

ADMISSION TO THE BAR
of the Supreme Court of the United States
APPLICATION GUIDE



GEORGETOWN LAW



**AS A GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER ALUMNUS,
YOU ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

A Georgetown Law education provides proximity to resources offered by the nation's capital. Take advantage and join us for a memorable day at the highest Court in the land!

Nearly 3,000 attorneys join the rolls of the Supreme Court Bar annually. For those practicing in its hallowed halls, membership is an essential credential. However, regardless of any intent to argue before the Justices, you may apply to join their ranks. Membership comes with a number of professional perks. First among them is access to the members-only section in the courtroom. Located directly behind the arguing attorneys, it is an ideal spot to watch the action. When high-profile cases are heard, this perk is extremely valuable as public seating in the Court is limited. Bar members are also granted access to the Court's library, which holds everything you will ever need researching the law - over 600,000 print volumes, 200,000 microforms, and a wide variety of electronic resources. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you will receive an impressive Supreme Court Bar certificate to display proudly.

Georgetown Law's half-day celebration at the swearing-in ceremony is another reason to apply. The ceremony takes place in the main courtroom, and is preceded by a breakfast reception where it is not uncommon for a Justice to make an appearance to offer congratulations.

This informational packet will guide you through the application process. The Supreme Court limits the size of each group, so applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We hope you will join us as it is truly an event to remember!

The 2026 Swearing-In Ceremony is Thursday, June 18.

Completed applications must be received by Georgetown Law's Alumni Office by April 17, 2026.

Application Notes: PAGE ONE

Please note these are Georgetown's notes; you should also read the Court's official instructions, [here](#).

Page 1 data must be entered **electronically**. Do not use all caps.

Use **Adobe Acrobat** to fill out the form. The form contains a dynamic QR code that absorbs data as it's filled out and allows the Court's admissions system to more easily process applications. You will know it is working correctly if you see the QR code physically change as you fill in page 1. Many people have trouble with the QR code when they are not using Adobe. Adobe offers a free trial online [here](#).

Let the Alumni Office know if you still have trouble after going this route.

Designate how you would like your name printed on your certificate (and how it will be read aloud in Court); it may or may not include a middle name, initial, and/or suffix.

Full legal name here

You must provide at least one phone number and an email address

City/State for your certificate can be whatever you want; it is unrelated to where you are barred.

Q's 1-8, and 10 - 12 are mandatory.

Please list all state bar admissions. Format date MM/DD/YYYY. (If you enter it differently and don't get a pop-up, this is a hint that your QR code is also likely not correct.)

Supreme Court of the United States
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE
(Please do not submit attachments unless instructed to do so)
Fill out form online and print

Name as you want shown on your Certificate:

First Name: Last Name: "alternate certificate" omits "in the year of our Lord, two thousand..."

Middle Name: Suffix:

Firm Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Office Phone: Alternate Phone: Check this box if you want the alternate Certificate described in the instructions.

Email Address:

1. City and state you want shown on your Certificate. City: State: DC

2. Date of birth: 3. Birth City: 4. Birth State/Country:

5. Residence Address: City: State: DC Zip Code:

6. Name of parents: (a) (b)

7. State court(s) of last resort to which you are admitted to practice, and date(s) of admission.

State Court	Date of Admission

8. Are you engaged in the practice of the law? ☒ Yes ☐ No State the nature of your practice, whether by self, in partnership, or associated with or employed by others, giving the name of the firm or employer.

9. List firms or other entities with which you have been formerly associated, or by which you have been employed, as a lawyer.

10. Undergraduate and legal education and when and where degrees received.

School	Degree	Location	Date Received

11. Have you ever changed your name or been known by any name or surname other than those appearing on this application? ☐ Yes ☒ No If so, state and give details.

12. (a) Have you ever been disciplined, disbarred, sanctioned, or suspended from practice before any court, department, bureau, or commission of the United States, or of any State, Commonwealth, Territory, Possession, or the District of Columbia, or have you received any public or private ☐ Yes ☒ No reprimands from any such entity pertaining to your conduct as a member of the bar?

(b) Are there any disciplinary proceedings presently pending against you? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(c) Have you been denied admission to the bar of this Court or the bar of any entity described in (a) above? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(d) Have you been convicted of a crime? (other than a minor traffic violation) ☐ Yes ☒ No

(e) If you answered "yes" to any of the questions in this paragraph you must provide a detailed explanation on a separate sheet and attach any relevant documentation concerning your answer.

COMPLETE CERTIFICATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE



Application Notes: PAGE TWO

The Court now accepts electronic signatures, meaning we no longer have to mail wet ink copies to one another. You can print and sign, or use an electronic signature. The signed application can then be emailed to the Alumni Office.

Be sure to fill in your name and sign and date two places, (1) the Certification, and (2) the Oath of Admission.

First Name: Last Name:

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them fully and frankly. The answers are complete and are true to my own knowledge.

Date: (Applicant's Signature)

STATEMENT OF SPONSORS

We, and

Title First Name Last Name Middle Initial Suffix

Title First Name Last Name Middle Initial Suffix

, being members of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States and not related to the applicant, state that the applicant is personally known to us, that the applicant possesses all the qualifications required for admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and that we have examined the applicant's personal statement and believe it to be correct, and we affirm that the applicant's moral and professional character and standing are good.

(Signature) (Signature)

Office Address: Office Address:

City: City:

State: Zip Code: State: Zip Code:

OATH OF ADMISSION

I, , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as an attorney and as a counselor of this Court I will conduct myself uprightly and according to the law, and that I will support the Constitution of the United States.

Date: (Applicant's Signature)

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ONLY IF ADMISSION IS ON WRITTEN MOTION (NOT IN OPEN COURT)

MOTION FOR ADMISSION

I, , a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, hereby move the admission of to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. I am satisfied the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications.

Date: (Movant's Signature)

CLER-0079-5-07

Only fill in sponsor information for sponsors whose signatures you are obtaining yourself.

If you need assistance finding one or both sponsors, leave that section(s) blank and coordinate with the Alumni Office.

Leave this section blank. It doesn't apply to you since you are being admitted in person.

General Event Information

The swearing-in ceremony will take place in the main courtroom of the Supreme Court. Before the swearing-in ceremony, our group will meet in one of the Court's conference rooms (wait until you see them!) for a reception. There will be a continental breakfast, coffee, tea, juice and water. We will celebrate, mingle, and possibly be visited by one of the Justices. One of our Georgetown Law professors will also brief you on some of the decisions the Court could rule on while we are there.

Per Court rules, you are allotted one guest who can accompany you to both the actual swearing-in ceremony in the main courtroom and the reception before.

Dress Code:

- “Business Attire is required. Men must wear a tie. Women must wear a blouse and blazer; blazers are not required with a shoulder-covered dress.”
- Scarfs, pins, and hats may not be worn into the courtroom.
- There is no dress code required for guests, but please dress in keeping with the decorum of the day.

Schedule

7:30 am	Arrive at the Courthouse. Tell the Marshalls posted on the steps that you are with Georgetown Law and they will direct you through visitor security. Once inside, there will be a small, printed sign with our school on it that the Court has designated for us to gather near. Take as many photos here as you like! After this, personal phones and cameras must be locked away in the lockers provided by the Court.
8:00 am	Breakfast Reception
9:10 am	Last call for restrooms (applicants and guests).
9:20 am	The Clerk of Court addresses the room. Guests are escorted to the Courtroom first.
9:25-35 am	The Director of Admissions addresses Admittees prior to escort to the courtroom.
10:00 am	Court gavels. The Court will also read the rulings it issues that day; the time it takes to do that varies based on the rulings and the justices reading the decisions. Following the day's decisions, the admissions portion of the court session will take place.

We are usually done by around 11:00 am. Following the ceremony, we'll be escorted back to the lockers to collect our belongings. We will head outside for group photos by the steps. The day's activities wrap by noon at the latest most years.

Arrive at 7:30 am. Our group will meet on **First Street, in the middle of the base of the steps.** We will go in together as a group. **Guests need to arrive at the same time as applicants.**

***Timeliness is very important for this event.**

- If you are running late, send a text to 985-778-9363 (my cell).
Answering calls is difficult at the event, so please text with your name and ETA.
- Note that at a certain point, security will not let any of us wait outside and you'll be on your own entering the building. In addition, once we enter, we power down all of our devices (phones, computers etc.) and lock all of them (including mine) in storage lockers, where they stay for the duration of the event, so there will be no way of getting in touch with us once that happens. You will need to talk to the guards and ask for their help to get in the building and on how to find us.

By 8/8:15 am or so, we should be in our assigned reception room. Breakfast, greetings, photos, and bathroom breaks take place during this timeframe. It's also when we could get a visit from one of the justices (not guaranteed though, so fingers crossed!).

Parking

There is no parking at the Supreme Court. If you have guests with disabilities or uncomfortable shoes, we recommend dropping them at the Court first, parking, and walking back. The entrance to the Courthouse where we enter is an accessible entrance for people with disabilities.

Professor Irv Gornstein, Executive Director of Georgetown Law's Supreme Court Institute, will serve as our movant. He makes the motion to the Court to have you admitted to the bar during the ceremony and presents you – the Clerk will give you instructions on the day about how this works (it's very easy and you do it as a group, so don't stress). At the reception beforehand, he will also give you some insight into cases that the Court is sitting on that could be ruled on while we're there.

Schedule

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 7:30 am | Arrive at the Court; meet outside.
Security will begin taking us into the building and through security protocols. |
| 8:00 am | Breakfast Reception |
| 9:10 am | Last call for restrooms (applicants and guests). |
| 9:20 am | The Clerk of Court addresses the room.
Guests are escorted to the Courtroom first. |
| 9:25-35 am | The Director of Admissions addresses Admittees prior to escort to the courtroom. |

10:00 am Court gavels. The admissions portion of the court session will last around 30 minutes (there will be several other groups admitted that day as well). The Court will also read the rulings it issues that day; the time it takes to do that varies based on the rulings and the justices reading the decisions.

We are usually done around 11:30 am/12 pm. Following the ceremony, we'll be escorted back to the lockers to collect our belongings.

After you have your belongings, do not leave. We have submitted a request to take group photographs in front of the Marshall Statue inside, and on the steps outside. One or both of those should be approved, but we won't know which until the day of. There has been construction on the facade recently, so we will assess whether this is still a good option on the day we're there.

*Please note, our group will naturally get a little separated as part of the Court's exit process. If you want to be in the photos, make sure to find us again quickly. The marshalls will not let us hang long by the statue or on the steps outside, so don't linger at the lockers and use the restroom before the exit process begins.

Photos

No personal cameras, including smartphones, are permitted. All devices will be powered down and placed in storage lockers.

We will have a photographer there to document the events of the day. This will include photos of alumni and guests at the reception, a photo with a justice if possible, and the photo on the steps afterward. We will provide all the photographs to you complimentary. We will get a few highlight photos that same day, and the rest should follow within a few business days.

No cameras are permitted inside the Courtroom, including professional photographers, so there are no photos of the ceremony itself.

Sample Itinerary

7:30 a.m.

All bar applicants and their guests arrive promptly at the Supreme Court. The Visitors' Entrance is to the left of the stairs if you are facing the Court with the Capitol at your back. Upon entry, U.S. Marshals will escort our group to our conference room for the pre-swearing-in reception. A few Justices may join us for greetings and photos.

9:30 a.m.

U.S. Marshals will escort bar applicants through security and into the main courtroom.

10:00 a.m.

The Court session begins. The Justices will read opinions first, and then move to the swearing-in. The session's duration will depend on the number and length of decisions read and the number of groups admitted to the Supreme Court Bar.

12:00 p.m.

Group photograph on steps of the Court and inside the building (if security protocol permits us to do so).

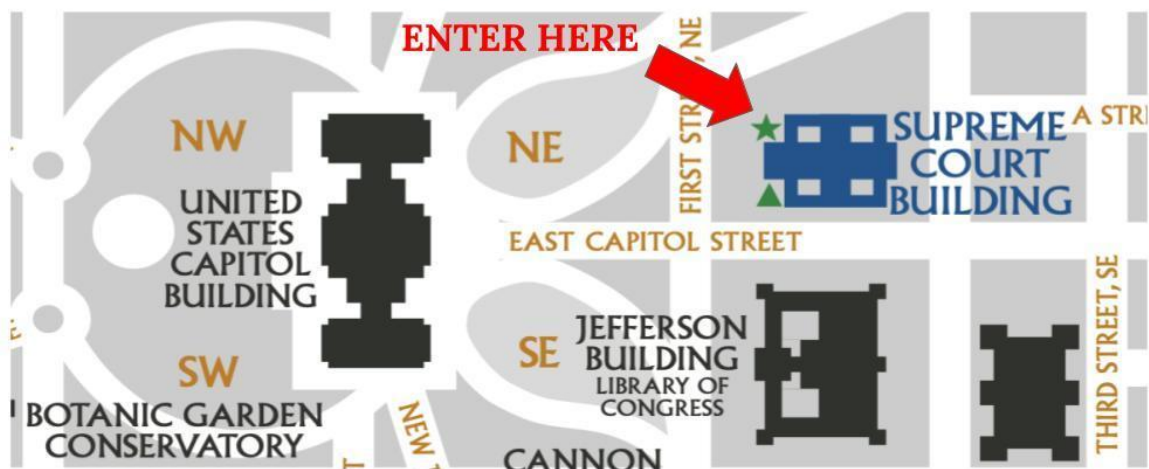
GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

The swearing-in ceremony will take place in the main courtroom of the Supreme Court. Before the swearing-in ceremony, our group will meet in one of the Court's conference rooms for a light breakfast and to go over logistics. We will celebrate, mingle, and possibly be visited by one (or more) of the Justices.

Per Court rules, you are only allowed one guest to accompany you to both the actual swearing-in ceremony in the main courtroom and the reception before.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

- 7:30 a.m. All bar applicants and their guests arrive promptly at the corner of First St. NE and East Capitol St. (as noted on the map). The Visitors' Entrance is to the left of the stairs if you are facing the Court with the Capitol at your back. Upon entry, U.S. Marshals will escort our group to our conference room for the pre-swearing-in reception. A few Justices may join us for greetings and photos.
- 9:30 a.m. U.S. Marshals will escort bar applicants through security and into the main courtroom.
- 10:00 a.m. The Court session begins. The Justices will read opinions first, and then move to the swearing-in. The session's duration will depend on the number and length of decisions read and the number of groups admitted to the Supreme Court Bar.
- 12:00 p.m. Group photograph on steps of the Court and inside the building (if security protocol permits us to do so).



★ Visitors' Entrance (Wheelchair Accessible)

▲ Entrance for Arguing Attorneys, Bar Members and Press (Open to public: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., M-F)

FAQs

You must obtain an original certificate of good standing from the presiding judge, clerk, or other authorized official of the highest court of a state, commonwealth, territory, possession, or of the District of Columbia, evidencing that you have been a member of the Bar of such court for at least three years and are in good standing.

Do not submit a Bar Association Certificate in place of the clerk's certificate, except in Washington, DC. All certificates must be original – not duplicates or copies. Each state court follows a slightly different procedure for requesting a Certificate of Good Standing. Please follow the instructions for your state:

Alabama	online instructions	Nevada	online instructions
Alaska	Call (907) 264-0612	New Hampshire	online instructions
Arizona	online instructions	New Jersey	online instructions
Arkansas	online instructions	New Mexico	online instructions
California	Call (415) 865-7000	New York	
Colorado	online instructions	Appellate Div., 1st Dept.	online instructions
Connecticut	online instructions	Appellate Div., 2nd Dept.	online instructions
Delaware	online instructions	Appellate Div., 3rd Dept.	online instructions
District of Columbia	online instructions	Appellate Div., 4th Dept.	online instructions
Florida	online instructions	North Carolina	online instructions
Georgia	online instructions	North Dakota	online instructions
Hawaii	Call (808) 539-4919	Ohio	online instructions
Idaho	online instructions	Oklahoma	Call (405) 556-9400
Illinois	online instructions	Oregon	online instructions
Indiana	online instructions	Pennsylvania	online instructions
Iowa	online instructions	Rhode Island	online instructions
Kansas	online instructions	South Carolina	online instructions
Kentucky	Call (502) 564-5444	South Dakota	Call (605) 773-3511
Louisiana	online instructions	Tennessee	online instructions
Maine	Call (207) 822-4146	Texas	online instructions
Maryland	online instructions	Utah	online instructions
Massachusetts	online instructions	Vermont	online instructions
Michigan	online instructions	Virginia	online instructions
Minnesota	online instructions	Washington	online instructions
Mississippi	Call (601) 359-3694	West Virginia	online instructions
Missouri	online instructions	Wisconsin	online instructions
Montana	Call (406) 444-3858	Wyoming	online instructions
Nebraska	online instructions		

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What if I'm not practicing or I am currently inactive in my bar?

Inactivity does not preclude participation.

What if I'm a member of bars in multiple states?

You only need one Certificate of Good Standing. You may choose which certificate to obtain, but note that you must have been a member of that state's bar for at least three years.

How do I obtain a Certificate of Good Standing?

It varies by state. For a list of states' procedures, please refer to page 6 of this guide.

By when must the application be dated?

All paperwork must be dated within 1 year prior to the Swearing-In Ceremony. This includes Certificates of Good Standing and signatures of application sponsors.

May I apply if I'm a licensed attorney in a country other than the United States?

No. You must be barred in a U.S. State or territory, or have reciprocity with a state bar.

What if I want someone I know to sign as my movant?

You would need to be admitted in a separate motion at the Court or by written motion in absentia, and in either case, not stand up with our group.

Is attending the ceremony mandatory for admission into the bar?

No. If you are applying for admission to the bar with Georgetown Law, you are registering for the entire event. However, if you are not interested in the ceremony and reception, you are welcome to apply on your own and be admitted at another time.

Are my sponsors required to attend the ceremony?

No, your sponsors do not have to be present – unless, of course, you want one to be your guest!

Who can be my sponsor?

Any attorney who is a member of the Supreme Court Bar. They do not need to be fellow Georgetown Law Alumni.

What if I don't know two people who can sponsor me?

If you know one sponsor, great. Have them sign your paperwork. Leave the second sponsor blank.

If you don't know any members who can sponsor you, not to worry. Leave them both blank and turn in your complete application packet on time. Georgetown will help source sponsors for you once we have all application materials, including your Certificate of Good Standing and your application fee. (Please do sign the Oath of Admission, located below the sponsor section, before you submit the application to us.)

May my preferred city differ from the state from which I obtain a Certificate of Good Standing (e.g., listing Rome, Italy as preferred city and providing a certificate from New York)?

Yes. You must write your preferred city on the first page of the application, question

1. Once the application is submitted to the Court, it becomes your record and may not be changed.

My legal name is Michael, but I would like my bar certificate to include my nickname, Mike. Is that allowed?

Yes. You must write your preferred name in the first box on the first page of the application. Your choice may include nicknames, married names, maiden names, etc. However, once the application is submitted to the Court, it is recorded and may not be altered.

In the first section of the application it tells you to check a box if you want the "alternate certificate described in the instructions." What does this mean?

The standard certificate evidencing admission contains the following words: "in the year of the Lord, two thousand..." An alternate certificate omits the underlined words.

If I have already been admitted to the Supreme Court Bar via Written Motion, may I apply again to be admitted in open court?

No. You may only join the Supreme Court Bar of the United States once.

FEE QUESTIONS

In what form should my payment of \$200 be submitted?

The Court accepts money orders and checks.

When will the Court cash my check?

The Court will cash your check the day after the ceremony.

Are there any reoccurring dues?

No. Admission is perpetual.

To whom should I make the check payable?

"U.S. Supreme Court", dated the date of the swearing in ceremony (not the date signed!).

EVENT LOGISTICS

What if another obligation arises and I can no longer attend the ceremony?

If you cannot attend, let the Alumni Office know as soon as possible. You will be given the choice to

proceed via written motion or choose an alternative date to appear in person as an individual. We will notify the Court of your inability to attend the Georgetown Law Swearing-In Ceremony and how you plan to proceed with admission. If you've chosen to be admitted via written motion, no further action is needed. If you prefer to appear in person within one year of the date on your application materials, the Alumni Affair Office will help you coordinate with the Court.

Are there any age restrictions on my guests?

Yes. No guests under the age of six may attend the swearing-in ceremony in the main courtroom. Please keep in mind that children will need to be able to sit quietly for an hour or more during the ceremony.

How many guests can I bring?

Per Court rules, each person being sworn into the Supreme Court Bar is allowed **one** guest who can sit and witness the swearing-in ceremony in the main courtroom and attend the reception beforehand. Some admittees opt not to bring a guest. If so, we will run a first-come, first-served waiting list for additional guests. However, there are no guarantees that you will be able to bring more than one guest. Please plan accordingly.

May I leave my belongings in the reception room while I go into the ceremony?

No. **All** personal belongings, including cell phones, will be placed in lockers before entering the courtroom.

May I bring a stroller into the Supreme Court?

Yes, but you will have to check it. Guests under age 6 are not permitted into the main courtroom.

Is there parking at the Supreme Court?

No. We recommend that you take alternative transportation to the Court. If you plan to drive, the nearest parking lot is at Union Station Parking Garage located at 50 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 898-1950. Keep in mind that this parking garage is still a half-mile away. If you have guests with disabilities or uncomfortable shoes, we recommend dropping them at the Court first, parking, and walking back.

May I record the ceremony?

No. It is not permitted to take a camera, cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc., into the main courtroom.

Electronics are allowed in the building, but you will have to check them into a secure locker before the Marshals escort our group to the event conference room and you will not have access them to again until it is time to exit the Courthouse.

POST-SWEARING-IN

How do I get my certificate?

Two to three weeks after the ceremony, you will receive an email delivered to the address listed on your original application. It will come from “Bar Award (certification@theawardgroup.com)” and will have a subject line similar to “you’ve been awarded.” It may initially look like spam, get caught in your filters, or blocked by a firewall. Please approve The Award Group (domain @theawardgroup.com) as a sender, take care not to delete any emails, and check all of your email spam folders.

The email will contain a proof of Supreme Court Bar Certificate of Admittance, framing options available for purchase, and the shipping address from your application.

Your action is needed to approve the proof and verify the shipping address. You may change the shipping address at this time.

Please note that the only changes allowable at this time are typos and shipping verification. You may not alter your name, state, or any other fields that appear on the bar certificate. These fields appear as you filled them out on your completed application and reflect your official record with the Court.

If you do not respond, certification@theawardsgroup.com will send reminder emails every 5 days. After two months in the system, they will assume the information is correct, process your certificate, and send it to the mailing address on file.

I haven’t received an email about my bar certification. What should I do?

Please check your spam filters and adjust your firewalls to allow the domain @theawardgroup.com.

If, after checking all of your email boxes, you are unable to locate any emails from The Award Group, please contact certification@theawardsgroup.com directly. If they do not have a record of your certificate (very unlikely), please contact Georgetown Law Alumni Affairs at alumlaw@georgetown.edu as well as the Supreme Court Bar Admissions at ptadmit@supremecourt.gov.

Does it come framed?

You may select and purchase framing through the email you receive after the ceremony from certification@theawardsgroup.com.

Can I change the name or state on my bar certificate?

No. All of the information on your bar certificate is pulled from your application. While filling out your application, you may request any name or state. However, once submitted and approved, your information is entered onto the official Court record and cannot be altered.

Can I change the shipping address for my bar certificate?

Yes. The email you receive post-swearing from certification@theawardsgroup.com will contain instructions.

When should I receive my certificate?

You should receive your bar certificate within four months of the ceremony. If you have not received your certificate within that timeframe, please contact Georgetown Law Alumni Affairs at alumlaw@georgetown.edu, as well as the Supreme Court Bar Admissions at ptadmit@supremecourt.gov. Together, we will work to rectify the situation.

If I have individual questions about my certificate, whom should I contact?

After the ceremony, you are a member of the Supreme Court Bar and may work with them directly by emailing ptadmit@supremecourt.gov. Georgetown Law is also happy to help and appreciates staying in the loop so we may assist in any challenges and learn from any missteps. We can be contacted at alumlaw@georgetown.edu.

Will I receive a bar number for reference later when visiting the Supreme Court?

No bar numbers are given out. The Court keeps a record of members by name only. If you want to attend an oral argument, for example, line up at the entrance to the south side of the main entrance (marked on page 6 of this guide with a green triangle). Provide your name of record for verification by a Court officer.

If you have concerns about this process, or would like to verify your name of record, please email the Court directly at ptadmit@supremecourt.gov.

The date of the 2026 Swearing-In Ceremony is Thursday, June 18.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Georgetown Law Office of Alumni Affairs

alumnlaw@georgetown.edu

(202) 662-4078