

# Summer Litigation Program (1<sup>st</sup> STEP)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. *What is the deadline for the Summer 2020 applications?*

Applications for the summer 2020 program will be due **Tuesday, October 15, 2019 by 5:00pm**. They must be emailed in PDF format to the Baxter Fellow: [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu). Applications will be made available on the [ggulitigation.com](http://ggulitigation.com) website and on the GGU Litigation Center TWEN page. For those of you with questions, there will be an information session about the program on **Thursday, October 10, 2019, at noon**.

### 2. *What courses are included in 1<sup>st</sup> STEP?*

The 1<sup>st</sup> STEP program is 11 units. You will take Evidence, Trial Advocacy, Evidence in the Courtroom, Presentation and Persuasion, and Motions Practice. The program is specifically designed to provide doctrinal evidentiary teaching while linking it to practical trial training. The performance aspect guides you to deliver persuasive motions arguments and effectively present to your fact finder. You will develop confidence and audience awareness. Motions Practice emphasizes effective writing and advocacy of evidentiary issues before a judge.

### 3. *What is Immersion Week?*

Immersion week is the first full week of 1<sup>st</sup> STEP. Your professors will integrate lectures, workshops, and student presentations to teach you how to conduct a trial. As the week progresses, you will gain insight into every major aspect of trial concluding with a full trial.

### 4. *What will my summer schedule be like?*

The full schedule will come out soon!

Immersion Week: Class is Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

Week 2-9: Class is Monday through Friday (and will include several evenings during the week)

### 5. *What is the 1<sup>st</sup> STEP workload?*

1<sup>st</sup> STEP will teach you the rigors of trial practice first hand. Just like in real life, preparing and putting on a trial is a lot of work. Trials are won and lost on how well each side prepares their case. You are the judge of whether or not you are prepared when you walk into the courtroom. 1<sup>st</sup> STEP is truly a program that follows the old saying “you get out only what you put in.”

### 6. *Should I plan a vacation during the program?*

You are in an exclusive, intensive 9-week, 11-unit program. 1<sup>st</sup> STEP builds new skills each and every day. It is highly discouraged that you plan vacations that will cause you to miss

class. Students who previously took time off for vacations expressed the difficulty in catching up because every day covered a new subject. If a student must take time off for an important reason, they must discuss this with Professor Romey before signing up for the course to schedule make-up assignments.

**7. *Who can I talk to about 1st STEP?***

Feel free to schedule an appointment with either Professor Romey or the Baxter Fellows. We can answer any and all questions about 1st STEP and the Litigation Center. Our email is: [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu).

**8. *I'm not sure I want to do trial work, is 1st STEP still right for me?***

While 1st STEP is designed around litigation and trial, the skills and confidence you will gain from 1st STEP can be implemented into every aspect of your legal training. You will gain competence in interviewing, conducting depositions, client intake, drafting and filing pleadings, asking or answering discovery, settlement negotiations and much more. Many STEP Alumni have accredited STEP for their advanced ability to speak confidently and persuasively inside and outside of the courtroom.

**9. *When does 1st STEP start?***

Immersion Week is the last week of May. Motions and Brief Writing class will start on the Thursday before Immersion Week.

**10. *What is the GPA requirement to join the 1st STEP?***

2.5. This is the GPA you must achieve at the end of your first-year. If your GPA is below 2.5 and you were accepted into 1st STEP, you will not be able to continue in the summer program and classes.

**11. *When will I find out if I got in to 1st STEP?***

There is a rolling admissions process. The sooner you provide your application the sooner you will find out if you are admitted.

**12. *What is the application process like?***

After you submit your application to the Baxter Fellows, you will be invited for an in-person interview on **Wednesday, October 23, 2019** with the Litigation Center.

**13. *How many students are admitted into 1st STEP?***

There are a maximum of 24 students permitted.