Law School Financial Aid Timeline

This broad outline will assist you in obtaining financial support for law school. This timeline begins in the summer a year prior to law school matriculation.

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<th>One Year Prior to Law School Matriculation</th>
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<td><strong>Target Date</strong></td>
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| July-August | • Obtain your credit report from www.annualcreditreport.com.  
• Address any errors or omissions in your report with the credit bureau(s).  
• Compile a list of all your current debts and estimate your monthly payments.  
• Begin your search for grants and scholarships. |
| September-December | • Obtain current financial aid budgets for each school to which you will apply.  
• Research grant and scholarship opportunities.  
• Check law school deadlines for submission of financial aid information.  
• Determine whether additional scholarship applications or letters of recommendation will be necessary for any of your chosen law schools. |
| January | • Prepare your federal income taxes as soon as you have complete documentation (W-2s, 1099s, etc.)  
• Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.  
• Complete your law school financial aid applications. |
| February-April | • Comply quickly with any requests from law schools for additional financial aid information, such as 1040s, W-2s, or institutional information sheets.  
• Receive financial aid offers. If you have special concerns or situations, discuss these with the law school financial aid office.  
• Discuss actual housing costs with law students at individual schools.  
• Examine the net costs and benefits of attending schools where you have been admitted.  
• Pay your first law school deposit. |
| March-July | • Once you have selected your law school, submit your loan application(s) and finalize your housing arrangements.  
• Pay your second law school deposit. |

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