Law School Applications 101: Selecting Schools

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The Career Center
Self-Assessment: What Do You Want?

- Consider your needs & wants
  - Personal/Family Considerations
  - Lifestyle Preferences
  - Academic Interests
  - Professional Goals
  - Financial Needs

- Prioritize in a way that makes sense for you

- Do the Self-Assessment Exercise for assistance.
School Assessment: What Do They Offer?

- Resources for learning more:
  - School’s website, catalogs, and literature
  - School personnel – Admissions, Career Services, Students
  - School alumni
  - Book of Law School Lists – available on the PLAO website
    - www.prelawadvising.emory.edu, click on “Programs & Events”, click on “Application Workshops”, link listed under “Selecting Schools”
  - Standard 509 Information Reports – available at www.abarequireddisclosures.org
- Result is a preliminary list of 20-25 schools that fit your personal criteria
Credentials Assessment: What Do They Want?

- LSAT scores & GPAs
- Reach vs. Target vs. Safety
  - Reach = your numbers below the 25^{th} percentile
  - Target = your numbers within the middle 50\% range
  - Safety = your numbers above the 75^{th} percentile
- Balance is key!!!
- Final list of approximately 10-12 schools, depending on your particular circumstances
  - 2-3 reach schools
  - 5-6 target schools
  - 2-3 safety schools
Pitfalls in selecting schools

- Relying on rankings too heavily
  - See ABA’s Statement on Rankings
- Not considering personal preferences – Fit the school to you, not the other way around!
- Applying based on what others are doing
- Creating an unbalanced list – “overshooting” or “undershooting”
The Pre-Law Advising Office

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Be sure to meet with the Pre-Law Advisor as needed to get answers to your application questions!