Introduction
The Pre-Law Resources team, under the Academics Team of the Yale College Council, is working to implement several resources for undergraduates interested in attending law school. Because Yale is not a pre-professional institution, it can be difficult for students interested in law to know which paths they should take in their studies, extracurriculars, and pre-graduate school activities. Thus, the YCC Pre-Law Resources Team has accomplished the following initiatives: (1) crafted a pre-law resources handbook for Yale undergraduates; and (2) established a study materials library (to provide graduate school testing books). Moreover, the team is in the process of initiating pre-law (and other pre-professional) study groups.

Background
Yale currently has several resources for undergraduates interested in attending law school, such as OCS drop-in hours, mentorship by Residential College Fellows, law-affiliated extracurriculars (such as YULAA and the Yale Mock Trial Team), and information on the Office of Career Strategy (OCS) website. However, the lack of student accessibility and knowledge of Yale’s offerings dilutes the efficacy of these initiatives for many students. This issue can be addressed in the form of a pre-law resources handbook. The handbook, created over the 2018 fall semester and distributed by email on December 11th, 2018, is now accessible to all undergraduates. Students can find a vast range of pre-law related information in the handbook, such as which residential colleges provide law school affiliate contacts and how to start preparing for the LSAT.

Moreover, test prep books can be very expensive for many students to acquire. Yale does not currently have a system to provide test prep to students in preparation for the LSAT, MCAT, or other graduate school entry tests. To address this issue, the YCC Pre-Law Resources team has established the groundwork for a Study Materials Library from which students can borrow and photocopy test prep books to help alleviate the financial burden. Students will be able to borrow books from the Bass Library circulation desk beginning in mid-January, 2019.

Peer Institutions
Other institutions such as Harvard and Stanford provide career strategies drop-in hours and pre-law website pages, as Yale does. They also, however, provide pre-law resources for their students in the form of handbooks. Thus, Yale was behind its peer institutions when it comes to providing students with a comprehensive source of information—such as a handbook—which describes existing pre-law programming.

Data Analysis
A spring 2018 YCC survey on pre-law resources, taken by 1163 students, showed the following results: 47.0% of students disagree or strongly disagree that Yale pre-law resources sufficiently help in planning for law school; 57.5% of students disagree or strongly disagree that Yale pre-law resources are sufficiently accessible; and 91.3% of students believe that they would utilize an informational pre-law resources handbook. Thus, it is clear that the pre-law community at Yale would benefit from a more consolidated and directional system of pre-law resources on campus. This means having access to one resource that will direct students towards everything pre-law related on campus.
**Recommendations**
The Pre-Law Resources team hopes to address some undergraduates’ concerns by providing the following:

1) **Handbook:** Discovering and gaining access to the pre-law resources available on campus can be challenging for Yale undergraduates interested in attending law school. Many students are unaware of the mentorship opportunities that the Office of Career Strategies and even their own residential colleges provide. The YCC handbook consolidates such information and makes it accessible to pre-law students.

2) **Study Materials Library:** A study materials library could help students who are preparing for graduate school entry tests save money. Rather than buying multiple books and accumulating expenses, students would be able to check out or photocopy test prep books on campus for free.

3) **Study Group:** Many students don’t know where to start when preparing for the LSAT. Even in light of test books and online programs, interacting with other students can be very valuable for students in preparation for the LSAT. A study group could help such students better prepare for law school and meet peers in similar situations.

**Progress**

1) **Pre-Law Resources Handbook:** The Pre-Law Resources team has consolidated and drafted information on pre-law resources in the form of a handbook. These resources range from information on how to find mentorship opportunities through residential college fellows to information on LSAT testing materials to advice on which classes to take as a student interested in law. The handbook has been completed and was distributed to students by the YCC by email on December 11th, 2018. The handbook will shortly appear on the Office of Career Strategies website after review and approval, but can also be found at this [link](#).
   a) **Status:** complete.
   b) **Next steps:** Post the handbook on the OCS website.

2) **Study-Materials Library:** The Pre-Law Resources Team has established the groundwork for a study materials library from which students can borrow and photocopy test prep books for graduate school entry tests such as the LSAT, MCAT, and GRE exams. The Pre-Law Resources Team has confirmed a partnership with the Bass Library and a sponsorship with Kaplan to provide these books to students. The Kaplan sponsorship is contingent on holding periodical “club talks” in which a Kaplan representative presents its study programs to a number of interested Yale students. In return, Kaplan provides LSAT, GRE, MCAT, and GMAT test prep books to the YCC which are then gifted to the Bass Library. Students can simply go to the Bass Library circulation desk to check out books for two hours at a time and are free to photocopy the books. The library will be set up by mid-January, early in the spring 2019 semester. Moreover, the YCC will send a student body-wide email detailing the library and how to access its materials in early January.
   a) **Status:** nearly complete.
   b) **Next steps:** Complete the first shipment of test prep books, and incorporate them into the Bass Library circulation.

3) **Study Group:** The Pre-Law Resources Team intends to establish a Pre-Law Resources study group in which students can interact with other pre-law students and have a space to collaboratively study for the LSAT. We also hope to organize study groups for students preparing for other graduate school admissions tests. In an effort to initiate this study
group, the Pre-Law Resources team is in communication with Yale Law School affiliates and heads of student organizations to establish potential liaisons between the study group and the Law School. The YCC Academics Team Policy Director, Sophie Gottfried, has founded the Yale Undergraduate Pre-Law Association (YUPLA), which seeks to provide mentorship opportunities and legal externships. In addition to this, the team looks forward to partnering with other pre-law organizations and formulating an outreach method to spread the word to the undergraduate population.

   a) **Status:** in progress.
   b) **Next steps:** Establish connections with other undergraduate organizations, and register the study group as a student organization.

**Conclusion**

With these projects underway, the YCC has taken actionable steps to address the concerns of pre-law students. In publishing the handbook, the YCC hopes to make pre-law resources more accessible to the undergraduate population. Creating the study materials library and organizing the pre-professional study groups should help students feel more oriented in their academic and social paths towards law school. In light of these initiatives, the YCC anticipates that pre-law students will be better prepared to accomplish their law-related endeavors, whether they be inside or outside of the classroom.