WESTERN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
PERSONAL STATEMENT

Name: __________________________________________ Date: __________________

Personal Statement

A Personal Statement is required. The statement allows you to expand on information in the Autobiographical Sketch and to identify academic strengths and achievements.

The ability to succeed in a non-academic area may reflect characteristics that allow the Admissions Committee to predict success in legal studies. Similarly, the fact that you have overcome a significant disadvantage and achieved significant success may also demonstrate these same characteristics.

The Personal Statement must be authored entirely by you and must not exceed 7,000 characters (including spaces).

For General and Mature applicants, there are two parts to our Personal Statement (A and B). For Access and Indigenous applicants, there are three parts (A, B and C).

Part A (maximum 5,000 characters)

Suggestions:

- How your academic program(s) and/or employment has prepared you for studying law
- Personal and/or professional achievements
- Excellence in non-academic endeavours
- Life experiences that provide evidence of maturity, focus, leadership, self-discipline, creativity, or resiliency
- Any rigorous research or writing projects you have completed and what you learned from them
- How you may contribute to the diversity of the law school in terms of your background and experience

Part B (maximum 2,000 characters) – Fact Scenario

You are the Chair of a three-person hiring team for a prominent local non-profit organization. In August, the team made a decision to hire a university graduate (the employee) to work part-time during the fall (while she completes three final courses for her degree program) and then full-time in January. The employee is highly-qualified, is well-liked by everyone on the hiring team, and did well
during her probationary period. The employee’s full-time employment is dependent upon completing degree requirements.

In the middle of December, the employee tells you she is unable to start full-time in January because she will not have completed one of her seminar courses. When you ask why, she tells you she was found responsible for plagiarizing part of an annotated bibliography. She claims the plagiarism was inadvertent but acknowledges she should have known better and is responsible for what she submitted. She must repeat the course and will not complete degree requirements until April.

When the hiring team learns about this development, it has one of two choices:

- Let the employee go because she has not met the condition upon which she was to begin full-time in January; or
- Exercise its discretion to extend the full-time start date to May and permit her to remain part-time until then.

One member of the hiring team believes the employee should not continue with the organization because she lacks the integrity required for the position. That member believes it is critical the employee be trustworthy because she will work closely with a variety of potentially vulnerable clients. The other member of the hiring team believes the employee showed integrity by stating honestly why she could not begin full-time in January and does not believe client relationships will be jeopardized. This member believes the employee is trustworthy because she assumed responsibility for her actions.

You have the final vote. What would you decide and why?

_________________________________________________________________________________

Part C (maximum 1,000 characters)

If you are an:

Access Applicant: Discuss the disadvantage or barrier for which you are seeking special consideration that may have affected your academic studies or LSAT score(s). Include specific information relating to the timeline, if applicable.

Indigenous Applicant: Discuss your ties to your Indigenous community.

_________________________________________________________________________________

Note: While review of your Personal Statement by others is acceptable, the statement must be written by you alone. Extensive editing or rewriting by others is not permissible. When you submit your Personal Statement to Western University Faculty of Law, you are confirming that you are the true author of the statement.