

A message from Ehren Lohse

January 31, 2014



If someone had told me four years ago that I would be in law school, that I would be doing well at it, and that after graduation I would be clerking for the Alaska Supreme Court, I would have laughed at them. After working in construction for seven years – which did not exactly prepare me for case briefing and arcane Latin legalese – I realized my life had become a mindless routine that made me sore at the end of the day. And so, eager for a change – any change – I applied to law school. But once I was accepted here at UDSL, I soon realized that, despite my fear and hesitation in altering my life’s course so quickly, I really enjoyed studying the law and would be able to put my love of reading and writing to practical use to earn a living.

At 1L orientation, I learned that Dean McGreal had clerked for the Alaska Supreme Court. Later, when I asked him about his experience, he had nothing but positive stories to relate. My job last summer in Fairbanks, Alaska exposed me daily to Alaska’s case law, and I developed a healthy respect for the Court’s work. Ironically, by traveling to Ohio, I had gained the legal skills necessary to notice and appreciate my own state’s judicial system. Last fall I applied to the clerkship, hoping to serve the state I’ve called home since 2004.

As a young state, Alaska’s law is still developing, and I look forward to playing a small role in shaping its policy for future generations. I am so grateful to all my friends at UDSL for their camaraderie and to my professors for their knowledge, skill, and commitment to academic excellence – I could never have begun this new chapter in my life without the strong and caring community at this law school that has provided me with so much support. I hope to represent UDSL well as I embark on my upcoming clerkship in the Last Frontier.