

WELCOME

SWAPLA/WAPLA CONFERENCE | October 1-3, 2015

New York New York Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law

Don't Leave It Up To Chance – Making Sure Your Students Know the Odds When Applying To Law School

Thursday, October 1 New York New York Hotel and Casino

3:00-5:00 PM **New Advisor's Workshop, Staten Island B.** For advisors new to prelaw advising.

Coordinators:

Amy Urbanek, Preprofessional Integration Coordinator/Prelaw Advisor, University of Utah, WAPLA

Jerry Polinard, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Professor of Political Science/Prelaw Advisor, SWAPLA

3:00-6:00 PM **Conference registration.** Park Registration Desk. Second Floor, near Park Terrace. Use Century elevators.

6:00-8:00 PM **Meet & Greet Reception, Park Terrace.** Use Century Elevators to Second Floor.

Entertainment by the *King of Rock and Roll*.

Friday, October 2 All sessions in Staten Island A & B, Third Floor, New York New York. Use Staten Elevators next to Tom's Urban.

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast buffet Staten Island A & B.

7:30-8:30 AM **Conference registration, outside Staten Island A & B**

Exhibit tables open all day.

8:15-8:30 AM **Conference opens. Staten Island A & B. Presidents' Welcome and Announcements**

Marilyn Hoffman, Coordinator for Prelaw Advising, University of Utah, President, WAPLA.

Jeffrey Robb, Professor of Government, Texas Woman's University, President, SWAPLA

8:30-9:30 AM **PLENARY SESSION 1 - Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Update.**

Joan Van Tol, LSAC General Counsel, on behalf of LSAC Prelaw Programs and Member Support Services

Review of recent test taker and applicant volume trends, updates on LSAC Law School Forums, and new services and publications available to assist prelaw advisors.

9:40-10:40 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1 and 2**

Staten Island A

An Advisee Walks into the Bar: Bridging the Gap Between Pre-Law Advising and the Bar Exam

Gregory R. Bordelon, Lecturer, Political Science/Pre-Law Advisor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, Monmouth University

Jennifer Carr, Director of the Academic Success Program, University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law

Mary Honoré Tucker, Instructor and Coordinator of Advising, Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, The University of Memphis

Students interested in law school may not often look as far ahead as the jurisdiction in which they may practice. Pre-law advisors advise students about where to attend law school and the connection to jurisdictional licensure in a variety of ways. This workshop seeks to provide information on the bar exam, its format, how it is graded and the relationship between it and where a student attends law school (including a discussion of the labels of "national," "regional" and "state" schools). Further, it will focus significantly on the trend towards bar "nationalization" (the Uniform Bar Exam) which has the potential to dramatically influence multiple jurisdictional licensure and could reshape the practice and in turn how we advise. The panel will also involve insight on how students prepare for the bar exam, how law schools facilitate bar prep assistance (and academic support) programs and derivatively, how pre-law advisors may advise on these matters.

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Staten Island B

The Insider's View: A Candid Conversation About Law School Admissions

Steven Andrew Light (moderator), Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and former Pre-law Advisor, UND
Michael Hunter Schwartz, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law

Theresa Beiner, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Nadine Baum Distinguished Professor of Law, and former Admissions Committee Chair, UALR William H. Bowen School of Law

Kathryn R.L. Rand, Dean and Floyd B. Sperry Professor, University of North Dakota School of Law

Ben Hoffman, Director of Admissions and Records, UND School of Law

Pre-law advisors have lots of insights to offer their students, yet the specifics of law school admissions may seem to be educated guesses, at best. What makes for a successful applicant – who gets in, how are they viewed, and why do they stand out? Admissions committees frequently are comprised of professional staff and faculty whose lenses may be quite different. And who knows how deans actually think about strategic enrollment goals or institutional reputation in relation to admissions? In this panel, you'll get the insider's view on how the admissions process *really* works, whether faculty and admissions professionals *really* view candidates the same way, and how law school deans *really* think about admissions goals.

10:40-10:55 AM **Break** – Enjoy refreshments and visit exhibit tables

10:55- 11:55 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2 and 3**

Staten Island A

May The Odds Be Ever In Your Favor – Making A Personal Statement Great

Kris Tina Carlston, Director, Preprofessional Advisement Center Prelaw Advisor Brigham Young University
Gary A. Keith, Associate Professor of Political Science, Pre-Law Advisor, University of the Incarnate Word

All law schools require some form of a personal statement. This is the student's opportunity to describe who they are and why they are uniquely qualified beyond the LSAT and GPA. A student has absolute *control* over the impression they leave with the admissions office with this statement. And yet, are we as advisors confident in helping the student in this process? This presentation will discuss innovative ways to help the student overcome writer's block, offer an opportunity for discussion about what makes a great personal statement, and provide language and examples designed to aid the student to overcome clichés and be willing to make it "personal" without making it uncomfortable.

Staten Island B

Straight Talk from Law Graduates: What does it mean to be \$100,000 in debt? (or \$200,000, or \$50,000, or \$0)

Amy Gordon, Managing Director, Member Services and Need Access, ACCESS Group, Inc.
Steven Freedman, Assistant Dean of Admissions, University of Kansas School of Law
Eric Eden, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
Indebted Recent Law Graduates

When prospective law students see the potential total cost for law school, they often gasp. After gasping, they may do one of a number of things. They might just ignore the number and not think about the financial consequences as they sign on the dotted line, or they may immediately decide law school is not financially possible for them and give up the chance to fulfill their professional and personal goals. Both of these answers are wrong. Doing more research is the answer. Advisors will learn about helpful resources and hear the personal stories of recent law grads about what it means to manage their debt on a new lawyer's salary.

11:55 AM-12:15 PM **Break.** Visit Exhibit Tables.

12:15-1:30 PM **Buffet Lunch, Staten Island A and B**

Special Guest Appearance and Welcome to Las Vegas

Oscar Goodman, Three-term Mayor of Las Vegas. Voted One Of The Top 15 Best Trial Lawyers in the U.S.

Guest Speaker and Welcome

Daniel W. Hamilton, Dean, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

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1:40-2:40 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 and 6

Staten Island A

Application “Geography”: Beyond The Horizon Of The Personal Statement

Iain Davis, Assistant Dean of Admissions & Student Financial Management, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Gisele Joachim, Dean of Enrollment Management, Seton Hall University School of Law

Jay Jorgensen, Director of Admissions, University of Richmond School of Law

Carol O’Hea, Assistant Director of Admissions, Tulane University Law School

While your advisees stress over and struggle with personal statements, their application “journey” often includes mastering a range of written submissions. In this session, four admissions professionals from around the country take you on a “trip” exploring the challenges (and opportunities) in crafting diversity statements, character/ fitness disclosures, “Why ‘X’ Law School?” questions, and academic/testing addenda. This session is designed to get pre-law advisors to consider creative solutions to counseling students writing various application components. We will share some examples of application submissions that, while not always coming in for a perfect landing, still provide lessons on effective ways to navigate sometimes difficult waters. A range of opinions from law schools with a range of cultures and regional differences will be shared. Audience participation encouraged.

Staten Island B

Special Prelaw Programs: Tools to Help Take “Chance” Out of Students’ Law School Goals

Christine Taylor, Undergraduate Legal Studies Director, Southern Utah University

Denise Malloy, Assistant Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Development, Montana State University

Shalini Vivek, Staff Attorney, Student Legal Services, Portland State University

PLANC guidelines require prelaw advisors to do more than simply speak with individual students about law school admissions and report LSAC/LSAT statistics to their colleges and universities. One way in which advisors can “do more” is to organize a special program to support their prelaw students. The panel will discuss innovative ways to provide such student support as exemplified by programs within panelists’ own schools that include overview courses, LSAT study programs, prelaw clubs, visits to law schools and law offices, job shadowing, attorney mentors, enhanced law school admissions assistance, etc.

2:50-3:50 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 7 and 8

Staten Island A

The Number Games: Are the Odds Ever in Your Favor?

Carrie Taubman, Assistant Dean and Director, Northeastern University School of Law

Abby Fitzgerald, Principal and Founder, Yellow Arrows, LLC

Anne Grieves, Pre-Law Advisor, Northeastern University *in absentia*

This session will focus on how Pre-Law Advisors can use data in a myriad of ways to improve advising to prospective law students. For example, advisors can use data to improve services to students, tell a story about the school’s pre-law students, influence programming, communicate with key stakeholders and decision-makers, and communicate with law schools. We will discuss ways pre-law advisors can make use of the data available to them through LSAC (both national and school-specific), as well as data they can collect on their own. We will also discuss two ways to think about data: 1) starting with available data and formatting/organizing it into something that can be informative, and 2) starting with an idea to explore or problem to solve and then identifying and/or creating the data and information needed to provide potential solutions or create useful tools that can be used to inform decisions.

Staten Island B

Their Ace in the Hole...Helping Students to Better Communicate with Admissions Offices

Jamie West Dillon, Assistant Dean for Admissions, University of Houston Law Center

Terence L. Cook, Director of Admissions and Scholarships, Texas A&M University School of Law

Do your students hope to hit the jackpot this admissions cycle? Don’t miss a trick--in this panel discussion with seasoned admissions officers we will discuss our experiences in communicating with prospective students throughout the admissions process and give suggestions for how students can communicate with admissions offices more effectively. We will discuss issues that arise throughout the admissions process from fee waiver requests to scholarship “negotiations” to surviving the waitlist and beyond. Bring your questions and horror stories and be ready for a lively discussion. We’ll put all of our cards on the table so you can help your students put their best foot forward.

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3:50-4:00 PM **Break**

4:00-5:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 9 and 10**

Staten Island A

Undergraduate Internships and Innovative Clinical Offerings: Hands-On Experience to Help Students Decide Whether to Invest in a Legal Education

Lisa J. Soto, Clinical Associate Professor, Law School Preparation Institute, The University of Texas at El Paso
Parker R. Hevron, Assistant Professor of Government, Department of History and Government, Texas Woman's University

Presenters will explore internships and innovative clinical offerings at the undergraduate level to give students a realistic taste of the profession beyond the classroom. By offering such hands-on experience, students are better equipped to make the choice of whether to venture into the application process and the costly decision to attend law school. The creation and benefits of undergraduate internship programs at two different public universities in Texas will be explored. Anecdotes and lessons from participants in all three phases of this process -- internship supervisors, prelaw students, and legal professionals -- will be shared. This presentation aims to demonstrate that, given the economic realities of legal education, experiential education is a vital step on the pathway to law school and beyond. Also covered will be the creation of two undergraduate clinical offerings, whereby students work directly with clients in the Child Welfare System and the Juvenile Justice System as well as interface with attorneys, parties, and others involved in the cases, providing an inside experience into the legal system and the practice of law.

Staten Island B

LGBT and the LSAP (Law School Admissions Process)

Matthew Kerns, Associate Director of Admissions, Savannah Law School
Denée Page, Assistant Director of Admissions, South Texas College of Law/Houston
Contributor: Elizabeth Cavallari, Senior Assistant Dean for Admissions, William & Mary Law School

This is an exciting time for LGBT individuals to enter law school. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues have never been more relevant in our society than they are today. However, as students begin preparing for a legal career, the law school admissions process can provide extra complications. Should an applicant "come out" on their application? How will your LGBT identity be perceived by the Admissions Committee? Is the law school welcoming to LGBT students? Where can LGBT students find guidance and support? This session will raise these questions and many more as we begin the conversation about LGBT in the LSAP (law school admissions process).

5:00-5:20 PM **Staten Island A & B**
Announcements and Acknowledgments

Dinner and evening on your own – enjoy Las Vegas!

Saturday, October 3 CONFERENCE SESSIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

7:00-8:00 AM ***Breakfast Buffet, Staten Island A & B, New York New York Hotel and Casino***

8:15 AM ***Board Shuttle Buses, outside main entrance to hotel on Tropicana***

8:30 AM ***Bus departs hotel promptly for UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, 4505 Maryland Parkway***

SWAPLA/WAPLA CONFERENCE

9:00-10:00 AM **PLENARY SESSION 2, Room 102**

An Update on the Improving Entry-Level Legal Employment Market

James G. Leipold, Executive Director, The National Association for Law Placement (NALP)

For the first time since the recession, law school graduates are entering the job market at a time when employment prospects for new law school graduates are improving. James Leipold, NALP's executive director and one of the leading experts on the entry-level legal employment market, will provide an update on the current job market and talk about how it has changed since the recession. He will discuss national trends and will focus specifically on the employment outcomes data from the most recent graduating class.

10:10-11:10 AM **PLENARY SESSION 3, Room 102**

Don't Roll the Dice: Making Well Informed Choices When Considering Offers of Admission, Financing Options and Ranking In Selecting Schools

Reyes Aguilar, Associate Dean for Admission & Financial Aid, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

Kristine Jackson, Assistant Dean for Admission & Financial Aid, University of Colorado Law School

Mathiew Le, Assistant Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, University of Washington School of Law

Larry Seno, Assistant Dean of Admission, University of Oregon School of Law

Your students have played their cards right and they now have a variety of admission offers and scholarships before them. Now what? Simply looking to a ranking and scholarship amounts can make the law school selection process appear deceptively formulaic. Helping law school applicant's wade through available data that is more in depth and consider information from a broader context will assist them in making more informed decisions with a long term perspective in mind. This session will draw on the professional experience of four panelists with law school admissions experience at seven different law schools. Topics covered will include resources for information gathering, financing options to consider, maximizing campus visits, campus and experiential environments, and employment considerations.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM **SWAPLA Business Meeting, Room 115**

WAPLA Business Meeting, Room 112

12:15-1:30 PM **LUNCH at the UNLV Alumni Center, across quad from the law school**

Sponsored by UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

Welcome by Daniel W. Hamilton, Dean

1:45--2:15 PM **Tour of law school**

2:15 PM **Conclusion of Conference.**

Board shuttle busses as directed from nearby parking lot

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas. We wish you a successful
Conference, and look forward to seeing you at the
Boyd School of Law. We realize the importance of prelaw
advising, and want to thank you all for a job well done!

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The National Law Journal

Among law schools who sent the highest percentage of their class of 2014 into long-term, full-time jobs at the NLJ Top 250 law firms - the nation's largest law firms.*

*All rankings based on statistics provided to the American Bar Association (ABA) by the 201 ABA accredited law schools.

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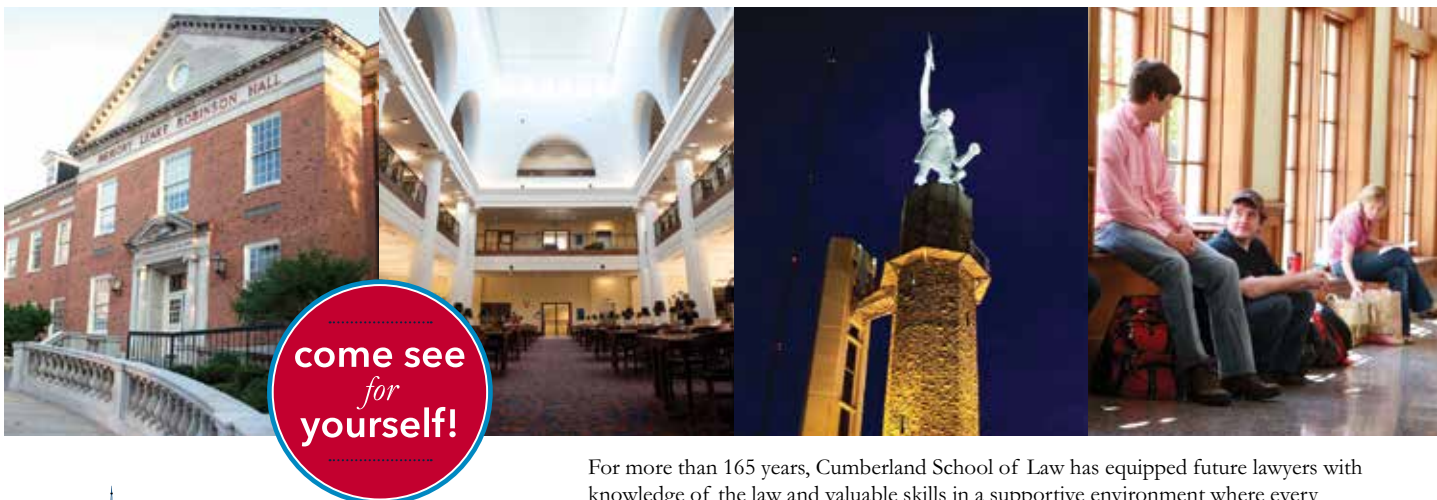
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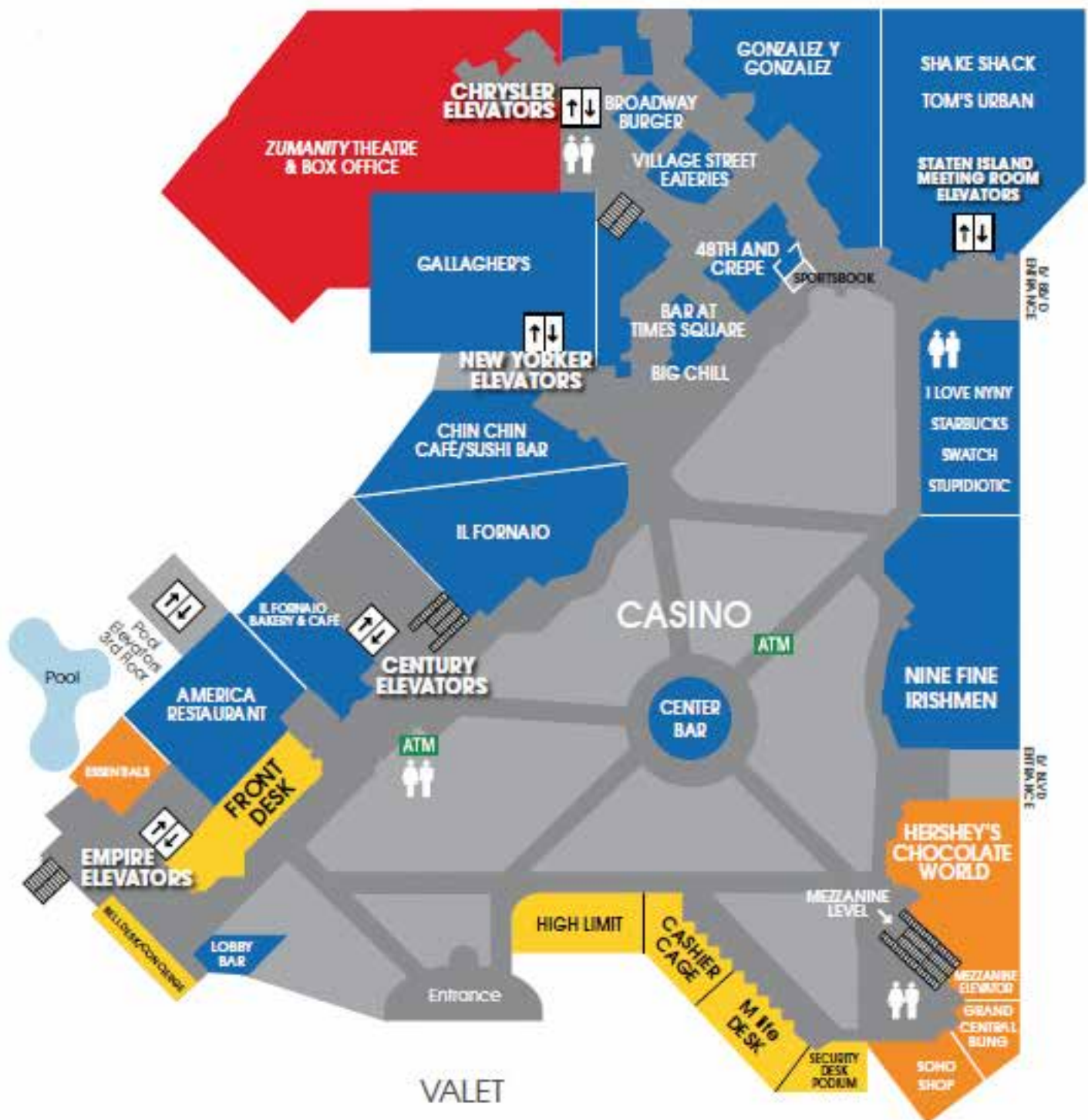
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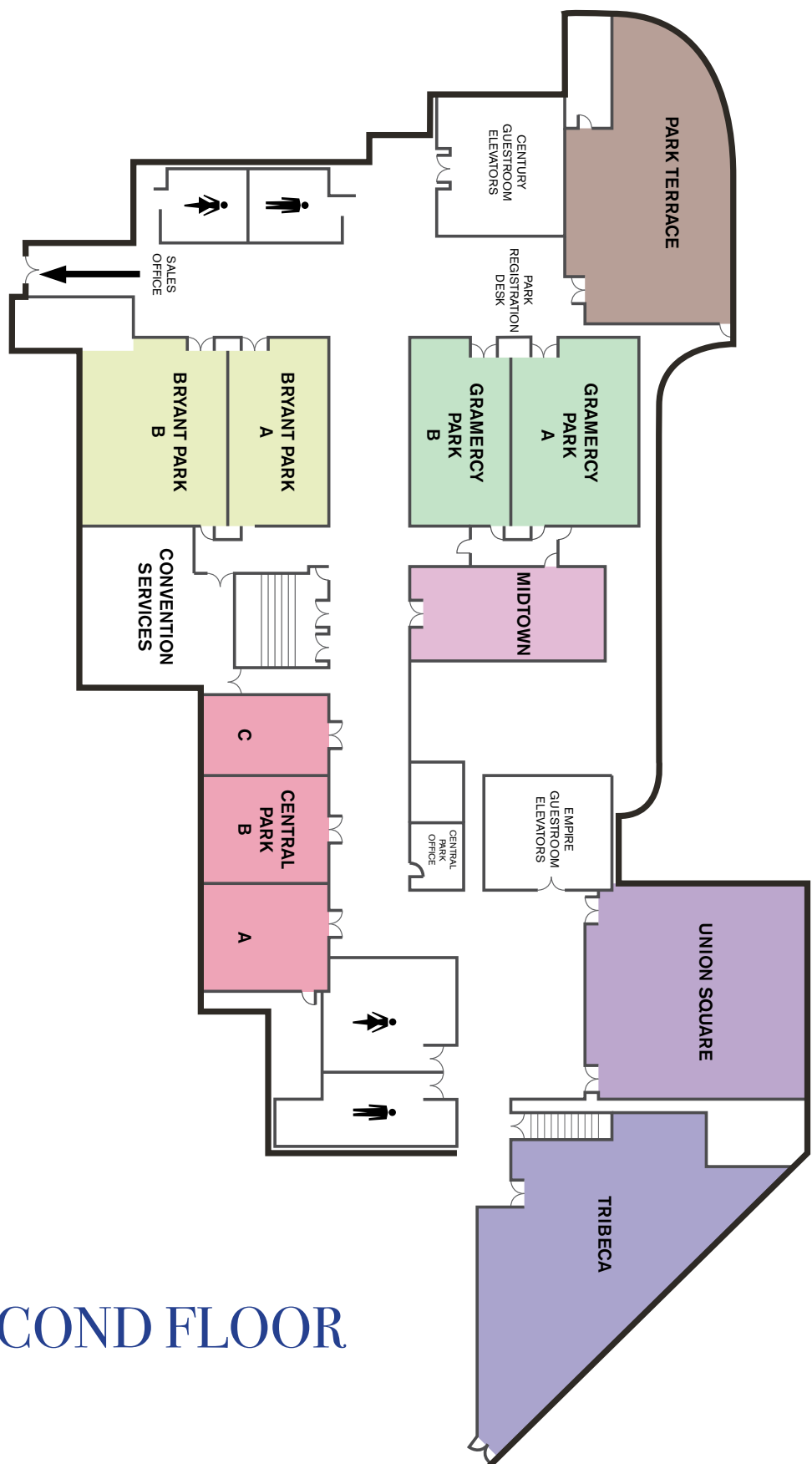
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