



MEMORANDUM

To: All Incoming Students
From: Randi Teplitz, Assistant Dean of Students
Date: July 17, 2023
Re: Orientation 2023

Welcome to Widener Law Commonwealth!

We are looking forward to your arrival on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 and are delighted that you are embarking on your path to becoming an attorney with us. This memorandum gives you information about important dates and times. It also has details about buying textbooks and preparing for classes. Please read this memo in conjunction with the comprehensive orientation schedule.

Student IDs – Please upload your photo prior to your arrival on campus. If you are unable to do so, you must visit the Audio/Visual office on the 2nd floor of the Library Building between 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. on August 15th. You must have an ID in order to access our buildings.

Check-In – Check-in is at 1:00 – 2:45 p.m. on August 15th. Please come to the Main Lobby (the Gallery) of the Administration Building to pick up your Orientation packet. Campus tours led by our Student Ambassadors will be available during this time.

Orientation – Orientation begins at 3:00 p.m. on August 15th. It will be held in our large moot courtroom in the Administration Building, also known as Room A180. You must attend all Orientation sessions. Attendance will be taken during both the in-person and Zoom sessions. You must contact me in advance if you cannot attend an Orientation session so that alternate arrangements can be made.

- **Part 1:** Tuesday, August 15th: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (IN-PERSON)
- Thursday, August 17th: 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (IN-PERSON)
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (IN-PERSON)

Friday, August 18th:

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (ZOOM)

Please review this Orientation schedule in conjunction with the Introduction to Legal Process class schedule which is provided below.

- Part 2: Wednesday, September 27th: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (IN-PERSON*)
This is a mandatory session that will discuss your character and fitness disclosure obligations to the law school and the bar examiners.

**ED students are permitted to attend via Zoom if their commute time prohibits in-person attendance. Please email Dean Teplitz (rbteplitz@widener.edu) for the Zoom link.*

- Part 3: Wednesday, October 18th: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (IN-PERSON*)
This is a mandatory Career Development orientation session. You will learn about the law school's Career Development Office, accessing the CORE database, externships, and the clinical experiential curricular requirement.

**ED students are permitted to attend via Zoom if their commute time prohibits in-person attendance. Please email Dean Antos (nrantos@widener.edu) for the Zoom link.*

Welcome to the Profession Induction Ceremony – The Welcome to the Profession Ceremony will be held on Thursday, August 17^h at 4:30 p.m. in Room A180. A reception will follow. Professional attire is required.

Introduction to Legal Process – You must attend all Introduction to Legal Process classes. Successful completion of Introduction to Legal Process is a graduation requirement. Due to the highly interactive nature of this course, in-person attendance is required.

Introduction to Legal Process will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 15th, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16th, 2:00 -4:30 p.m. **AND** 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 17th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 19^h, 9:30-11:45 a.m. – Exam

Advisor-Advisee Meeting – You will be assigned an academic advisor who can serve as a resource for you throughout your program. Your advisor will be in touch with you during the first two weeks of classes to schedule a meeting.

Community Building Activities – We are excited to offer optional community building activities to help you get to know each other and also to become acclimated with some of the beautiful scenery of central Pennsylvania.

Thursday, August 10th @ 1:00 p.m.: **Paint and Create** *in the Side Bar Student Lounge*. Join me in creating an 8 x 10 canvas that we will display in the Pit in our new amateur art gallery. No artistic skill is required (especially because I have no artistic skills). Advance sign-up is required through Registration link on Canvas. Registration is limited to 15 people and the cost is \$5.

Thursday, August 10th @ 3:30 p.m.: **Ice Cream Social**. Meet new friends and mingle with our deans, faculty, and staff while enjoying an ice cream treat. (Non-dairy options are also available.) Advance sign-up is preferred but is not required. Registration link can be found on Canvas. *Meet at the flagpole in front of the main law school building.*

Friday, August 11th at 9:00 a.m.: **Table Rock Hike**. Dean Moringiello will lead a hike at [Table Rock View](#). It is a 4-mile hike that is mostly flat. The group will meet in our parking lot in front of the Library Building at 9:00 a.m. and caravan to the site so that no one gets lost. Parking is also limited at the trailhead. Advance sign-up is required through the Registration link on Canvas. Registration is limited to 12 people. Optional “lunch” at 3Bs Ice Cream after the hike. Dean Moringiello will contact registered students prior to the hike with additional information.

Saturday, August 12th at 10:00 a.m.: **Kayaking Trip**. Join Professor Everhart for a three-hour guided kayaking trip on the Susquehanna River! The trip will leave from Susquehanna Outfitters (333 S Front St. Wormleysburg, PA 17043).

The trip is limited to 9 students and will cost \$25/person. The Registration link is located on Canvas. The trip includes kayak rentals and a shuttle to the launch and landing sites. You are welcome to bring your own kayak if you have one.

This event is sponsored by the WLC Environmental Law and Sustainability Center and will include a discussion about environmental law and sustainability issues.

Monday, August 14th at 8:00 a.m.: **Gettysburg Battlefield Tour and Leadership Development.** Spend the day with Dean Hussey touring the Gettysburg Battlefields. The tour and leadership exercise will be conducted by a retired Army colonel and licensed battlefield tour guide. This unforgettable experience is limited to 10 students. More details including registration information will be provided shortly on Canvas. Participants will meet at the law school.

Friday, August 18th at 9:30 a.m.: **Wildwood Park Walk.** Professor Waldemar will lead a nature walk at [Wildwood Park](#) beginning at 9:30 a.m. Meet at Wildwood Park in front of the Nature Center. Wildwood Park has beautiful trails and is just a few miles from campus. It is a great place to go when you are feeling stressed to clear your head and enjoy nature. Advance sign-up is required through the Registration link on Canvas. Registration is limited to 20 people.

DIY Hershey Park Gathering: **Hershey Park (On Your Own).** We are fortunate to be located less than 30 minutes from [Hershey Park](#) and [Chocolate World](#). If you would like to be connected with other students who are interested in a Hershey Park outing, please contact me (rbteplitz@widener.edu) and I will help make the connections. Discounted Hershey Park tickets can be obtained from Giant Food Stores or AAA. Hershey Park also offers discounted tickets for 4:00 p.m. entry on their website and often runs other specials. Chocolate World general admission is free but some of the attractions have a cost.

Over the next few weeks additional activities may be added. Please continue to check Canvas for additional activities and registration information.

School Store – Do you need Widener Commonwealth merchandise? At Widener Commonwealth, we LOVE to show our school spirit! An [online school store](#) is open for you to place orders. Orders can be shipped directly to you or delivered to campus in the fall.

Textbooks – Your professors expect you to be prepared and ready on the first day of class; there is no first week grace period in law school. As such, I recommend that you order all of your textbooks two weeks or more before classes begin. Here's what you need to do:

- You can find your course schedule on MyWidener using the link on the bottom of the law school's homepage: <http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu>.
- When you have your schedule, you can find your textbooks and first assignments posted at: <http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu/current-students/academics/>. Please click on the "Fall 2023 Textbooks and First Assignments" document.

- If you want to buy your textbooks from the university's bookstore, use this link: <https://www.bkstr.com/widenerestore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>. Use "LAWH" as your department. We do not have a physical bookstore on the Harrisburg campus. The bookstore on the Chester campus fulfills our orders and ships the books to you at your home or school address in the greater Harrisburg area.

You do not need to buy from the university's bookstore and may buy or rent your textbooks from other retailers. We encourage you to shop around and find the best deals and those that are ready to ship the quickest. Be sure to buy the correct editions of your textbooks.

- Complete the first assignment for each of your courses as set out in the "Fall 2023 Textbooks and First Assignments" document mentioned above.
- If you are dependent on using your financial aid to purchase your textbooks, please contact cwfinaid@widener.edu to determine whether you are eligible for a book voucher (which is essentially an advance on your financial aid).

Accommodations—If you are a student in need of accommodations, please contact our [Student Accessibility Services Office](#) as soon as possible. Approved accommodations are implemented by the Registrar and the Office of Student Affairs. In order to protect your anonymity, you should **not** discuss your accommodations with your professors. Because accommodations are implemented differently in law school, I will be reaching out to all students who have been approved for accommodations to schedule a meeting to discuss the implementation logistics.

Tobacco-Free Campus – We are a tobacco-free campus, which also includes your car if it is parked on university property. You may not smoke, chew, or vape.

I look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions or need additional information, please email me at rbteplitz@widener.edu.