Dear Prospective Student:

Today’s economy has made the decision to go to law school an important one, to be undertaken only after personal contemplation about your current situation. And even after deciding to go to law school and being accepted (which is, in itself, a great accomplishment for which you should be proud), there is still a long road ahead if you want to become a lawyer.

As a practical matter, one of the most important things I have learned since graduation is that my experience at ONU did not exist in a bubble. Not only did it really change the way I think about the world and the way I approach problems, but I gained knowledge and skills I use every day in practice. For example, your first year research and writing class will be one of the most important classes you take in your three years of law school because, as a lawyer, you spend so much time writing. You write letters, briefs, motions, and e-mails on a daily basis, and being an effective writer is something that is vitally important to being a successful attorney.

Even though it may be difficult, your time at ONU will allow you access to a group of people that genuinely want you to succeed. Those are the professors who you will interact with every day. They are, without a doubt, ONU’s most valuable resource. Nothing is as irreplaceable or more likely to have a lasting effect on you than the professors who will be teaching you every day. They love their jobs as teachers and you will leave ONU having learned important lessons useful in your practice of law.

I will warn you that these professors will all have high expectations for you. Trust me, you will never forget the day either you or a classmate come unprepared for a class with certain not-to-be-named-here professors (I will let you figure that out on your own). That is a mistake you will only make once. But the great thing about these professors is that their doors are always open to discuss issues you are struggling to understand. And because ONU professors make themselves so accessible, you will naturally develop friendships with them, many that will last long after graduation.

On the other hand, if you need to step out of the classroom and want to get some real-world practical experience, ONU can set you up with the prosecutor’s or public defender’s office, the civil clinic in Lima, Ohio, a judicial externship, or just about any other practical experience you can think of. In a clinical program you will get to see first-hand what it is like to be a lawyer, and for many of you, it will be your first time getting practical experience. These practical experiences are where all the lessons you learned in the classroom come together and you see how the law is intertwined, and not simply a number of discrete topics.

In my opinion, this is one of the best experiences you can take advantage of at ONU and one that may set you apart from your counterparts at other schools. In my case, my judicial externship with U.S. District Judge Gregory L. Frost made me realize I wanted to clerk for a judge after graduation. I was then fortunate to have the opportunity to clerk for two judges after graduation, thanks to my preparation from ONU. In turn, the skills I learned working for judges help me every day in private practice as a labor and employment attorney.

I hope my short reflection on my law school experience gives you a better idea about what it is like to be a law student and everything ONU has to offer. Thank you for considering ONU and I hope to have you join our extensive group of alumni.

Warm Regards,

J. Corey Asay, Esq.