adverse trend.
Employment & Experience	Paralegal at a large law firm; prior judicial internship.
Leadership & Service	Minimal activity after college; served as debate-team captain as an undergraduate.
Personal Statement	Sophisticated essay about appellate advocacy and the power of precedent. Technically excellent, although emotionally distant.
Resume	Impressive but contains a six-month employment overlap that is not explained.
Recommendations	Two highly favorable faculty letters describing top-one-percent academic ability.
Addendum	None.
Character & Fitness	Application answers no to all character-and-fitness questions. The credential-service report contains an institutional notation of a one-semester suspension for unauthorized collaboration. After the admissions office requests clarification, the applicant says the incident was not academic misconduct because the course allowed group study. The university record identifies copying portions of a take-home examination. A later email minimizes the conduct and blames vague instructions.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Strong knowledge of appellate programs and faculty scholarship.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE F: NIA REYNOLDS

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	22
Undergraduate Institution	Carolina Central College, a fictional public HBCU
Major	Criminal Justice
Academic Record	3.34 cumulative
Test Record	155 LSAT
Applicant Status	College senior applying on the deadline
Transcript & Academic Context	Mostly B/B+ work with A grades in two legal-studies courses. Transcript shows a lighter final-semester schedule with no explanation.
Employment & Experience	Part-time retail employment; one short courthouse internship.
Leadership & Service	Active member of three campus organizations but few leadership details.
Personal Statement	Describes an interest in prosecution after watching crime dramas and says lawyers put bad people away. The essay contains broad claims, limited reflection, and several sentence-level errors.
Resume	Uses inconsistent dates, lists high-school activities, and describes duties rather than achievements.
Recommendations	One generic letter from an online-course instructor and one employer letter focused on punctuality; neither addresses analytical ability or writing.
Addendum	A two-page test-score addendum attributes the 155 entirely to anxiety but provides no testing history, treatment context, retake explanation, or other evidence. Tone is defensive.
Character & Fitness	Minor residence-hall noise violation disclosed unnecessarily because the application excludes ordinary housing violations.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Essay names a clinic the school does not offer and contains the name of another institution in the header.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____





APPLICANT FILE G: MARCUS GREEN

Fictional applicant for educational discussion only.

Age	27
Undergraduate Institution	River City University, a fictional urban public university
Major	Sociology
Academic Record	2.67 cumulative
Test Record	149 LSAT after scores of 145 and 147
Applicant Status	Five years after graduation
Transcript & Academic Context	Multiple semesters below 2.5, three repeated courses, and no sustained upward trend. Took one recent community-college paralegal course and earned an A, but no additional graded academic work.
Employment & Experience	Community outreach coordinator at a respected nonprofit; promoted once; strong record of organizing tenant workshops.
Leadership & Service	Extensive neighborhood leadership and mutual-aid work.
Personal Statement	Compelling narrative about eviction prevention and community trust. The essay establishes sincere purpose and substantial service but devotes little attention to academic preparation or why a J.D. is necessary instead of continued policy work.
Resume	Strong community impact and measurable accomplishments.
Recommendations	Executive director praises character and advocacy; second letter from a city council member is enthusiastic but generic. No academic recommendation.
Addendum	States that the GPA reflects being young and unfocused and that standardized tests have never shown his ability. Provides no dates, specific causes, study changes, or sustained academic evidence.
Character & Fitness	Two collection accounts are disclosed where required; explanation is candid and documents a payment plan.
Demonstrated Interest & Fit	Strong public-interest fit and knowledge of the school's community clinic.

MY DECISION: ADMIT / WAITLIST / DENY

Strongest factor: _____

Greatest concern: _____

One change that would most improve the application: _____

