

Dear Future Attorney:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you about your potential decision to attend Ohio Northern University's Claude W. Pettit College of Law. As a relatively recent graduate of the program, I understand the decision to attend law school, especially in the current economic climate and intensely competitive job market, is by no means an easy one; even more difficult (once you have decided to do so) is determining the right school for you. Both decisions are incredibly personal choices that are best left to you after conducting due diligence on programs of interest and undertaking some healthy soul searching. Thus, I write to convey that selecting ONU Law was the right decision for me and that you will not regret joining the vast Polar Bear family if you do the same.

From admission to graduation to employment, I never doubted my selection. The Office of Law Admissions strives to accept the most qualified applicants; this, however, does not simply mean those with the highest LSAT scores and GPAs. Instead, the staff uses a more global approach, taking the time to examine the applicants' varying experiences—academic, professional, personal, etc. Doing so results in a well-rounded and diverse student body that cultivates the learning experience.

This experience is further cultivated by a dedicated faculty and demanding curriculum. The experienced and accomplished professoriate expects a great deal from the students; as a consequence, students are routinely challenged to think critically about and analyze complex issues. This is done through various exercises—e.g., Socratic Method, writing assignments, judicial externships, clinics (criminal, civil, and transactional), law review, and moot court—which are designed to train students to think and analyze like lawyers. Learning to do just that eased and guided my transition from the classroom to the courtroom.

After graduation (and as a result of the Office of Career Services staff's tireless efforts), I began my legal career at the Ohio Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General with the primary practice areas of charitable, liquor, and gaming. In this capacity, I had to hit the ground running to succeed—trial by fire, as it is commonly referred. Immediately after being licensed, I was assigned a caseload with the expectation that I would handle the cases with minimal supervision. A few months later, I participated in a successful, week-long civil trial during which I conducted jury voir dire, presented the State's opening statement, and examined eight witnesses. I was able to handle these professional responsibilities with absolute confidence because of the education and experience I received while at ONU Law.

During the course of my Attorney General's Office practice, I was afforded the opportunity to join the Ohio Casino Control Commission's in-house legal staff, where I am currently the Deputy General Counsel. This required me to transition from a traditional litigation role that was limited to specified subject matters to a transactional and advisor and counselor role that is more general in nature. In this role, I work with the Legal Division to shepherd the Commission's members, Executive Director, and staff through an array of issues, including gaming; labor and employment; Ohio's Sunshine Laws; and the Administrative Procedures Act. I also work closely with counsel from the Attorney General's Office concerning litigated matters involving the Commission. I have been able to effectively transition into this role and represent the Commission in-house as a result of ONU Law's stellar training.

Undoubtedly, attending ONU Law was the right decision for me. I hope you reach the same conclusion for yourself as you complete the admissions process and start this exciting journey.

Best Wishes,



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