Letters of Recommendation

Who should I ask to write letters of recommendation?

The best recommendations for law school are written by professors who know you and can address your specific academic strengths in multiple settings. Since it’s best when letter writers document what they say, you should provide a packet of information including an updated résumé, a statement of why you want to practice law, your unofficial transcript, any relevant recommendation writing instructions, and stamped and addressed envelopes. Additionally, it’s expected that you disclose any personal relationships you might have with any of your letter writers. Be sure to give professors plenty of time to think about and complete their letter describing your positive academic and personal traits.

What if there is no prompt for the letter writers? What do I ask them to address?

A few possible ideas include how well and how long the writer has known the applicant and their academic record, how do the student’s strengths and abilities prepare the applicant for success in law school, and in what settings has the writer seen the applicant perform. Especially helpful are comparisons of the applicant with other students previously accepted from the same institution – this provides a more specific assessment of the applicant’s potential for success. Also, employers are very acceptable letter writers when they can speak to your skills and abilities in depth. A good rule of thumb is to give anyone writing a letter of recommendation at least a minimum of two weeks to complete it.