

Dear Future Attorney:

Congratulations on making the decision to go to law school this fall. More importantly, congratulations on your acceptance to Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law. I was in your position four years ago— finishing up the law school application process, receiving acceptance letters and financial aid offers, and trying to decide what school was going to be the best fit for me. Four years later, I have no regrets about my decision to attend ONU.

I will be honest with you: when I was applying to law schools, ONU was not initially my first choice. But when I started visiting schools, my list of priorities immediately changed and I knew that ONU was perfect for me. ONU had an atmosphere that was unlike any other law school I visited. I immediately got the impression that people cared and wanted me to succeed. If you have not yet visited ONU, please do! You will not be disappointed!

I grew up on a farm in Marietta, Ohio, where I learned the meaning of hard work at a young age. Growing up, I was one of those kids that always wanted to be a lawyer, even when all of my friends wanted to be teachers, firefighters, or astronauts. Prior to attending ONU, I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Marietta College. I am currently practicing law at the firm of Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham & Eselgroth, LLP in Dublin, Ohio. Our firm focuses primarily on agricultural-related issues across Ohio, the United States, and even the occasional international issue. I knew during my first year of law school that working at this firm was my dream, and I hoped to be there sometime before I reached retirement. With the help of the professors, faculty and staff at ONU, I started working at this firm the summer before my 3rd year of law school, and received a full-time post-graduation job offer shortly thereafter.

During my time at ONU, I learned that the faculty and staff are not there just for a paycheck; they really care about the students and their education. As if the first year of law school is not challenging enough, I ended up needing to have surgery on my back during spring break. I was making at least one trip to Columbus a week for doctor appointments. I was terrified about how my professors might react to missing class and not participating as well as I knew I was capable during class discussions. When I went to talk to them about what was going on, they only expressed concern and wanted to see if there was anything they could do to accommodate my situation. I would not have survived that semester without their help.

Any 2011 law school graduate from across the country will tell you that 2011 was not the ideal time for a law school graduate to be looking for a job. Firms either were not hiring or they wanted someone with years of experience. Again, with the help of professors and ONU Career Services, I was able to work and network to receive my dream job offer. Once I began working, there was no doubt that I was prepared for my position. During my time at this firm, I have grown to appreciate the real-life practical experience I received with my ONU education. I was taught more than the black letter law; I was taught how to apply the law to real life situations.

Unfortunately, in this short letter I am unable to tell you all the benefits of attending ONU. I am hopeful that my letter does give you some insight into how attending ONU will greatly improve your time in law school. Congratulations again on being given the opportunity to become one of ONU's distinguished alums!

Sincerely,



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