



## **Summer Litigation Program (1<sup>st</sup> STEP) Application Instructions Summer Semester**

### **Summer Trial Evidence & Advocacy Program (1<sup>st</sup> STEP) Description – 11 Units**

Golden Gate University, School of Law and its Litigation Center present “1st STEP” (Summer Litigation Program), an integrated summer litigation curriculum for students who recently completed their first year of law school. Experienced faculty and practitioners lead 1st STEP law students in advanced trial advocacy training at the earliest opportunity in their legal studies. This selective, innovative, 9-week summer program offers a series of integrated Evidence, Trial Advocacy, and Motions courses specifically designed to improve student litigation and presentation skills. The program also includes three uniquely designed Litigation Center courses: Evidence in the Courtroom, Presentation and Persuasion Skills, and Motions Writing and Advocacy.

This specialized litigation training program offers 11 units during the summer session, giving students greater freedom and a competitive advantage to participate in: full-time employment, the GGU National Trial Team, moot court competitions, GGU on-site clinics, externship and internship programs, as well as other GGU litigation programs during the fall semester. The 1st STEP program begins the last week or two of May each year.

### **Eligibility**

All 1L students are eligible and invited to apply for admission. Part-time evening students are also eligible, but are required to attend the day program full-time for 9-weeks during their second summer. All 1<sup>st</sup> STEP applicants must maintain a minimum 2.5 required course GPA to gain acceptance. The criteria for selection to the program are:

- a) Success in law school;
- b) Interest and enthusiasm for advocacy training (including participation in *In Vino Veritas*, 1L Cross and Close Competition, and other Litigation Center events/lectures);
- c) Admittance into the “Introduction to Litigation” 1L Spring Elective; and
- d) Ability to perform effectively in a professional setting.

### **Pre-admission**

The 1<sup>st</sup> STEP Program is a highly selective program, admitting only 24 of the most qualified and passionate future litigators. As such, students with an excellent undergraduate GPA may apply to be pre-admitted upon acceptance to GGU School of Law. Please email [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu) confirming your intent to enroll in 1<sup>st</sup> STEP and submit the following completed application as well.

### **Rolling Admission Deadline**

Completed applications must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2020** to be considered for the 2021 1st STEP Program. Please email applications in PDF format by the deadline to [baxterfellow@ggu.edu](mailto:baxterfellow@ggu.edu). If you have questions or issues, please email the Baxter Fellow prior to the application deadline.

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

**Personal Information:**

**PRE-ADMITTED (yes or no):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Law School Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resume & Cover letter:**

**I. Submit a Resume & Cover Letter.** Please explain your interest in litigation and the 1<sup>st</sup> STEP Program (feel free to utilize the following questions):

1. Did advocacy, litigation, or trial practice factor into your decision to attend law school? If so, please describe how.
2. Describe an experience in which you welcomed critique and feedback, incorporated the feedback, and turned the process into a positive result.
3. Understanding that advocacy, litigation, and trial training are available throughout your career at GGU Law, why is it important to you to gain this training in your first summer? How do you plan to use 1<sup>st</sup> STEP training during your 2L and 3L years of law school?

**II. In-Person Interview.** Upon receipt of your application materials, the Litigation Center *may* schedule interviews. The Baxter Fellow will contact you for all interviews.

**III. Commitment Letter.** Applicants will be required to submit to the Litigation Center a copy of their transcript from their fall semester, as well as a written commitment that you will be participating in the Summer Litigation Program (1<sup>st</sup> STEP) by mid-February.

**Non-discrimination Statement**

It is the intent and policy of the University to actively promote the objectives and policies of nondiscrimination set forth in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era and Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1975, Executive Order 11246, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, and all other applicable federal, state, and local anti-discrimination laws. Golden Gate University does not discriminate, within the meaning of these laws, on the basis of race, sex, creed, religion, age, color, disability, sexual orientation, gender identification, ancestry, national/ethnic origin, nationality/citizenship, political affiliation, marital status, medical condition, or any other status protected from discrimination by federal, state or local law in employment, in its educational programs, or in the provision of benefits and services to its students.

**Consent**

By signing this application, you are giving permission for the 1<sup>st</sup> STEP Committee to communicate with your references and to receive and review your law school transcript and law school admissions file.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_