5 Questions the LGBT Law School Applicant Should Ask:

1. Is the law school welcoming to LGBT students?
2. Should an applicant “come out” on their law school application?
3. How will your LGBT identity be perceived by the Admissions Committee?
4. Where can LGBT students find guidance and support?
5. Do law schools really support the “silent T”?

Where can LGBT students find guidance and support?

The Law School
- Some schools take an active stance, and professors, administrators, and staff members show support for the LGBT community by announcing “safe zones” or “I am an ally.”
- Schools on a bigger campus may have multiple resources for LGBT students.
- Independent law schools typically have student services staff available to support LGBT students.
- For students who want to handle legal issues related to LGBT individuals, some schools now have clinics for their students, and some schools will make this part of their diversity statement.

Student Organizations
- LGBT student group.
- National LGBT Bar Law Student Congress. A list of schools who partner with the LGBT Bar Associations is found on their website.
- Lavender Law – Annual Law Conference & Career Fair which targets issues, achievements, and career placement for the LGBT community and allies.

Law School Outreach to LGBT Students through LSAC
- On students’ LSAC profiles (Candidate Referral Service), they can indicate whether they are LGBT or are interested in LGBT student organizations.
- Checking these boxes notifies schools and allows law schools to proactively reach out to the student and let them know about opportunities for LGBT students.
- Students can then learn about schools that they may not have previously considered.

Online Resources
- LSAC Diversity in Law School, LGBT Applicants – videos covering areas such as coming out on your application, choosing an LGBT friendly law school, being out in law school, transgender in law school, and being out at work.
- Law School LGBT Survey Results (2014) - allows students to see individual schools and where they stand on key LGBT issues.
- Transgender Equality – Has a “know your rights” section for students entering schools at all levels.

Do law schools support the “silent T?”
- Gender neutral restrooms.
- Shifting of policies to be inclusive for transgender individuals (name change, use of neutral honorifics).
- Making policies and support accessible and openly available to all students.
- Most students do have to take a bigger campus may have multiple resources for LGBT students.

Checklist of Questions
- Will the school value the diversity LGBT students bring?
- Do they have any LGBT student organizations?
- Are there any LGBT faculty/staff?
- Does the student want to study LGBT issues?
- Any LGBT classes?
- Any Gender Studies Journals?
- Are Staff/Faculty/Students Safe Space trained?
- Are there all-gender restrooms?
- Does the school’s non-discrimination statement include sexual orientation or gender identity?
- Does the town/city have a LGBT community?
- Visit the school!