



Center for Pre-Law Advising

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**How to Answer Tough Law School
Interview Questions**

Law School Expo | October 4, 2023

Session Overview

- Introduction
- Who interviews?
- Types of interviews
- Preparing for interviews
- Common interview questions
- Tough interview questions
- Q&A



Presenter

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- JD, University of Wisconsin Law School
- 10+ years as a test prep educator (LSAT, GRE...)

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY

APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL

5 Major Application Components

- LSAT
- Undergraduate transcript(s)/GPA
- Personal statement/ Interview
- Letters of recommendation
- Résumé

Do all law
schools
interview?



All applicants can interview at

- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (Chicago, IL)
- Vanderbilt University Law School (Nashville, TN)
- St. John's University School of Law (Queens, NY)

Invitation Only Interviews

- Roughly half of the T20 interview
- University of Chicago, UPenn, Duke, Harvard, Columbia, University of Virginia, Cornell, UCLA, Georgetown, University of Texas at Austin, Washington University in St. Louis

I have the chance to interview.
Should I?

yes.



Group vs Individual Interviews

Individual

- Ex. Harvard

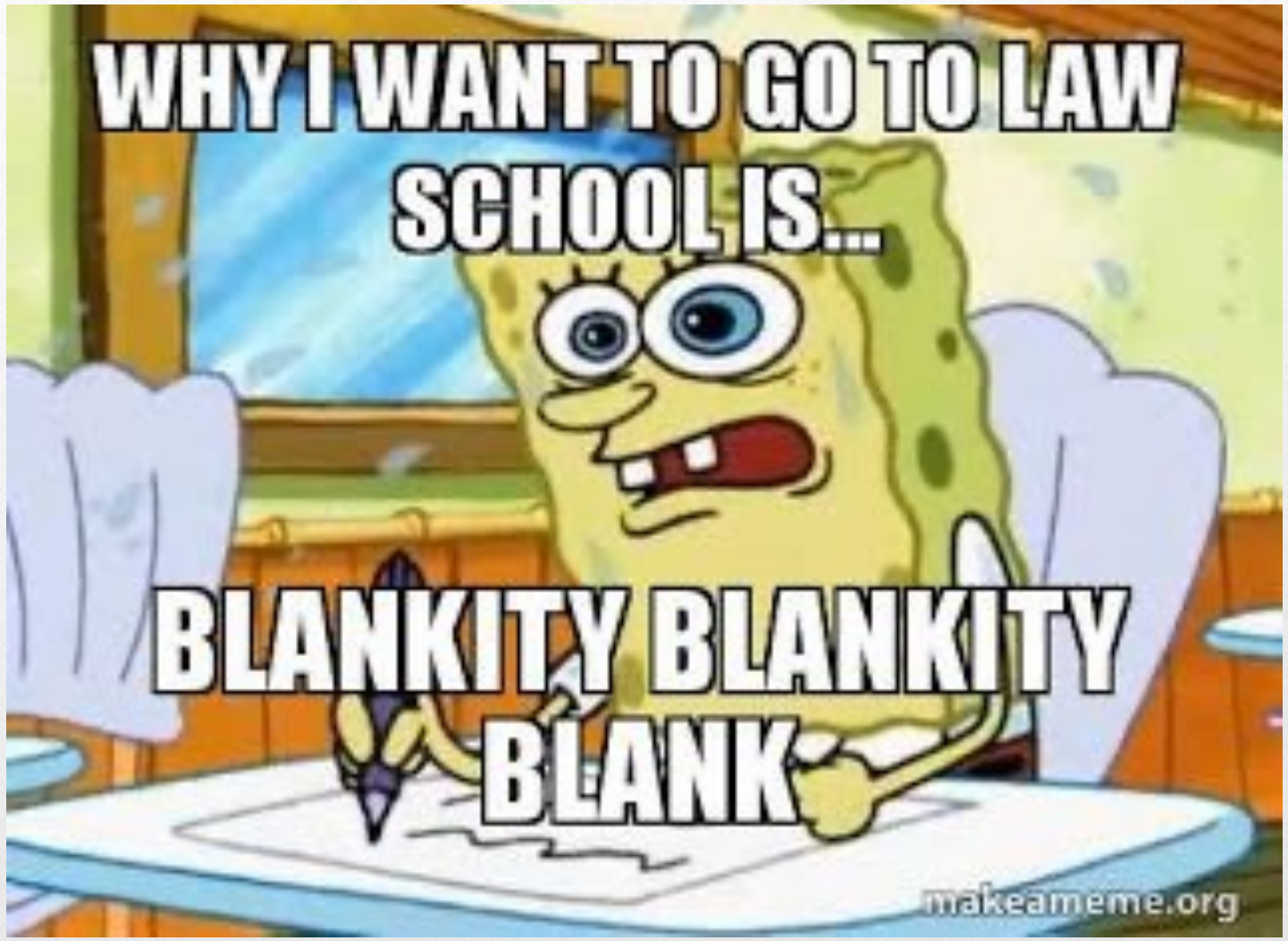
Group

- Ex. Georgetown

Who will I interview with?

- Admissions Rep/Dean
- Alumni
- Recording

**WHY I WANT TO GO TO LAW
SCHOOL IS...**



**BLANKITY BLANKITY
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Common Interview Questions

- Why do you want to be a lawyer? / What do you hope to do with your JD?
- Why are you interested in X type of law?
- Why are you applying to law school now? / Why are you switching careers?
- What interests you about our school?
- Tell me about a time ...
 - you were challenged while working on a team.
 - you showcased leadership.
 - you overcame an obstacle.
- What have you learned at your current job?
- Talk to me about [the hobbies or interests you listed on your resume].

GO TO LAW SCHOOL THEY SAID...



IT WILL BE FUN THEY SAID...

Questions that ask for you to reveal weaknesses/struggles

- Describe a time when you struggled academically and how you responded to that challenge/Name a time you failed and how you handled it
- Tell me about a time you showed resilience
- If you worked in law school admissions, what would you describe as your biggest weakness?
- What is something that you think differently about or has changed about you personally as you have matured?

Questions asking you to talk yourself up

- What is your greatest success story?
- Who is my best friend, and how would they pitch you to the admissions committee?
- Give a fun fact about yourself

Questions about the law school

- What are the pros and cons of this law school?
- Is this school your top choice?
- As someone who's based in the Midwest, what's enticing about moving out to [location]?
- What club(s) at our law school would you join?

Issue Based Questions

- Debate Pokemon Go and the issue of whether players are trespassing
- What do you think of the Burka ban in France?
- The ABA is considering a uniform bar exam. Good idea?
- Here are a few sample admissions scenarios. Would you admit this student? What would you give them on a scale of 1-10 and why?

**AS YOUR
ATTORNEY**

I ADVISE YOU NOT TO ROLL OVER



How to Prepare

- Research the School, including Clubs
- Prepare Questions to Ask an Interviewer Ahead of Time
- Research the Area & Prepare a Reason to Move There
- Practice your Elevator Pitch
- Prepare content like a book you can talk about, a social issue you changed your mind on, and have a few really good anecdotes you can tell for “Tell me about a time when” questions
- Practice having someone ask you these questions
- Dress Business Casual (including what they can’t see on camera)



**ALL THESE
RESOURCES AT
YOUR FINGERTIPS**

USE THEM

Interview Resources

- 7 Sage Interview Questions

<https://7sage.com/admissions/lesson/law-school-interviews/>

- Creating Your Elevator Pitch

<https://successworks.wisc.edu/the-basics/navigating-career-fairs/creating-your-elevator-pitch/>

- Questions to Ask Law School Reps

<https://go.wisc.edu/v32446>

Q & A

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