

Sent to the Pre-law email list on **October 27, 2009**

Dear UW pre-law students & alumni,

I want to thank so many of you for being understanding about **the changes we've made to the pre-law program**. I know the shift from one-to-one appointments to workshops and email advising can be hard to comprehend, especially if you've been enjoying the one-to-one attention you've been receiving up until now.

I want to explain why this came about.

You've always known us as "Pre-Law Advisers," but what most of you don't know is that all four of us--myself, Chanira Reang Sperry, Tim McCoy and Mary Tillotson--are **GENERAL advisers first**, and **PRE-LAW advisers second**.

Chanira, Tim and I work at the **Gateway Center, in Undergraduate Advising**. To get an idea of the daily work that we do, check out our web site at: <http://www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/index.php>

Mary works at the **Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity's EOP Academic Counseling and Advising Center**. To understand what she does on a daily basis, visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/oma/eop/home.php>

Every day, our schedules are full of meetings with **pre-major students**--those who have not chosen a major or are deciding between several majors and have no home department. Our offices work with up to 10,000 students a year--mostly freshmen, sophomores and new transfer students (juniors). This includes orienting 5000+ new freshmen and 1000+ new transfer students every summer.

As you know, the state deficit led to **budget cuts to higher education**, which led to cuts at the UW, which led to cuts to many departments and programs. I don't know of any student services office at the UW that didn't have to deal with the challenging question, ***How can we provide the same quality of services with a smaller budget?***

The Pre-Law Team had to think of a way to balance our primary duties as General Advisers and still provide quality pre-law advice to students and alumni. With less resources and more time constraints, we had to come up with a new model. We decided to **shift from a one-to-one service-based model to a learning-based model**.

While we no longer offer personal statement reviews and one-to-one pre-law appointments, we hope you will take advantage of the pre-law workshops, pre-law email listserv and pre-law email advising that we do offer.

**On the positive side**, I truly believe that this shift will cause more students/alumni to become **BETTER lawyers**. Already I have seen people taking the "Law School Applications 101" workshop way more seriously. I'm noticing students and alumni coming prepared, doing more research ahead of time, and asking more thoughtful, pertinent questions. By shifting to a teaching model and putting the onus onto YOU to do more of the work, more of you will become better researchers and proactive problems-solvers--the same skills you need to become good lawyers.

I hope I've done a good job explaining why we made changes to the Pre-law Program. If you have questions, comments or suggestions (we're always looking for new ideas), please email us at [PLAWHELP@UW.EDU](mailto:PLAWHELP@UW.EDU).

Sincerely,  
Peg

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