

Dear Future Attorney:

Congratulations on choosing Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law! You've made an excellent first step in a challenging, but immensely rewarding journey. I still vividly remember the day I was accepted to ONU. They called me personally, they knew who I was and, forgive the cliché, made it clear I was more than just a number. I was sold.

The people at ONU made the transition to Ada very streamlined, giving me plenty of information so that I had housing –off campus for me– set up before I even set foot in Ohio. I was excited, but apprehensive about attending law school, but the apprehension dissipated quickly after arriving in Ada. I met a number of people that would become some of my best friends that very first week through the thorough orientation process.

The “not-just-a-number” experience was solidified early on. Within weeks all of my professors knew my name and were approachable outside of class for any concerns or questions. Law school is an intimidating venture, but the accessibility of the faculty made all the difference.

In school, I couldn't have had a better experience. ONU empowered me to be actively involved to say the least. I was on the Editorial Board of Law Review as well as the Board of Advocates for Moot Court. I was able to compete in the Burke E. Smith Trial Competition, winning it my 3L year with my dear friend, classmate, fellow Wisconsinite, and current ONU Research Librarian and Assistant Professor of Law, Brian Anderson. I competed in the National Tax Moot Court Competition in which my team placed both years, received awards for our brief writing both years and was honored to be one of four teams nationwide to argue to a panel of current Federal Tax Court Judges from Washington D.C.

I was active in the Student Bar Association, met with prospective students, and worked as a teaching assistant for Civil Procedure and Criminal Law. I was honored to be selected for the Order of Barristers for my work in Moot Court, the Willis Society for my academic achievement, and to be selected as the co-recipient of the American Law Institute/American Bar Association Scholarship and Leadership Award for my graduating class.

Along the way, ONU always showed me a great deal of support and encouragement. The faculty and staff always made time –and still do– to write letters of recommendation, give advice on employment, and even conduct mock interviews. Despite being gone now for several years, I'm still in touch with and receive guidance and wisdom from a number of my former professors.

One major thing that sets ONU apart from many other law programs is the emphasis on practical skills. I needed to be able to hit the ground running when I started with my first job. While prepping for the bar exam, I had a stack of files on my desk demanding my attention on day one. Thanks to ONU, I was prepared.

Speaking of that first job, a connection through ONU's alumni network made it happen. I began contacting alums in my home state of Wisconsin early on and one of those early connections directed me to a job opening within a couple hours of my hometown –and even closer to my beloved Green Bay Packers. As a result, I had a job offer before I finished my 3L year working alongside another ONU alumnus.

You now will be joining that network. I hope you will become an engaged member of the ONU community. You have earned a marvelous opportunity to thrive in a rich environment that is geared towards your personal success. Grab on to it with both hands and enjoy your ride at ONU. And if you ever have any questions about law school, the profession, or my beloved Green Bay Packers, I'd be happy to hear from you. I wish you the very best in your endeavor!

Sincerely,



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