



YLW
Yale Law Women

YLW GUIDE *for*

**PARENTS
& FAMILIES**

CONTENTS

1. QUICK REFERENCE: GENERAL RESOURCES.....	2
2. PARTNERS.....	2
a. Getting a Job in New Haven.....	2
b. Commuting and Long-Distance Relationships.....	3
c. Financial Aid & COAP.....	6
d. Health Care for Spouses & Partners of YLS Students.....	8
e. Resources for Yale Spouses.....	8
f. Breaking the YLS Bubble.....	10
g. Summers in New Haven.....	11
h. Getting Married while at YLS.....	12
3. CHILDREN.....	13
a. Coming to YLS as a Parent.....	13
b. Childcare.....	13
c. Schools in New Haven.....	15
d. Resources at YLS: Nursing Areas and Changing Tables.....	19
e. Taking Exams as a Pregnant or Parenting Student.....	19
f. Financial Aid & COAP.....	20
g. Health Care for Children of YLS Students.....	21
h. Family Activities in and around New Haven.....	22
i. Long-Distance Parenting.....	23
j. Summers in New Haven.....	23
k. Becoming a Parent at YLS.....	23
l. Career Opportunities and Families.....	25
m. Know Your Rights: Title IX and Pregnant/Parenting Students.....	26
4. PETS.....	27
a. Pet-Friendly Neighborhoods & Housing.....	27
b. Veterinarians and Pet Supplies.....	28
c. Caring for a Pet.....	28
d. Additional Pet Tips & Activities.....	29
5. CHEAT SHEET: WHO TO CONTACT AT YLS.....	30

This Guide was prepared by members of the 2013-2014 YLW Publications Committee: Dwayne Betts, Rose Goldberg, Kathryn Loomis, Ginny McCalmont, Jessi Samuels, and Sonia Steinway.

Yale Law Women creates student guides to facilitate collaborative learning, encourage transparency, and increase access to institutional knowledge. As such, this guide is exclusively for use by members of the Yale Law School community. Any external circulation or commercial uses are strictly prohibited.

April 2014

Yale Law Women is pleased to bring you the YLW Guide for Parents and Families. This Guide includes helpful information for any YLS student seeking to balance her or his time at the law school with obligations to people (and pets!) outside the halls of 127 Wall Street. Whether you come to YLS with a significant other or as a parent, are thinking about getting married or having a child while in law school, or just want to learn how to navigate New Haven with a furry friend, we hope the information and advice contained in these pages will be of use to you.

1. Quick Reference: General Resources

The Law School Office of Student Affairs maintains a website for students with families:
<http://www.law.yale.edu/studentlife/StudentswithFamilies.htm>.

Yale University also has a website dedicated to work-life balance issues, including adoption, childcare, caring for young children, and pregnancy:
http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/family_gateway.html.

The Graduate School's McDougal Center has a family life website, including a calendar of family-friendly events at the university and around New Haven:
<http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/studentLife/family.html>.

kidHaven is a website that compiles lots of good information and events for families in the New Haven area: <http://kidhaven.com/>.

2. Partners

Many students seek to balance their time in law school with a commitment to a significant other—either one who also made the move to New Haven, or one who is located somewhere else in the country (or the world). This section provides information to students and their significant others in both situations.

a. Getting a Job in New Haven

Students who contemplate moving to New Haven with a significant other in tow often have serious concerns about their partner's ability to pursue or continue a career in New Haven. Fortunately, Connecticut is fairly small (and therefore commutable), and there are a number of employment opportunities in the region. In addition to the job market in New Haven proper, Hartford is approximately 40-50 minutes away (by car), Stamford is about 50 minutes away (by car or train), and New York City is about 2 hours away by train.

Yale University is one of New Haven’s largest employers and hires people in a wide variety of positions. The university maintains two human resources offices: one for its library system and one for the rest of the university. To search for and apply for jobs online, visit: www.yale.edu/jobs. The library’s employment site is available at: www.library.yale.edu/lhr. Note that each September the Graduate Center holds a networking and orientation event for the significant others of Yale graduate students; in addition to introducing significant others to a community of similarly-situated people in New Haven, the orientation includes information on how to apply for jobs at Yale.

In addition to large sites like www.careerbuilder.com and www.hotjobs.com, other resources for finding jobs in the area include:

- New Haven City Job Listings, available at: www.cityofnewhaven.com (under the Government section).
- New Haven County Jobs, available at: www.newhavencountyjobs.com.
- Connecticut’s Job Bank, available at: www.jobcentral.org/ct.

b. Commuting and Long-Distance Relationships

Many students enroll at Yale Law School while in committed, long-term relationships and are able to successfully maintain those relationships while navigating their legal education. Some couples, whether married or not, choose to make a long-distance arrangement work rather than completely relocating to New Haven. Others will decide to commute to and/or from New Haven, so that they spend parts of each week together. While it can be challenging at times, students have developed all sorts of strategies to coordinate visits, make new friends in New Haven as a couple, figure out how to make the commute tolerable, and still find enough time for studying and participating in extracurricular activities.

Travel Logistics

Many students at YLS coordinate visits while in long-distance relationships, whether their partners are in New York, DC, or as far away as California. Travel can get pricey, especially on a student budget, but students have developed creative strategies for managing both their relationships and their budgets.

TRAIN STATIONS IN NEW HAVEN

A relatively common arrangement among students in long-distance relationships at YLS is for the student’s partner to live in New York. New Haven has convenient and frequent train service to New

- Union Station – 50 Union Avenue
 - From the law school, a 10-minute drive and a 25-minute walk.
 - Red Line Yale shuttle runs from near YLS (corner of College & Wall) to Union Station.
 - Taxis from around the law school cost \$10-\$12.
 - New Haven-State Street Station – 259 State Street
 - Less than a 15-minute walk from campus.
 - Fewer trains than Union Station, but much easier to get to.
-

York City on the Metro-North Railroad. A one-way ticket to New York from New Haven's Union Station costs \$16.25 during off-peak hours and \$21.50 during peak hours. Packages of "10-Trip Tickets" are available at a discounted rate for people who plan to take Metro-North to New York on a regular basis.¹

Amtrak also runs several trains a day that pass through Union Station. These trains run up and down the Northeast Corridor from Boston to D.C., and north to Hartford and Springfield as well. The Vermonter, which runs from D.C. to St. Alban's, Vermont, passes through New Haven in each direction once daily. These Amtrak options make it relatively easy for students in long-distance relationships to travel to see their partners in Boston, Philadelphia, or D.C. If booked last minute, tickets are quite expensive, but tickets are significantly cheaper if booked in advance. A one-way ticket to D.C. booked at least a month in advance costs \$63. Some students have enrolled with the Amtrak Guest Rewards Program (and credit card), which allows you to gain points via everyday purchases that are redeemable for train travel.

AIRPORTS FOR TRAVELING TO AND FROM NEW HAVEN

- Hartford, CT – Bradley International Airport
 - Approximately sixty minutes from New Haven by car.
 - Accessible by train/bus combo (Amtrak shuttle and the Bradley Flyer) (\$29 round trip).
 - Accessible by CT Limo Service (\$60-\$100 round trip).
- New York City Airports – La Guardia, JFK, Newark
 - Travel time from campus varies widely with traffic.
 - Accessible by CT Limo Service (\$130-\$180 round trip).
 - Amtrak runs from New Haven's Union Station to Newark International Airport.
 - Trip takes approximately 2.5 hours.
 - Can cost as little as \$35 one-way if booked in advance.
 - Accessible from New York by subway (JFK) and airport shuttle buses from train stations.
 - From New Haven, take Metro North to New York and then get to airport.
 - Trip can take anywhere from 2.5-3.5 hours.
- New Haven, CT – Tweed Regional Airport
 - Four flights daily on US Airways to Philadelphia (connections to points beyond).
 - Can be relatively expensive compared to Hartford.
 - Can be hard to get re-booked after delays and/or cancellations.

While New Haven is very convenient for train travel to destinations in the northeast, the Elm City is not well situated for air travel. Most students fly out of Hartford or New York. During

¹ For additional information, see http://as0.mta.info/mnr/schedules/sched_form.cfm.

popular travel times (i.e., before and after breaks), students often share rides to and from airports. Booking early will usually make air travel much cheaper.

Balancing Life at YLS and a Long-Distance Relationship

Balancing a long-distance relationship and social engagements at YLS can be tricky, especially during 1L fall as students meet their peers and adjust to being in New Haven. But not to worry! Many students are in serious, long-distance relationships – there are ways to make it work, and it can be relatively easy to find others who are in similar situations. Students in long-distance relationships have developed a variety of strategies for balancing YLS social lives with their relationships, such as:

- Getting to know other students in serious relationships.
- Planning ahead to spend time with classmates during the week and partner on weekends.
- Being upfront about the fact that getting to know your peers can be an important part of professional school.
- Staying connected – for example by having a “movie night” where you watch the same movie together while FaceTiming, or talking on the phone frequently so you don’t constantly feel the need to catch up.
- Setting aside certain windows of the weekend (or whenever you are together) to be work-time for both partners, so you still have work-free time with your significant other.
- Choosing classes to make travel and visiting easier.
- Hanging in there – it gets easier as you spend less time in class and you get to know people!

Commuting to/from New Haven

Some YLSers don’t live in New Haven, or their partners live here but work somewhere else. New York City is a popular alternative, for obvious reasons (the restaurants, the style, oh, and the short commute). Here are some tips for managing this double-location strategy:

- If you're going back and forth more than twice a week on MetroNorth, look into monthly passes – they are significantly cheaper than paying full price each way. Anyone who goes to NYC with regularity should buy 10-ride passes rather than individual ones.
- The worst part of getting to/from NYC is actually getting to/from Union Station in New Haven. Some things that make it better: the Yale Red line goes to Union Station and stops at College and Wall. During peak times, you can take trains to/from New Haven-State Street, which is a 10-minute walk from YLS. While carpooling to and from the city (via the Wall, for instance) is an option, the trains are convenient.
- To maximize your efficiency doing homework on the road, avoid tethering your iPhone to your laptop. Not having internet (or looking at a small screen) reduces distractions. Also, don't forget headphones! MetroNorth can be loud.
- Keeping your overall student activity level low will probably help with the logistics of commuting. If you're going to spend a significant amount of time out of New Haven, you

might want to think carefully about commitments with less-predictable work streams, such as clinics.

c. Financial Aid & COAP

Getting married can affect financial aid awards and COAP contribution calculations. The general information and tips below are meant to serve as a quick resource, but it is important that students meet with Jill Stone, Director of Financial Aid, if they have unusual circumstances or

Do you have questions about how being married (or getting married!) could impact your financial aid and COAP?

Contact Jill Stone, Director of Financial Aid:
(203) 432-1688 or
financialaid.law@yale.edu

any questions about how the financial aid process affects them specifically. Jill sits down with students one-on-one to answer questions and to provide information regarding students' major life decisions and how they impact financial aid awards.

Marriage and the Financial Aid Spousal Contribution

When the financial aid office makes its scholarship grant calculations for each student, it takes into account how much money the student's spouse makes to generate an expected "spousal contribution." If a spouse makes under \$50,000, there is no expected spousal contribution. At income levels higher than that, there is an adjusted scale of expected contributions per income level.² If a spouse is unemployed, is a stay-at-home parent, or is a full-time student, there is no expected spousal contribution. Students may receive additional loan funds to cover the cost of the spousal contribution, but those loans are not eligible for COAP.

There are a few common exceptions to the above-mentioned formula applied on a case-by-case basis that can lower or eliminate the spousal contribution (e.g., spouses who live in a separate residence in another city or spouses who have educational loan debt).

Students are expected to include on financial aid forms any plans to change marriage status or spousal employment status. For instance, if a student plans to get married on November 1st of a given school year, the student must report that fact and the financial aid office will provide a pro-rated financial aid award depending on expected spousal contribution. If something unexpected happens to a student's status, the student should immediately contact the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office can make adjustments to financial aid awards that are reflected on the following month's student bill. For instance, if a student's spouse loses his or her job, the student should contact Financial Aid right away, because they have the ability to immediately eliminate the student's expected spousal contribution, which can often result in higher grant awards.

² See http://www.law.yale.edu/admissions/finaid_assessment.htm.

One important note is that, by federal regulation, financial aid does not cover the costs of a student's spouse in the student's calculated financial aid budget.

Buying Real Estate

Families that move to New Haven may be interested in purchasing real estate. Physical property is not included in the financial aid office's calculation of assets that a student must use to pay for his or her education. If a student is planning on buying a house in the New Haven area and has either purchased the house by the time the school year starts or demonstrated sufficient commitment to the purchase of a house (conducted inspections of the property, in negotiations, etc.), then the financial aid office will not incorporate the assets that have purchased the house or are expected to be used to purchase the house into the student's expected student contribution.

A decision to buy a house while already enrolled at YLS does not work the same way, since the expected student contribution to a student's financial aid is made at the time the student enrolls. The financial aid office will not change the expected student contribution during the student's enrollment. A student may, as always, take out additional loans to cover the cost of the expected student contribution, for buying a house or any other purpose, but those loans are not COAP-eligible.

Marriage & COAP

When graduates enroll in COAP, the Financial Aid office makes an income calculation that determines COAP funding. For married couples, the combined income of the two spouses is calculated to determine the COAP participant's income, but there are important deductions to be aware of. First of all, the spouse of the COAP participant gets a \$40,000 income shelter, so only spousal income levels above \$40,000 are included toward the COAP income calculation. Secondly, if the spouse has any annual education loan debt repayments, those are subtracted from the COAP income calculation as well. Assets such as cash, savings, investments, and trusts are included in the COAP income calculation for all program participants and their spouses, but for every year a student is out of school, an additional \$6,000 asset shelter is subtracted from the calculation of assets contributing to COAP income. For example, a YLS alumna out of school for three years would get an asset shelter of \$18,000. Families should note that physical assets (such as primary residences and cars) and retirement plans are not included in the calculation of assets at any point.

For married couples with both spouses enrolled in COAP (i.e., both spouses are YLS graduates and in COAP), the calculated COAP income for each participant is 50% of the combined income of the two participants. Both participants receive the full asset exclusion, so an additional \$6,000 is subtracted from each participant's COAP income calculation for each year out of school.

For COAP guides and other information, visit this website:
http://www.law.yale.edu/admissions/finaid_COAP.htm.

d. Health Care for Spouses & Partners of YLS Students

Yale students who are enrolled at least half-time and are working toward a Yale degree are automatically enrolled in Yale Health Basic – a primary care program that provides many services at no charge. In addition, Yale students must either pay for additional hospitalization and specialty care insurance, or – if the student is covered by someone else’s health insurance plan – submit a waiver of Yale coverage.

In addition, Yale students may seek to insure their dependents through Yale Health. For purposes of Yale Health coverage, “dependents” are defined as: (1) a student’s lawfully married spouse, (2) a student’s civil union partner, or (3) a student’s child who is under the age of 26.

Dependents must be enrolled in the Yale Health Plan by September 15th each year; enrollment in Yale Health for dependents of Yale students is not automatic and, once elected, the enrollment must be renewed annually.

In the event that a student marries or gives birth during the year, she may elect to enroll her new dependent in the Yale Health program within 30 days of either marriage or birth. Note that new spouses/partners would be required to pay the full amount for the coverage term – the insurance rates are not prorated.

e. Resources for Yale Spouses

Did you know that many of the resources available to Yale students are accessible to spouses and civil union partners of Yale students, too? This section outlines a few of the many resources Yale makes available to significant others, as well as additional resources to help significant others of law students cope with the law school experience.

Student Affiliate ID Card

Spouses and civil union partners of Yale students are entitled to a Yale affiliate ID card. It looks just like a YLS student ID card and – like those cards – provides access to secured areas and library services, among other things. To get an ID card, spouses/partners must first go to the YLS Registrar’s Office with a photo ID, the Yale ID card of their student spouse/civil union partner, and documentation of the relationship (e.g., a marriage certificate). The Registrar will issue the spouse a temporary ID to take to the Yale ID card center at 246 Church Street (Room

Do you have questions about Yale Health insurance coverage? Contact member services at (203) 432-0246 or member.services@yale.edu. Also check out the Yale Health Student Handbook, available at <http://yalehealth.yale.edu/understand-your-coverage>.

101), which will issue the spouse a permanent Yale ID card. For more information, visit the Yale ID website: <http://www.yale.edu/sfas/idcard/faqs.html>.

[Payne Whitney Gymnasium](#)

Yale Law School students get access to the exercise equipment and facilities at Payne Whitney Gymnasium—allegedly the second biggest gym building in the world—for free! Spouses and civil union partners are also eligible for gym memberships, but have to pay a small membership fee (\$168 for a twelve-month membership in 2014).

[Yale Graduate Student Center](#)

The Yale Graduate Student Center has frequent, fun, and very family-friendly events on a regular basis. Recent examples include: a talk about healthy sleep habits with cookies and milk, a free beer and fall foods mingler, and regular yoga. Additionally, each September, the Graduate Center also holds an orientation and networking event for the spouses and partners of new graduate and professional school students; this session introduces partners to resources and shares information about opportunities to work at Yale. Although law students and their families are welcome at Graduate Center events, these events are frequently not advertised at the law school. Law students and their partners can stay abreast of these events at the Graduate Center and other opportunities by referring to an online calendar or signing up for email updates here: <http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/studentLife/family.html>.

[New Haven Connections](#)

New Haven is home to various young professional organizations that may serve as hubs of information and social opportunities:

<http://www.newhavenchamber.com/pages/PULSE/>

<http://livingnh.yale.edu/young-professionals>

http://www.meetup.com/New-Haven-Collective/?trax_also_in_algorithm2=original&traxDebug_also_in_algorithm2_picked=original

[Online Forums/Blogs](#)

Law student family members are not alone. The web is crawling with discussions about the experience. Reading about how others have lived through the same experience may be both cathartic and practically useful:

<http://students.washington.edu/lawpals/advice.shtml>

<http://diaryoflawschoolmom.blogspot.com/>

<http://stresscasey.blogspot.com/2013/07/how-to-survive-first-year-of-law-school.html>

<http://legallymarried.wordpress.com/page/2/>

f. Breaking the YLS Bubble

Law school can seem like another planet to students' families. The language is foreign (what does "consideration" have to do with our rent bill?), the public figures are unknown (who is this "Guido" everyone keeps talking about?), and the hours might seem unreasonable. But law school does not have to be an alienating experience for families.

Here are several steps YLS students have taken that have helped create a law school experience that welcomes their family members instead of isolating them:

- Seize every opportunity to bring family members to YLS social events. Even if the invite does not explicitly mention that family members are welcome, ask. Often their presence will be encouraged.
- Take the initiative to focus conversations at YLS social events on areas of the law of at least tangential interest to your spouse, or on altogether non-legal topics. Leave the shoptalk for chats in the student lounge between classes.
- Take note of other law students' family members, especially those with shared interests with yours. Be proactive in connecting them.
- Be receptive to your family members when it's clear they're experiencing YLS overload. Cut back on the extras (lectures, small group drink-athons, etc.) to spend some quality, purely non-YLS time with your family.
- Importantly, be realistic. You may actually be as busy as everyone warned and you probably won't see each other as much as you would like. It's not just classwork, but all the extracurricular activities that fill your calendar to the brink.
- In a similar vein, recognize that law school is incredibly self-indulgent. Even if you plan to save the world one day with your fabulous education, much of your time in law school will be spent on bettering yourself by jamming lots of new information in your brain and expanding your intellectual and social horizons (clinics excluded). And when you finally go home, you may not have time or energy left to cook dinner or do laundry. If you are lucky, your significant other won't mind picking up the slack. Even in the best relationship, however, you will probably still get pangs of guilt about how selfish you need to be to get through the semester. That's okay—just recognize it, own it, and thank your significant other appropriately.
- Carve out at least a couple of nights a week just for you two to spend with non-law school friends/family—even if it means missing some one-time event or a last minute get-together with your small group. Things are always happening at the law school and just taking a night off here and there won't leave you behind.
- Carve out space for each other to do the things you liked to do before you knew what *mens rea* means. This seems intuitive, but making time can be hard to square with the demands of law school. Law school is also a great opportunity to try new things together—for example, one YLSer has learned how to SCUBA dive with her partner!

And here are tips from a veteran significant other for how those similarly situated outside the YLS bubble can make what at times is a hard experience pleasant:

- Communicate clearly to your loved one that the two of you need to maintain a life outside of YLS. Emphasize that restaurant dates, movies, hikes, and other one-on-one activities are vital to spending time together that puts you on equal footing.
- Work on your hobbies. Whether you like it or not, you're going to have time to yourself. If you're a runner, visit East Rock Park or Long Wharf Drive, or join the Hash House Harriers. If you play some kind of ball, the Yale gym runs graduate intramural leagues. If you like art, the Yale Museum has a surprisingly good collection. If you bike, there are a number of roads along Connecticut's beautiful shores.
- Volunteer. You can be a mentor to a New Haven youth by volunteering through the Children's Community Programs of CT. The program receives a lot of Yale volunteers and is well run.³ Yale also runs a biannual day of service. This can be a good way to meet new people in the Yale and New Haven communities and get in contact with organizations that offer year-round opportunities.⁴
- Get out of New Haven, even if your loved one can't join you. Your significant other's YLS-related time commitments will mean that your three years in New Haven may be a period of unprecedented personal freedom. Take advantage of it: take trips to New York, or Providence, or Boston. Visit your family. Fly out to see college friends on the other side of the country.

Finally, Yale Law Women maintains a "Parents & Families" listserv that includes YLS students who consider themselves part of a family as well as partners/spouses of YLS students. To be added to the listserv, contact any member of the current YLW Board, or send an email to ylw@yale.edu.

g. Summers in New Haven

For YLS students with families in New Haven, the prospect of relocating for two months in order to have the perfect summer internship may not be a good option. Each summer, several YLS students work in or near New Haven. Students who want to stay in Connecticut during the summer should think about their job prospects early to ensure that they can find a job that is a good fit.

The Career Development Office recommends these strategies for finding summer employment in the Elm City:

³ <http://ccp-ct.org/programs/youthmentoring.html>

⁴ <http://www.yaledayofservice.org/>

- Start with the lists of past students' summer employment compiled by the Career Development Office each year in order to brainstorm and peruse possible opportunities. You can access these lists on Yale's Career Management System (CMS): <https://law-yale-csm.symplicity.com/students/>.
- Read through evaluations written by YLS students about their summer jobs, maintained in the Career Development Office database (which you can search by location).
- Talk to 2Ls and 3Ls who stayed in New Haven to get ideas and/or connections.
- Use the Career Connections database to find local alumni.
- Consider staffing one of the law school's clinics. You need not be in the clinic during the school year to staff it during the summer, although it may deepen your experience. Working in the clinics at YLS can be a really valuable experience: you get to work closely with actual clients while receiving support and mentoring from faculty who are sensitive to pedagogy and student needs. Clinics typically begin to hire during the spring term.
- Look into Research Assistant positions with professors. Serving as an RA can be a great way to get to know a professor, and it is typically a very flexible job. Professors begin posting positions early in the spring term, but there are often stragglers who don't post until well into exam period.
- Consider the President's Public Service Fellowship, run by Yale University. This Fellowship provides opportunities for Yale students (grad and undergrad) to work on behalf of economic development, human development, and neighborhood revitalization with public sector and nonprofit organizations in the city of New Haven. For more information, including how to apply, go to <http://www.yale.edu/ppsf/>.
- Meet with a Career Development Office advisor to discuss summer plans and opportunities in New Haven.

1L SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW HAVEN
Here is a sampling of how students have spent summers in New Haven:

- Clinics at YLS.
- U.S. Attorney's Office.
- Federal Defender's Office.
- New Haven Legal Assistance.
- Law firms in New Haven and Harford.
- State government.

These are certainly not the only available opportunities – you can always come up with a new way to spend your summer!

h. Getting Married while at YLS

Missing Class/Scheduling

For some students, the flexible schedule makes law school the perfect time to tie the knot. One 3L notes that planning her wedding during law school was actually a nice counterpoint to the stresses of classes, clinics and activities; thinking about her wedding and marriage were a constant reminder of the things that really mattered.

If you decide to get married while at YLS, you will want to think carefully about timing. Note that YLS's official policy is that attendance at classes is required and missing class absent good reason (primarily medical) is not acceptable—so you may want to take advantage of fall or spring breaks to minimize the number of classes you miss. Also, you don't have a right to have classes taped if you miss class for your wedding or for a honeymoon. Still, professors are often willing to be accommodating—just ask nicely and in advance.

Name Changes

If you've changed your name since you applied to YLS for any reason (marriage, divorce, whim), you need to change your name with the Registrar. The first and last name in the YLS system must be the same as your legal names, especially if you're an international student (for visa purposes). Bring in your documentation to the registrar's office: a court document, marriage license, divorce certificate, or passport.

3. Children

Especially among students who took time off before coming to law school, children may be (or become!) an integral part of the YLS experience. A few students every year start at YLS with children in tow, and still more will expand their families during the three years at YLS. This section provides information and advice both for students who come to YLS as parents and those students who anticipate becoming parents while at the law school.

a. Coming to YLS as a Parent

If you have a child, childcare responsibilities, and/or become pregnant before you arrive at YLS, be sure to inform the registrar (Judith Calvert) by August 1st of the year you will start school. By mid-August, she can tell you your first and last class times so that you can arrange childcare accordingly. Note that she will not release your actual schedule ahead of time, and no adjustment is made to ensure that your schedule is particularly childcare-friendly. So if you're looking for a daycare facility, try to find one that opens by 8AM in case you are placed in early-morning classes.

b. Childcare

Yale University's website lists several childcare resources: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/childcare.html>. In particular, Yale offers two important childcare programs:

- Caregivers on Call: back-up care at subsidized rates
 - Current rate is \$7 per hour.

- Requires advance registration to use the service, but you can call day-of to find a babysitter (if, say, your child wakes up too sick to go daycare on the day of your final exam!). Pre-registering is free, easy, and well worth it in the event that you eventually need them – why wait?
- You can find more information about the service here: http://www.yale.edu/hronline/backupcare/backup_main.html.
- Yale Babysitting Service: like an internal Craigslist for babysitters
 - You can advertise sitting jobs (for regular jobs, sporadic/flexible positions, or last-minute care) or find a caregiver by scrolling through posted profiles.
 - Only Yale-affiliated individuals can sign up (although your partner need not be Yale-affiliated as well). Just because the person is Yale-affiliated does not mean they are a good babysitter, of course, but it might provide some comfort in your assessment of potential sitters.
 - Pro tip: some parents have found that undergraduates are better sitters than grad students. They charge less, and yet are often more willing to play games rather than read schoolbooks while the kids watch movies. Of course, every sitter is different, but don't rule out younger sitters!
 - Find out more and/or sign up here: <http://www.yale.edu/babysitting/>.

The university also maintains a list of childcare providers in the area, along with helpful facts about each facility (fees, hours, teacher/student ratio, etc.), here: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/ccdir.html>. This is a great starting point to find childcare options, especially because you can search by location (note that if you have a car and live in East Rock, daycares in Hamden may be even more convenient than ones in other parts of New Haven). Once you've narrowed down your list of providers, it's a good idea to contact each facility and ask to be connected to other parents. You should also feel free to reach out to any of your YLS contacts (starting with other students, Associate Dean Rangappa, or Associate Dean Barnett) to see if any current YLS students, faculty, or administrators have recommendations (or warnings) about any of the facilities on your list.

Yale also has several affiliated childcare centers, although they are often more expensive than non-affiliated facilities. For example, the law school's Early Learning Center is conveniently located in the law school building, but it charges \$1530 a month in tuition regardless of age (much more than many other programs in the area). Note that the YLS ELC only takes nine children total, so you need to sign up for a space as soon as possible if you are interested. For more information about the YLS ELC, visit their website here: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/daycare/childcarecenters/law.html>. You can contact the ELC by phone at (203) 432-7640.

Outside of Yale, care.com and sittercity.com are for-profit websites that connect parents with babysitters, and both offer a large supply of caregivers in the New Haven area. Much like on the Yale site, you can post jobs and browse caregiver profiles.

Although New Haven is not quite like New York or D.C. in the need to sign children up years in advance (before conception!) for daycare, slots at good facilities can fill up quickly. If you have a child who you want to enroll in daycare, full or part-time, you are better off identifying and committing to a facility as early as possible, rather than waiting until you arrive in New Haven for the start of the school year. Some facilities will fill their spaces for the coming school year by May or June.

There is obviously a trade-off between the need for more time without your little ones and having to pay for it. Your budget and your circumstances dictate the decisions you make about full vs. part-time care, in-house vs. daycare facility, etc. Keep in mind, though, that 1L fall in particular can be an intense semester, and you will want to make sure you have sufficient childcare coverage not only for class time, but all of the out-of-class activities that enrich your law school experience. Some YLS parents use full-time daycare, while others use no outside provider, but instead share childcare responsibilities with spouses or other parents. It is helpful to start with the assumption that being a law school student is a fulltime job, so you don't shortchange your need for care.

c. Schools in New Haven

There are numerous students, faculty members and staff members at Yale who have school-age children. New Haven and its surrounding area offer a range of school choices for families. This information is designed to give you a sense of the types of schools in the area, but it in no way replaces speaking with the schools and the advisors at Yale.

[New Haven Public Schools: Pre-Kindergarten](#)

New Haven Public Schools (NHPS) offers different types of pre-kindergarten programs. The NHPS Pre-K program includes three options: Head Start, School Readiness, and Magnet. The programs serve children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Questions about the NHPS Early Education Program should be directed to Tina Mannarino (203-946-5353; tina.mannarino@new-haven.k.12.ct.us).

NHPS PRE-K PROGRAMS

- **Head Start**
 - Federally funded program that requires families enrolled to be at, below, or slightly above the federal poverty line.
 - See: <http://www.nhps.net/node/515>.
 - **School Readiness**
 - State-funded program similar to Head Start.
 - Required to meet the standards of either the National Association for the Education of Young Children or Head Start.
 - See: <http://www.nhps.net/node/501>.
 - **Magnet School Pre-Kindergarten**
 - Residents of New Haven and the surrounding Connecticut areas are eligible.
 - Selection is based on lottery, but there is a Neighborhood Preference option for families who reside in the attendance zone of a magnet school with a Pre-K option.
 - See: <http://www.nhps.net/node/510>.
-

List of Locations for Head Start, School Readiness and Magnet School Pre-K Programs

School	Pre-K Type	Address
Barnard Environmental Studies	Magnet	170 Derby Avenue
Beecher Museum School of Arts & Science	Magnet	100 Jewel Street
Benjamin Jepson Multi-Age	Magnet	15 Lexington Avenue
Brennan-Rogers: The Art of Communication & Media	Magnet	200 Wilmont Road
Davis Street Arts & Academics	Magnet	35 Davis Street
Harry A Conte/West Hills – A School of Exploration and Innovation	Magnet	511 Chapel Street
John C Daniels School of Int’l Communication	Magnet	569 Congress Avenue
King/Robinson Int’l Baccalaureate	Magnet	150 Fornier Street
Mauro-Sheridan Science, Technology & Communications	Magnet	191 Fountain Street
MicroSociety	Magnet	311 Valley Street
Ross Woodward Classical Studies	Magnet	185 Barnes Avenue
Celentano School	Head Start	400 Canner Street
Early Childhood Learning Center	Head Start	495 Blake Street
Grant Early Childhood Center	Head Start	165 Goffe Street
Jepson School	Head Start	15 Lexington Avenue
Lincoln-Bassett School	Head Start	130 Bassett Street
Martinez School	Head Start	100 James Street
Roberto Clemente	Head Start	360 Columbus Avenue
Truman School	Head Start	114 Truman Street
Zigler Head Start Center	Head Start	81 Olive Street
Bishop Woods	School Readiness	1481 Quinnipiac Avenue
Christopher Columbus	School Readiness	255 Blatchley Avenue
Dwight School Readiness	School Readiness	1324 Chapel Street
Fair Haven School	School Readiness	164 Grand Avenue
Hill Central Music Academy	School Readiness	375 Quinnipiac Avenue

Nathan Hale	School Readiness	480 Townsend Avenue
Wexler-Grant	School Readiness	55 Foote Street

[New Haven Public Schools](#)

New Haven Public Schools use a lottery system for enrollment when there are more students applying than seats available. If there are fewer applicants than seats available, then all eligible applicants are enrolled.

[Kindergarten Enrollment Process](#)

There are three stages to kindergarten enrollment:

- Roll-over enrollment
 - Students who are continuing from the previous year.
 - Students who are enrolled in NHPS or NHPS sponsored Pre-K programs.
- New student registration
 - Runs May 1st-31st.
 - Families wanting to register must bring birth certificates, proof of residence, and the kindergarten lottery form to the registration office at 54 Meadow Street to register.
 - After the roll-over phase is complete, families will be notified of which neighborhood school they qualify for and the number of remaining seats. If there are more student applicants than seats at any given school, a lottery will take place to determine who is given a slot.
- Summer and fall enrollment
 - Occurs based on the space available after the roll-over and new student registration processes.
 - If there are no seats available at the neighborhood school, students will be enrolled in another appropriate NHPS school and placed on the neighborhood school's waiting list.
 - A student cannot be on the waiting list unless enrolled in an NHPS school.

More information can be found here: <http://www.nhps.net/node/1582>.

[Magnet School Enrollment Process](#)

New Haven Magnet Schools have no admission requirements beyond being a resident of New Haven or one of the surrounding Connecticut communities. Magnet School fairs are held at the start of February. Admission to NHPS Magnet Schools is determined by a lottery. Online applications for the September 2014 school year were available starting January 3, 2014. All applications had to be submitted by February 14, 2014 for September 2014 enrollment. More information can be found here: <http://www.newhavenmagnetschools.org/>.

Private Schools

There are a number of private schools in the New Haven area. Below you will find a list of schools that have had children of YLS students, faculty, and/or staff in attendance. This is in no way a complete list. Because the private schools vary widely when it comes to curriculum and admissions practices, it is best that parents contact each school and speak with them individually.

- Calvin Hill Daycare Center and Kindergarten: 150 Highland St, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 764-9350
 - Grades: Pre-K and K
- Leila Day Nurseries: 100 Cold Spring St, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 624-1374
 - Grades: Pre-K and K
- Cold Spring School: 263 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 787-1584
 - Grades: PK – 6
 - Enrollment: 133 students
- Foote School: 50 Loomis Place, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 777-3464
 - Grades: K – 9
 - Enrollment: 483 students
- Hopkins School: 986 Forest Road, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 397-1001
 - Grades: 7 – 12
 - Enrollment: 710 students
- St. Thomas's Day School: 830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 776-2123
 - Grades: K – 6
- Hamden Hall Country Day School: 1108 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT
 - (203) 752-2600
 - Grades: Pre-K – 12

Charter Schools

New Haven also offers families a charter school option. As with private schools, it is best to contact these schools individually to learn more about the programs they offer and their specific admissions processes.

- Amistad Elementary, Middle & High Schools: 130 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 772-7000
- Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School: 407 James Street, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 772-7010

- Grades: K – 4
- Elm City College Preparatory Middle School: 794 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, CT
 - (203) 772-5332
 - Grades: 5 – 8

d. Resources at YLS: Nursing Areas and Changing Tables

There is a cozy (and private) nursing/lactation room on the third floor of the law school. The room has a fridge, a sink, two curtained private spaces, and chairs outside of the private spaces to wait. To get access to the lactation space (based on your keytag), contact Dean Mike or Director of Student Life Reva Pollack.

Additionally, Yale University boasts a number of nursing spaces: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/documents/LactationRoomlocationsontheYalecampusMay2013.pdf>.

The men’s and women’s bathrooms in the basement of the law school by the Grove Street entrance/dining hall and the bathrooms accessible for people with disabilities on the second floor of the law school (in the Student Commons area) all have changing tables.

e. Taking Exams as a Pregnant or Parenting Student

Scheduling

For the purposes of exams, the Registrar treats pregnancy just like any other medical condition. The law school will not allow you to take exams early as a general rule, but the Registrar will work with students who deliver before completing exams. Keep in mind that determining due dates is not an exact science; babies tend to come out on their own schedule, so it’s hard to predict if you’ll need accommodation in advance. After 1L fall, if you know you will be due around exam time, it might be helpful to select classes with self-scheduled exams to give yourself more flexibility. Some students also find paper-writing courses easier during pregnancy in order to avoid time-specific stress. To discuss exam timing and pregnancy accommodations, contact the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Kathleen Overly.

Pumping/Nursing

If you are breastfeeding during exam period and you need special accommodations to be able to nurse or pump, contact the Registrar’s Office. You may be able to take your exams in the nursing room, or be granted additional time to take the exam.

Childcare

Winter in New Haven can be a beautiful time of year, but for those students with children whose daycares shut down at the slightest flurry, it can also be a time of anxiety. If your child's school or daycare facility closes on the day of your exam, contact the Registrar immediately – do not wait until the exam is over, and do NOT contact your professor! (Many professors grade exams anonymously, so contacting your professor can jeopardize this anonymity.)

It's best to be proactive: only a very severe blizzard will shut down the university (and if the university is open, exams go forward). Sign up for Caregivers on Call (information above), and/or arrange for a family member, friend or fellow parent to be on call if needed, particularly if you're willing to trade off during his/her exam time.

Real Exams: the Bar!

If you are pregnant while taking the bar exam, you can (and should) request disability accommodations. For example, one student taking the Maryland bar was granted accommodations like being close to a bathroom; bringing support pillows; bringing water and snacks; using an extra chair to put her feet up on; and taking the exam by herself in a room with her own proctor. Even if other states are less generous, it doesn't hurt to ask for measures that make the experience more tolerable than it otherwise would be.

Similarly, if you are breastfeeding when you take the bar, some states will also accommodate requests to take the exam in a separate nursing/lactation room. Make sure you research in advance any deadlines for requesting such accommodations.

f. Financial Aid & COAP

Being a parent or becoming a parent can affect financial aid awards and COAP contribution calculations. This general information is meant to serve as a quick resource, but students should direct all questions to Jill Stone, Director of Financial Aid. Jill sits down with students one-on-one to answer questions and to provide information regarding students' major life decisions and how they impact financial aid awards.

Do you have questions about how being a parent (or becoming a parent!) could impact your financial aid and COAP?

Contact Jill Stone, Director of Financial Aid:
(203) 432-1688 or
financialaid.law@yale.edu

Financial Aid Awards

When a student has children, each child automatically adds \$5,000 to the student's calculated financial aid budget for the year. The addition of a child typically raises the amount of grant funding a student receives. Childcare costs are also added to the budget. They are calculated depending on the specific childcare arrangements of the student, and add up to \$17,500 to the

budget. Any loans taken out to cover these costs are COAP-eligible (loans taken out to cover childcare costs in excess of \$17,500 are not COAP-eligible).

Any changes to parental status or childcare status should be reported to the Financial Aid Office right away, as they can immediately change the student budget calculation and the expected financial aid award amounts. For instance, if a student or a student's spouse gives birth to a child halfway through the school year, the Financial Aid Office can immediately add a pro-rated amount of the \$5,000 cost of the child to the student's overall financial aid budget, as well as disburse any additional grant funding or loans that may be available to the student as of the next month's financial aid bill.

COAP

If a COAP participant has children, \$8,000 per child is subtracted from the participant's COAP income calculation. Documented childcare costs up to \$17,000 per year are also subtracted from the income calculation. If the spouse of the COAP-enrolled student stays at home to care for children instead of working outside the home, \$17,000 is similarly subtracted from the COAP income calculation.

For married couples in which both spouses are enrolled in COAP, both participants receive half of the deduction for each child and for childcare.

Former students are only eligible for COAP if they are gainfully employed, but COAP provides for a 6-month maternity/paternity leave, even if that leave is unpaid or is not supported by the COAP participant's employer.

For COAP guides and other information, see this website: http://www.law.yale.edu/admissions/finaid_COAP.htm.

g. Health Care for Children of YLS Students

For more information on insuring children through Yale Health, see Section 2(c) of this guide (Health Care for Spouses & Partners of YLS Students), which provides information about health insurance generally applicable to all dependents of YLS students. If you have specific questions, contact Yale Health member services at (203) 432-0246 or member.services@yale.edu. Also check out the Yale Health Student Handbook, available at <http://yalehealth.yale.edu/understand-your-coverage>.

h. Family Activities in and around New Haven

The greater New Haven area is full of fun activities that are family-friendly! Here's a sampling of excursions, organized roughly by distance from downtown.

- **Connecticut Children's Museum:** Located at the corner of Orange and Wall Streets, the Connecticut Children's Museum features eight thematic and community-inspired rooms. Check out their website for upcoming exhibits and programs: <http://www.childrensbuiding.org/>.
- **Cherry Blossoms in Wooster Square:** Each spring, Wooster Square is blanketed in pink cherry blossom petals. This seasonal must-see also gives you an excuse to check out the farmer's market and famous pizzerias in New Haven's own Little Italy.
- **Sleeping Giant State Park:** When you tire of East Rock, Sleeping Giant State Park is just a 20-minute drive up Whitney Avenue or I-91. It offers a larger network of hiking trails and views of Connecticut's surprisingly beautiful countryside. After building up an appetite on the trails, grab lunch at Glenwood Drive In, a funky old-timey diner on Whitney Avenue in Hamden.
- **Apple Picking:** A quintessential New England fall activity, apple picking is also a common small-group bonding event in the first months of 1L. There are many, many places to go for your apple-picking fix: Bishop's Orchards in Guilford, Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, or High Hill Orchard in Meriden are all YLS-student favorites.
- **Thimble Islands Cruise:** The Thimble Islands, a group of small granite islands off the coast of Branford, were the summer home to American elites in the early 20th century. (This is where William Howard Taft established his "Summer White House.") Today, the best way to visit is to take a boat cruise, operating on weekends from May through October. Even if it's not boat-cruise season, it's worth the drive to Branford just to grab a sandwich at the quaint Stony Creek Market and enjoy the ocean views.
- **Hammonasset Beach State Park:** On sunny, warm days in September and May, Hammonasset—just 45 minutes up I-95 (Exit 62) in Madison—creates a constant temptation to cut class and chill on the beach. The clean, well-maintained beach is a great place to relax in the sun or swim in the warm waters of the Long Island Sound.
- **Durham Fair:** Be sure to save the last weekend in September for the Durham Fair! Eat fresh apple fritters, admire the results of the Livestock Costume Contest, and soak up the atmosphere at Connecticut's largest agricultural fair.

Looking for friends to go on excursions with you? Yale Law Women maintains a “Parents & Families” listserv that includes YLS students who consider themselves part of a family as well as partners/spouses of YLS students. To be added to the listserv, contact any member of the current YLW Board, or send an email to ylw@yale.edu.

i. Long-Distance Parenting

Attending YLS with children and while your significant other resides outside of New Haven presents unique challenges. Here are strategies long-distance YLS parents have found helpful:

- Following the rule of one home + one commuter, rather than trying to split the commute or alternate weekends, has gone well for many YLSers. Splitting a commute (i.e., both partners traveling from a location in between) with a child can be a recipe for disaster – as just one example, when daycare calls to tell you your kid is sick, you need to be able to pick him/her up ASAP, and that's not possible if you're both more than an hour away. Not to mention that two train passes, even for shorter distances, are typically more expensive than one train pass.
- The time commitments of commuting and parenting can mean that activities centered around evenings or weekends may be out, such as the *Yale Law Journal* (first year editors must complete one evening sourcecite per week), night classes, and Bar Review. Keep this in mind when selecting your activities.
- Taking breaks from school to focus on parenting can actually benefit your studies. When Justice Ginsburg visited, a YLS parent asked her about being a parent during law school. The Justice said that she liked focusing on the intellectual engagement of law school all day, and then going home and just being mom for a few hours before getting back to work – this break made her mind restored and ready for more.

j. Summers in New Haven

For small beings, kids come with a lot of stuff. Having to truck all of it elsewhere, and then truck it back at the end of the summer, can be a huge pain, not to mention that moving means finding a new daycare arrangement. Throw in a locally-based partner, and the prospect of enjoying all that New Haven has to offer without the pesky undergrads starts to seem even more appealing. Many students with families do in fact choose to stay here for the summer, especially as 1Ls.

See Section 1(g) for information about finding a summer job in New Haven.

k. Becoming a Parent at YLS

Law school can be a great time to start a family. Especially at YLS, you will be part of a supportive community with many resources (and willing babysitters). Most students who have

been (or are) pregnant at YLS also highlight the incredible flexibility you have to arrange your own schedule (at least, after 1L fall semester). Of course, when or if you choose to have children is a highly individualized decision, but if having a child during law school works for you, YLS is there to support you.

If you or your partner recently found out that you will be starting a family: congratulations! YLS and the broader Yale University have many resources dedicated to pregnant students (and/or students with pregnant partners):

- The university provides resources devoted to pregnancy and childbirth here: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/preg.html>.
- If you are covered by the Yale Health Plan, check out these health services FAQs: <http://yalehealth.yale.edu/faq/pregnancy-0>. Yale Health also offers a variety of classes that might be helpful, including breastfeeding, childbirth education with a hospital tour, and pregnancy fitness: <http://yalehealth.yale.edu/attend-classes-and-events>.
- If you're not covered by the Yale Health Plan, make sure you check with your insurer about what (and which doctors) it covers. If your spouse lives in another city and that's where you want to give birth, it's worth knowing what your insurer's policies are about out-of-network birth emergencies. You should also anticipate an increasing number of doctors' visits toward the end of your pregnancy (even if it's a completely healthy one), so plan your class/travel schedule accordingly.

[General Advice about Pregnancy and YLS](#)

Just as every woman is different, every pregnancy is different, and it is virtually impossible to predict *ex ante* whether you'll have morning sickness for three months, all day sickness for six months, or perfect glowing bliss for nine months (okay, the third one is pretty unlikely). All that is to say there's no right answer to which classes you should take or activities you should join while pregnant—it's up to you, based on your health, your preferences, your goals, and your interests. However, it is important not to overload yourself, because pregnancy by itself takes a toll on the body. Associate Dean of Student Affairs Kathleen Overly is happy to speak to students about balancing a course-load with an expanding family.

There's also no consensus view on when to inform professors—some students choose to wait until it's apparent; others, particularly those in smaller classes or those who are writing papers with professors, reveal the good news early on.

There is a nursing room on the third floor of the main law school building. The room can only be accessed by students whose keytags have been programmed accordingly, and it includes a fridge, sink, two curtained nursing areas, and some chairs to wait. To get access to the lactation space, contact Dean Mike or Director of Student Life Reva Pollack.

The First Six Weeks With Your Newborn

The first few weeks of a newborn's life are pretty exhausting—at least for the new parent(s). It's helpful to line up friends and relatives beforehand to cook, clean, or even just relieve you for a few minutes so you can take a shower. If you or the baby end up needing more medical attention, it's also really helpful to have the basics taken care of by others without needing to think about the logistics.

After giving birth, some women experience postpartum depression or the “baby blues”. According to the American Psychological Association, 9-16% of women suffer from postpartum depression; a good deal more—maybe even the vast majority of women—experience the “baby blues.” If you start to feel anxious, sad, and irritable after the baby is born (and not just from sleep deprivation), and these feelings last more than a few weeks, Yale Mental Health is a great resource. Call (203) 432-0290 to set up an appointment.

Breastfeeding

There is a cozy (and private) nursing/lactation room on the third floor of the law school, complete with a mini-fridge to store milk. If you find yourself struggling with pumping (e.g., the baby refuses to take a bottle, or you can't produce enough milk), you can also bring your baby to the law school to nurse in the room. This is obviously much easier if your home or daycare is close to the law school, and you have caregivers who are able to bring the baby to you. To get access to the lactation space (based on your keytag), contact Dean Mike or Director of Student Life Reva Pollack.

Additionally, Yale University has a number of nursing spaces: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/documents/LactationRoomlocationsontheYalecampusMay2013.pdf>.

1. Career Opportunities and Families

Law Firm Recruitment

In terms of going through law firm recruitment while pregnant, choosing whether and how to reveal one's family status—including pregnancy—is an individual decision. According to YLS's official Placement Policies and Regulations, all employers that use YLS's services to recruit students must sign off on our Nondiscrimination Policy, which specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression (among other characteristics). Note that this Nondiscrimination Policy does not bind all potential employers, only those who avail themselves of YLS' Career Services.

Some students are more comfortable talking about their personal lives in the first round of interviews, so as to gauge whether the employer they are considering would be a congenial place for a working parent, to seem more mature, and/or to explain geographic preferences; others opt not to discuss anything beyond their resumes. If you have questions or concerns about interviewing while pregnant or with a family at home, the Career Development Office is happy to provide individualized career counseling to assess your options in light of your goals and objectives.

Clerking

You do not have to clerk, and many students with families choose not to, given how disruptive it can be to coordinate a partner's employment and children's schooling for a one-year position. However, many students with families do choose to clerk, and see this "fourth year of law school" as providing additional flexibility compared to law firm life. Just note that federal judges are exempt from liability under federal employment statutes like Title VII. This means that, unlike other employers, they might ask about your personal and family plans in interviews. Judges also might not give you maternity leave—they aren't required to, although some may be more generous (e.g. some judges have said they actively seek pregnant clerks, and one judge with a YLS clerk even allowed her to bring her baby into chambers!).

If you're planning to clerk with a family (or to start a family while clerking), talk to your judge's current and former clerks, and even the judge him/herself. You're better off not getting an offer from a judge who's not comfortable with a parent clerk than having to pretend you don't have kids during your clerkship year. If you have specific questions about your circumstances, the Career Development Office is also happy to provide tailored advice.

m. Know Your Rights: Title IX and Pregnant/Parenting Students

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions—in educational programs and activities that get federal funding. This means that schools must give all students who might be, are, or have been pregnant the same access to school programs and educational opportunities that other students have. Professors or administrators cannot tell you that you have to drop out of your classes or program or change your educational plans due to your pregnancy.

To comply with Title IX, post-secondary schools must:

- Excuse absences due to pregnancy and related conditions, regardless of the school's absence policy.
- Designate a Title IX Coordinator who should be able to answer questions for you about Title IX and pregnancy. YLS has a designated Title IX coordinator, but students may contact any of the university's Title IX coordinators for assistance. See this website for the

most updated list of Title IX Coordinators at Yale: <http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/coordinators>.

- Not penalize students for pregnancy or related conditions. If a grade is based on class attendance, pregnant students must be given the opportunity to earn back the credit from classes you miss due to pregnancy.
- Permit you to make up work you missed while you were out due to pregnancy or any related conditions (including recovery from childbirth).
- Not retaliate against you for making a complaint about pregnancy harassment or Title IX compliance.
- Not terminate or reduce merit or need-based scholarships based on pregnancy.

For more information, visit this helpful website maintained by the National Women’s Law Center: <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>.

To make a complaint that Yale University and/or YLS are not in compliance with these legal regulations, contact Associate Dean of Student Affairs Kathleen Overly or a current Title IX Coordinator.

4. Pets

Some YLS students arrive in New Haven already having incorporated a furry friend or two into their families, and some students make the leap to pet-parenting during their time at YLS. Whether you already have a dog or cat in your household or whether you are considering making an addition, here are a few resources to help guide your law school pet care.

a. Pet-Friendly Neighborhoods & Housing

Dog-owning students note that the East Rock and Wooster Square neighborhoods are especially dog-friendly. Both neighborhoods are quieter than downtown, have predominantly residential streets that are ideal for dog walking, and feature more green spaces, such as each neighborhood’s eponymous feature (East Rock Park and Wooster Square’s square). Each neighborhood also has an enclosed, off-leash dog park.

The rental options in East Rock and Wooster Square are mostly condos or houses that contain apartment units. These can be hit or miss in allowing pets, but as a whole provide a variety of

DOG PARKS IN NEW HAVEN

East Rock: Yale Divinity School Dog Park

- Located on St. Ronan Street.
- On the Yale Divinity school campus.
- Plenty of parking nearby.

Wooster Square: Union Street Dog Park

- Located at Union Street and Chapel Street.
- Known to have a good-sized crew of playful pups before and after weekday work hours and on Saturday mornings.
- Plenty of parking nearby.

pet-friendly options. If looking for this type of housing via Craigslist, realtor listings, or student referrals, allow extra time in your housing search, since you will inevitably encounter apartments or landlords who are not pet-friendly. As for larger apartment buildings, the PMC Property Group manages a few buildings downtown and a building in Wooster Square that allow pets.

b. Veterinarians and Pet Supplies

The New Haven Veterinary Wellness Center, located on State Street, is highly regarded by several pet-owning law students, and has a helpful, knowledgeable staff and good availability. One dog-owning 2L said that she “can’t rave enough!” about this veterinary office. Another option in New Haven used by some students and administrators is the Veterinary Associates of Westville. Further from campus, another option used by law students is the Veterinary Associates of North Branford. The New Haven Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine, which recently moved to a new facility in North Haven, provides 24-hour emergency veterinary services.

For pet supplies, several students order on Amazon because it is convenient and cheap. There is a Petco and a PetSmart located a short drive up I-91 off exit 9, as well as on the Boston Post Road in Milford/Orange. Pet supplies at the nearby Stop & Shop or Walmart can sometimes be a cheaper option on a student budget.

If you’re interested in supporting a local small business, A Dog’s Life also has a pet supply store at its Wooster Square location that sells toys, treats, and dog food. Another local option is a booth at the Wooster Square farmer’s market that sells homemade dog treats.

c. Caring for a Pet

Given the busy class schedules and numerous extracurricular commitments of YLS students, managing mid-day pet care can be challenging, especially on a student budget. A few dog-owning students note that they are often able to make it home around lunchtime or early afternoon to let their dogs out on days when scheduled school activities last from morning until evening. Having a bike can be very helpful in this regard, as it can significantly shorten the commute to/from YLS.

On especially busy days, some students will take their dogs to A Dog’s Life, which is a highly-rated doggie daycare facility located near Wooster Square (a day-long session from 7am to 7pm costs about \$35). If you are interested in using this option, be sure to set up an initial appointment with A Dog’s Life before the busy time in the semester hits, as vet records need to be up-to-date, and dogs need to pass an initial evaluation to be accepted for daycare. Hiring a dog walker is another option.

Over holidays and school breaks, you can often find other students to dog- or cat-sit for free or a nominal fee. Many students send out requests for dog- or cat-sitters over the all-school listserv (the Wall). Boarding dogs at doggie daycare facilities is another convenient option, although it can be pricey for an extended period of time. A Dog's Life in New Haven and The Barking Lot in Hamden are two such doggie daycare/boarding facilities.

d. Additional Pet Tips & Activities

Because Connecticut has a lot of ticks, make sure to get your dog on a tick preventative, and get the lyme disease and leptospirosis vaccines when you arrive in town! This is especially important given that there are many fun locations for dog outings in the area. Take a hike in East Rock Park, or go to the beach in Milford!

For current or prospective pet-owners, try not to worry too much about balancing pet care responsibilities with law school life. Several law students have dogs, cats, and other pets, and being a pet-owner is completely doable as a law student. Plus, coming home to pets who are excited to see you can be an effective remedy for law school malaise!

5. Cheat Sheet: Who to Contact at YLS

Name	Title	Email	For What?
Kathleen Overly	Associate Dean of Student Affairs	kathleen.overly@yale.edu	Concerns related to student life at YLS.
Reva Pollack	Director of Student Life	reva.pollack@yale.edu	Resources at YLS for pregnant/parenting students; student life in general.
Judith Calvert	Registrar	registrar.law@yale.edu	Exam accommodations, course load questions, etc.
Megan Barnett	Associate Dean of Academic Affairs	megan.barnett@yale.edu	Questions about being a parent in law school.
Asha Rangappa	Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid	asha.rangappa@yale.edu	Deciding whether to come to YLS as a pregnant or parenting student.
Jill Stone	Director of Financial Aid	jill.stone@yale.edu	Discussing how marriage and/or children affect financial aid.
Kelly Voight	Assistant Dean, Career Development Office	kelly.voight@yale.edu	Questions about career opportunities in general.
Marilyn Drees	Director, Career Development Office	marilyn.drees@yale.edu	Questions about clerkship opportunities.
Akua Akyea	Director, Career Development Office	akua.akyea@yale.edu	Questions about public interest careers.
[varies]	Title IX Coordinator	Current contact can be found here: http://provost.yale.edu/title-ix/coordinators	Questions about what Title IX requires in terms of pregnant and parenting students.
[varies]	Yale Law Women Board Members	ylw@yale.edu	To connect with peers about having families in law school. (Join the YLW Parents & Families listserv!)