AN INTRODUCTION TO

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

The Connector

PATRICK HEALY

While an undergraduate in Buffalo, New York, Patrick Healy '26 discovered that college could be about more than academics — it could be about building community. At Harvard Law School, he carried that lesson with him, throwing himself into roles that connected him to classmates across the school.

At HLS, Patrick's commitment to bridge building flourished. He served as an admissions fellow, journal editor, student practice organization board member, section social planner, teaching fellow, pre-law mentor, and campus tour leader. He rarely passed up a chance to join a flag football or basketball game with his section. "I challenged myself to see if the same skills that had helped me do well in college could work at Harvard," he said.

In student government, Patrick served two years as a representative during a time of intense debate on campus. Even after losing his campaign for student body co-president, he chose to stay deeply engaged. "Impact can't be conditional on having a certain title or position."

Patrick's coursework has been just as formative. One of his favorite courses, Lawyering at the Pentagon, was taught by former general counsels of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force. Despite having no prior military experience, Healy appreciated how classmates and faculty alike valued his input and helped him find his voice.

As the recipient of an Equal Justice Works fellowship, Healy will work for Legal Aid of North Carolina in Morganton, assisting people facing civil legal challenges while helping expand the organization's technology offerings. "I don't want to live in a world where only certain people can have an impact," he said. "I don't believe that's the kind of democracy we have."

90+
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

75%
OF STUDENTS JOIN
A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

The Advocate

CORDY MCJUNKINS

Cordy McJunkins '26 built his Harvard Law School education around a core belief: young people most affected by education and child welfare systems should be leading efforts to change them. Across four semesters with the Youth Advocacy & Policy Lab (Y-Lab) and the Education Law Clinic, he worked to ensure those voices were not an afterthought, but the starting point.

Cordy's commitment is rooted in his own story from spending more than two years navigating foster care. "Young people navigating these systems today deserve advocates who understand what it feels like to be counted out before you've even walked into the room," he says.

Cordy joined Y-Lab as a Youth Advocacy Fellow the summer after his 1L year. There, he combined strategic thinking with deep investment in youth mentorship. He also enrolled in the Election Law Clinic where he advised parents on Long Island. He helped build a connection between that case and Y-Lab's advocacy, underscoring how education and democracy are intertwined.

In the Movement Lawyering Education Law Clinic, Cordy counseled secondary school students, co-designing curricula on youth voice, advocacy, and critical thinking. In the Strategic Litigation Education Law Clinic, he helped develop new ways to involve students in evaluating expert witnesses.

Cordy also served as a teaching fellow for multiple courses. As a *Harvard Law Review* editor, he authored a student note proposing a new First Amendment framework for evaluating curricular restrictions in public schools. After graduation, he will join a law firm in Houston where he plans to focus on education rights work.

"Every child deserves to be seen, taken seriously, and given a real chance to pursue what they are capable of," Cordy says. "That belief brought me to Y-Lab, and it's what I am carrying forward from HLS."

600+
COURSES IN THE HLS CURRICULUM

7:1
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

The Defender

TABITHA ESCALANTE

As a 1L at Harvard Law School, Tabitha Escalante '26 immediately devoted herself to hands-on client work, joining two student practice organizations alongside her first-year courses.

At Harvard Defenders, which provides pro bono representation in criminal show-cause hearings and records-sealing matters, Tabitha quickly moved into leadership roles. She began as a 1L student-board representative, became the 2L intake director, and then, in her 3L year, served as executive director, managing the organization's internal affairs while expanding its capacity to take on more cases. Along the way, she represented clients in more than 50 matters and spent countless hours training peers through mock hearings, case reviews, and curated practice materials.

Tabitha's commitment deepened as a member of the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project, or PLAP, where students represent incarcerated clients in disciplinary hearings and before the Massachusetts Parole Board. As disciplinary hearing director, she matched new students with mentors to build their confidence heading into hearings.

During her 3L year, Tabitha did something unprecedented: serving simultaneously as co-executive director of PLAP and executive director of Defenders, helping both organizations strengthen how they serve the Greater Boston community. She also sought out clinics at HLS that let her see the criminal legal system from multiple angles. Through the Child Advocacy Clinic, she worked with youth clients in the Committee for Public Counsel Services' Youth Advocacy Division, and later joined the Criminal Justice Institute, representing indigent defendants in trials and helping clients navigate challenging situations.

"I can think of no greater job in the world than to look for the very best in people each day, and to extend grace, care, and compassion in the face of a system bent on denying it," Tabitha said. After graduation, she will serve as a trial attorney with New Hampshire Public Defender, an independent, nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving indigent people accused of crimes.

630+

PRO BONO HOURS COMPLETED BY AN AVERAGE HLS STUDENT LAST YEAR

93%

OF THE CLASS OF 2026 PARTICIPATED IN CLINICS

49

CLINICAL AND PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

"I can think of no greater job in the world than to look for the very best in people each day, and to extend grace, care, and compassion in the face of a system bent on denying it"

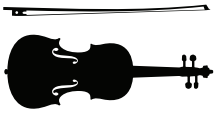
TABITHA ESCALANTE '26

1L Class by the Numbers

9061 APPLICATIONS
780 OFFERS OF ADMISSION
561 NEWLY ENROLLED 1LS

57 LANGUAGES

73% TWO OR MORE YEARS OUT OF COLLEGE


26 INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

49 STATES & D.C.

100 STEM MAJORS

170 PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES

5 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARS

138 DIFFERENT UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS

34 VARSITY ATHLETES

7 BLACK BELTS

22 MARATHONERS

1 CHEESEMONGER

6 OPERA SINGERS

23 TEACHERS

1 OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTER 1 WATCHMAKER

Information current as of August 21, 2026

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL | JD ADMISSIONS | 1585 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138
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ADMISSIONS PROCESS

APPLICATION OPENS: September | APPLICATION DEADLINE: February

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Application Form
- Written Statements
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
- LSAT or GRE Score
- Transcript(s)
- Interview (by invitation)

For more information, or to request a need-based fee waiver, please visit our website at the QR code to the right.

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