Entering Law Students,

On behalf of the Student Bar Association (SBA) and the entire Northwestern Law community, we are thrilled to officially welcome you to our family.

A year ago, we were in your exact position. We were excited to meet new people and study at one of the nation’s great law schools. We were also nervous, questioning whether we would be able to succeed, thrive, make friends, and actually make it through the years ahead. In order to reach your personal and professional goals, you will need to work hard—likely harder than you have ever worked before. You will also need to work smart. But rest assured, you can succeed and thrive—we open our arms to support you in your endeavors.

For many of you, this is the next step in a long journey. For some, it is a completely new transition. For all, it is the next chapter of your personal, intellectual, and emotional growth. Law school is undoubtedly hard, demanding, and—at times—frustrating. However, law school is in no way an impossible feat. Not only are we an outstanding legal institution, but we also foster a supportive, warm, and diverse community. Here at Northwestern Law, we are family. No matter how dark the days—or how cold the Chicago winter—please, never lose sight of that.

Your classmates, the SBA and its committees, and our student organizations are not only here to support you, but also to enrich your law school experience. We encourage you to engage in activities outside of the classroom, from volunteering opportunities, to intramural sports, to involvement with SBA committees and student organizations. Stay engaged with your fellow classmates. These shared experiences will make your time at Northwestern exciting, fun, and most of all, fulfilling. In this community you will build meaningful relationships. Here, you will make lifelong friends and enduring professional connections.

The orientation process is packed with content and may seem overwhelming. You will meet many new people, learn how to brief a case, and experience your first law school class. Give yourself time to adjust to law school—let everything soak in. In time, you will surely discover a routine that works for you. Whatever habits you find successful, stick to those. Do not be overwhelmed by what other people are doing or get caught up in thinking that you are not doing it right. Remember that you are here on your own merit. We know you can succeed and conquer any obstacles that you encounter.


Most importantly, have fun!

Warm regards,

Marco Minichiello, Max Fater, Chelsea Freeman, and Novaira Paul
SBA Executive Board