

**NATALIE
BLAZER:** There was an essay I read the other day that read like a book report. Like, UVA Law was founded in da, ta, da, ta. It's like less researchy and more just talk from your own voice.

**KATIE
DELSANDRO:** If you find yourself inserting footnotes, it's time to perhaps second guess your tone.

**NATALIE
BLAZER:** Great point.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is *Admissible*. I'm Natalie Blazer, Dean of Admissions at UVA Law. We are in the thick of admitted student recruiting right now, which always puts us in a happy mood. What puts us in a less happy mood is when applicants do things that we would characterize as inadmissible. So we're going to run through some observations from this cycle that are making some applicants just impossible to admit.

But also, I want listeners to keep in mind before we start that no law school application is perfect. I have said this a few times on the podcast before. But there's a big difference between having an imperfect application and having an inadmissible application.

We have, I would venture to say, hundreds, potentially thousands of applicants who are admissible. Some of those people can't be admitted just because we have a limited number of folks in the first year of class. That's not who we're talking about. We're talking about the people who do certain things that make themselves inadmissible, and they take themselves out of the game.

OK, so before we dive in, I have to tell you guys, in preparation for today's recording, yesterday, I cued up our last two director debriefs that the three of us did together. And I was laughing out loud.

**ROSANNE
IBANEZ:** Because we're so funny?

**NATALIE
BLAZER:** Well--

**ROSANNE
IBANEZ:** Or so wrong about what we thought.

**NATALIE
BLAZER:** In the November episode, which was the halfway point of this current cycle that we're in, at the end, I said, is there anything else you guys want to share with listeners? And Rosanne you said, we just can't wait to read more. And would any of us say that right now?

**KATIE
DELSANDRO:** We've read a lot.

NATALIE BLAZER: I was just so struck between our energy and enthusiasm for reading in November compared to how I feel right now. If you're someone who's thinking-- and I get this question all the time-- does applying earlier in the cycle versus later matter? Well, just ask yourself, do you want an enthusiastic, energetic admissions committee reading your file, or do you want a depleted, exhausted admissions committee reading your file?

So another observation from that November 2023 debrief is that at that point, we had made about 25% of offers. A quarter of offers at the halfway point of the cycle. And I remember commenting that that meant that we were going rather slow. And for us, that is slow. But as of now, as of March 4, when we're recording this episode, we've made more than 90% of regular cycle offers.

So it's wild to think how much ground we have covered in those three months, especially when you consider holidays, the office being closed. We converted our entire file reading software. I raised that point not just to pat ourselves on the back for grinding out all those offers. But also I think it's helpful for listeners to know that even if a first half of a cycle is slow, it will pick up, and committees will be making up the time. And so the cycle can start off slow, but the pace can really pick up in the second half. That's what we have seen.

So having said all that, that extended intro, Katy and Rosanne, welcome to the show.

KATIE DELSANDRO: Hi.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: So glad to be back.

NATALIE BLAZER: So excited to have you guys back. So I wouldn't really call it an icebreaker since I feel the ice between us has long been broken.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Thoroughly broken.

NATALIE BLAZER: It's water at this point. We're going to do it anyway, because I think it's really fun for listeners to envision a little bit more about Charlottesville life. So why don't you each tell us what your favorite restaurant in Charlottesville is?

ROSANNE IBANEZ: My friends will hate me for this, because they were like, can you stop telling people what our favorite spots are or more people will be there? But it will forever and always, I think, the bar at Alley Light. It's a good vibe, great people. Shout out to Nikki and Tamika. Just really love it there. And right now, they have a passion fruit cheesecake. So excellent. 10 out of 10, would recommend.

KATIE DELSANDRO: It's very good cheesecake. And one of the things I love about Alley Light that really-- it exemplifies a lot of what Charlottesville is all about in the sense that even down to the bartender, they are out there finding local ingredients. Often he is foraging wherever he goes to forage and turning that into something really special and really uniquely Charlottesville-ian, and I love that.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: And there's a UVA Law sticker on their refrigerator, so thanks for seeing us. We love that.

KATIE So for me, this is by far the hardest question that I ever get asked. What is my favorite place to eat in
DELSANDRO: Charlottesville? For me, it really depends on the day. But I'm going to give a shout out to a place I got to eat for the first time this weekend, which is Umma's. If you know me, you know I could eat Korean food every single day of the week.

Umma's is a fusion Korean restaurant and just had some really interesting things going on. And more than that, I love them because they are great community members here in Charlottesville. And that's something you will see in a lot of, I think, our local restaurants and businesses. They are supporting the broader community efforts. They're holding space for people who may not always have space to be. And I really admire that about them, in addition to the fact that their food is just fantastic.

NATALIE I love that something good went in that spot, because I just think of that spot as Mono Loco.
BLAZER:

KATIE Mono Loco forever. Every time I drive past it, I say RIP Mono Loco.
DELSANDRO:

NATALIE But I'm glad for Umma's. I'll have to try that. Maybe I should start a food podcast. Charlottesville dining podcast.
BLAZER: But no, today we're going to talk about the inadmissible things that we have seen, particularly in this cycle. But I think also it just applies generally.

And these are things, of course, as with all of the episodes that focus on application advice, these are our opinions, for the most part. But also, I think a lot of this is applicable to any school you're applying to. But I'm just going to put it out there that these are things that we personally find to be inadmissible, so.

ROSANNE I think it's also really important to say it's still a holistic process. It still is a holistic process. But in a process
IBANEZ: where there is a lot of competition, don't throw up red flags that don't need to be there.

NATALIE Exactly. It's like dating, I feel like. There are deal breakers, and then there are not ideal things. So a lot of times,
BLAZER: we're like, well, I don't love this. But there's so much other good stuff here. So let's talk about the writing in general. The essays in the application. What do you two feel are deal breakers with the writing?

KATIE So this is something we mentioned maybe in our last go around. But being responsive to the prompt, reading the
DELSANDRO: prompt. Again, we understand you're applying to a lot of law schools, and the temptation is there to send the same personal statement to all of those law schools. But we saw quite a few this cycle that were not responsive to our prompt, which is signaling to us that you didn't take any particular special effort for us, which makes us less inclined to take any particular special effort for you.

ROSANNE The prompts were very carefully constructed to get the information that we want to know so that we can say yes.
IBANEZ: And so if you're not answering the prompt, then we are saying yes to certain things for other people that we cannot say yes for for you. And I would say that if you are not responding, it would be very difficult for other elements of your app to overcome.

NATALIE Because that's just basics, right? It's not just like we want to punish you for not following the instructions. We
BLAZER: need to this information in order to make a decision. If you're not giving us the information, there's really nothing we can do for you.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: And I think that's true both in the personal statement, but also in the question that we have, the E13 now on the different qualities that we're looking for, because I think there have been people who are like, this is a diversity statement, or this is a Why UVA statement. So I'm just going to paste my diversity or Why UVA statement and put it in there as filler. And it's like, that's not what the question is asking you.

NATALIE BLAZER: Or I know that you, UVA Law Admissions Committee, listed out six very specific traits. But I'm going to talk about this other trait. It's like, of course there are more than six traits that are valuable. But there's a reason we came up with those.

I'm curious where you two fall on someone saying the wrong school name in an essay. Is that for you a deal breaker, or is that just annoying?

KATIE DELSANDRO: That is pretty close to a deal breaker for me. Not so much because I think, oh no, they don't want to go to UVA. So much as I think, they didn't take the time to proofread this.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yes.

KATIE DELSANDRO: And this is an essential skill for law school. So it's really more the carelessness of it than it is the intent behind it for me.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: I'll agree with that. But also the carelessness when you don't have to be careless about it. Because none of us require naming schools for a particular reason. So if you're going to take this risk, you should follow through on it the best way that you can. I think we say often, you don't have to have a Why UVA, you don't have to address a specific thing for a specific school. But if you're going to take that road, you better get it right.

NATALIE BLAZER: To use a baseball term, it's an unforced error. It's not necessary. So sporty today. I'm just going to put it out there that it's a deal breaker for me. And to echo what you two just said but to even put more of a fine point on it, if you can't be bothered to read your two-page personal statement one time and if you are reading it over one time, you should catch that. So either you're reading it but you're not reading it carefully enough to catch a mistake like that, or you're not even bother reading it once before you submit it. And both of those are just not boding well for you.

OK, moving on. Let's talk about other elements of the application, unless you guys have anything to add about the writing portion itself.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: I would say just in the writing, I think some people treat it as academic writing. And I'm like, this is your one spot. Be yourself. We would love to see some personality shine through.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yeah, great point. Let's talk about letters of recommendation. I think for these, some of them can really-- a letter can make or break a file, absolutely. And I think a lot of it comes down to, who are you asking?

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Most of them are good. So don't freak out that you're probably this person who's going to mess this up. Most of them are good. But I do think there is an art form or some strategy in how you choose, for sure.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yes.

KATIE There are a few ways that an LOR can undermine you. One is you have chosen someone who has a critical
DELSANDRO: statement to make about you. That is, I think, the biggest problem that you can encounter. One is an LOR that's coming through as somebody who really doesn't know you. And then the third is I think there are some letter writers who think they're doing the right thing, and they put the name of a specific school in.

So I couldn't recommend Rosanne more highly for Duke Law School. And then you're submitting it to UVA not knowing that it says that because you haven't seen the letter of recommendation. But again, that's telling me something about the conversation that you probably had with that recommender about where you wanted to go to law school. So really just making sure that you're talking to your recommenders, that you are making sure that they know you, that they know why you want to go to law school, and that you're willing to put yourself out there and say, do you have any concerns about my candidacy for law school? Because if they do, you should move on.

ROSANNE Yeah. And I think more so in this cycle than previous, I'm seeing letter writers who are like a family friend or
IBANEZ: more of a colleague or an acquaintance.

NATALIE It's very strange. I have not seen this that much before. So in addition to they should know you well and they
BLAZER: should have positive things to say about you, what is your relationship to them? Faculty member, a supervisor. Something like that is appropriate. How do all of these things add up? And making sure that you're giving yourself the best chance by having the LOR add, add, add to your file.

What about character and fitness infractions? What is it about a character and fitness that is a deal breaker for you guys?

ROSANNE Man, I feel, I think, probably more strongly than both of you on this. And I don't if it's the former RA in me or the
IBANEZ: former crim law person in me. I think this is where people all of a sudden become their own lawyers, right. Then they're like, OK, well, I'm going to give as little as possible. And I'm like, that's not what this space is for. This space is for you to tell us exactly what happened, maybe how you feel about it.

What irks me here is when there's a total lack of accountability. Where it's like, are you sorry about it? Because if you're sorry, you should say so. Or if you think that were wrong, then you should say you thought it was wrong. I think for so many people, the tone can shift so dramatically that people end up feeling or sounding very blase about it as opposed to giving it the reverence, I think-- I don't if that's the right word-- that I think a situation like that accounts for.

And what I sometimes see are people who have very minor CNF and then they are very sorry about it. And then we have people who have bigger CNF issues, and they're just like, yeah, this happened and nothing else happened after that. And I'm like, no, how do you-- did you spend time reflecting on why this might not have been a good choice? That, I think, is important.

KATIE I couldn't agree more. And I think that is particularly important where the underlying CNF involves lying and
DELSANDRO: being untruthful in some way. Because when you are then addressing that in a very withholding way, you're making me wonder whether you did learn from that experience or whether you might lie in a similar way once you're in law school.

But I think the accountability and the directness really go a long way. For me, when I'm reading a CNF that's written in the passive voice-- I was found to have violated my dorm rules regarding XYZ thing. You're really distancing yourself from the event in a way that does make us question whether you learned from it or whether it is indicative of your character.

NATALIE

BLAZER:

Remember what character and fitness, what that phrase means. It means, do you have the character and the fitness to practice law? To be a member of the bar. Distancing yourself, not taking responsibility, lying, all these things, withholding, not disclosing-- those are things that put your character and fitness for practicing law into question. 99% of character and fitness violations are not a big deal, and people who take accountability are completely fine. So this is not something that you should overthink. But just the tone is important here.

OK, we're going to get to a big one. Beyond the written application, I want to talk about interviews. As I mentioned on our midcycle debrief, you two are interviewing like crazy. Think fully that is pretty much winding down for the cycle. We have a few more offers left to give, but we're getting to the finish line.

So you two have had some folks who proved to be inadmissible after the interview. So what can you share about why and how that happened?

KATIE

DELSANDRO:

It's funny, because I feel like there are often times where you can tell from the tone of the scheduling that the interview might not go the way that you hoped. So I'm going to jump to that first. When we send an offer for an interview out, I think we have both now fallen into a habit of trying to give a decently wide window. So when people are writing back to us in a tone that makes us feel like that window is somehow going to be a grand inconvenience for them for reasons that are either unclear or are things that would affect every candidate in our pool.

Right, you have classes, you have work. That's pretty much everybody that we're interviewing. So the person who says my job is more important than this interview or my class is more important than this interview really stands out.

ROSANNE

IBANEZ:

Well, and I think it's important to say, we do all of our own scheduling. It's a little bit old school. Straight up emails. And we do that to coordinate the best for not just ourselves, but for the person who's interviewing and the other interviewees. And it makes a huge difference, I think, in the way that you reply to us. This is not a link. It's not like here are the available calendar slots.

And on the flip side of that, I'm in a great mood when someone's so generous about it or like they are honest about their limitations. I've interviewed a lot of teachers who are like, hey, I'm really tied up most of the day, but I have this time during lunch. That makes me feel like, thank you so much for spending like your precious lunch time with me.

It is really hard when people are like, I can't meet with you until Saturday at 5:00 PM. And I'm like, I've literally talked to people on warships who are willing to make the time and effort that it takes to get to each other better.

NATALIE

BLAZER:

As Rosanne said on the previous debrief, interviewing is a labor of love. It is a lot of work. It's very time consuming. And so, as we've said before, be excited when you get an interview invite and just be considerate to the people who are interviewing you.

So that's a lot to say about scheduling. What about the interview itself? Once you are actually in the Zoom room with the person.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: I think there are a lot of resources out there. And I think that it's important to utilize some of them. But I think sometimes it makes people overprepare. And so there are some really softball questions that I have that I think a lot of people are coming, but they just start rattling off things. And then it's less of a conversation.

KATIE DELSANDRO: Yeah, you shouldn't have to prepare for the question, how was your weekend? Right, we really just want to talk to you a little bit. And I think there are two other ways that people overprepare in a very obvious way. One is that they have pretty much pre-written their answers to what they think our questions are going to be. And then it comes off as very robotic and inflexible. I think that's what Rosanne was getting to.

The other is, again, we know there are resources out there and all of our interview questions may not be total surprises to you. But we don't ask the same questions. And they're not exactly the same questions. And so one thing that is a red flag to me is when somebody-- I'll ask a question and someone will try to squeeze their answer into my question, but it was clearly something they had prepared for something that Rosanne would typically ask.

Again, these are not hard questions. We're just hoping to get to know you. And so while I do appreciate that you want to be as prepared as you can possibly be, I do question your basic communication skills at that point if you're unable to pivot and just have the conversation.

NATALIE BLAZER: Right. As always, I appreciate you two being like a check on me and sometimes things that I think are unacceptable. And so here's one that I would love to if you think I'm being too harsh. Because I think sometimes I have strong opinions. What do you think about when someone has written out their questions for you at the end? Do you care?

And that by no means is a deal breaker.

KATIE DELSANDRO: I don't. I know that bothers you a little bit more than it does me. To me, that is standard preparation that I would probably do for an interview. I do appreciate when people raise questions that came up during the course of the conversation and it is a little more free flowing. But I also can appreciate that people come into the conversation with some questions already on their mind. And that's OK, too.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Yeah, I'm with Katie on this one. I hate it when they read other things. I think questions are fair. I think sometimes people are interviewing with lots of places, and they're like, oh I never want to forget to ask this question. That I think I can give a little more leeway to. It's when they are preparing paragraphs and paragraphs or consistently doing that throughout the interview that bothers me more.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yeah. A lot of times I've noticed when I ask why you want to go to UVA, you can tell they're reading from something. Well, the John Nolan Business Center and the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic-- and you can just see their eyes darting and they're reading.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Natalie, I will also say one of the things is that people have been telling me they've learned so much on the podcast that they don't have as many questions. So maybe they need to prepare questions because we have been so thorough.

NATALIE Well, OK. I'll take it. Anything else on interviews?

BLAZER:

ROSANNE I think my only other thing for interviews is I've had people who are so focused on the big ideas and big values
IBANEZ: and all of these things that they don't support their big ideas with specifics. I think when you don't have specifics, things that can be cliché appear to be much more cliché. So I would focus on that, too.

NATALIE I want to wrap up the interview part of this. I know we're talking about what makes people inadmissible or what
BLAZER: deal breakers are. But 80% of the time, interviews are so great that we come out of our offices and we have to tell each other how great this person is. And then when it rolls around to this time of year, when people are coming to visit and they're depositing, and this is what keeps everything so exciting. And this is why we do it, because we want to get to know you as people and we get super excited about as people.

So net-net, interviews are a very positive experience. And for the people who I think want to be at UVA and who have done just really even the basic preparation, it goes great. It goes great.

KATIE Yeah. Again, it shouldn't be hard.

DELSANDRO:

NATALIE Right. It's a pretty straightforward process. All right, let's talk about visitors. When somebody comes to visit and
BLAZER: they're an applicant, there are things that people do to take themselves out of the running.

KATIE So we have designed our visitor schedule very deliberately. We have student-led tours, we have student life
DELSANDRO: panels, we have drop-in classes. We have lots of different ways for you to get to know UVA. When you show up and you're trying to push beyond those offerings or not respecting the schedule that's there-- again, a lot of hard work goes into finding the faculty and the students who are going to serve as those ambassadors for you.

So really just respecting that the schedule is there for a reason and not pushing beyond what's available there when you don't otherwise have a great reason to do so puts everybody a little bit on edge.

NATALIE Yeah. The best interactions with visitors and with people at fairs and forums and school visits are short, sweet,
BLAZER: positive, self-aware. Done, right. It's true that a positive impression can put your file up to the attention of, we want to interview you. That does happen. I would say it's much more common for a negative impression to get your file flagged by our committee. And that's why I think this is an important topic to bring up on this Inadmissible podcast episode.

Because making a positive impression-- I think people have this idea in their head that if only they could get enough face time with someone on the Admissions Committee, that's going to make all the difference for them. But in the process of trying to bring about that result, they cross over into the inadmissible territory. Again, the flip side can happen. The positive impression can definitely help you. But I feel that it just goes way more the other way.

KATIE And I think just the tone of our office and our team. We are not a group of people who are really going to
DELSANDRO: appreciate your gimmicks, right. So dropping your letter of continued interest off in person or submitting your application while you're sitting in our lobby, those kinds of things, those aren't going to go very far for us. And chances are that you're creating an inconvenience for us, which is then yielding a negative impression.

NATALIE BLAZER: I think just today I sent a file to you, Rosanne, for thoughts. And you said, I think his interest and contact with our office is a little bit--

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Excessive.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yeah, excessive. And so this was my next point, which is just, again, for me, it's that our team is very strapped and we don't have a lot of time and energy and resources to devote to people who are excessively in touch with us. But it's, again, it goes back to the lack of self awareness and the almost entitlement that if you just show enough interest or if you contact us so many times that you're going to get a different response, that irks me. And that, I think, we're talking about imperfect versus inadmissible, that person to me is inadmissible.

KATIE DELSANDRO: And I think one other thing that I think our whole team feels pretty strongly about is Dean Blazer makes herself available on Fridays for a Q&A. That is, I think, a very generous use of her time to make herself available in that way. This cycle in particular, we've had a number of people who are hanging around, lurking around, trying to catch her while she's walking around the halls. None of us like that. We don't want you pouncing on her like that. And again, it's just leaving a bad impression for everyone.

NATALIE BLAZER: That hour on Friday afternoons is one of the highlights of my week. I love meeting applicants. I love answering your questions. I love hearing what you have to say. In fact, at a Q&A a few weeks ago, I-- they were talking about the podcast, and I asked for podcast ideas. I love that block of time.

That hour is your time to make a good impression. How many times do I come back and say, this person, this person, this person-- I'm making mental notes of people in the Q&A. It's not like you are going unrecognized by me. Those are usually small. And that's the time to make a great impression.

So we talked about the tone of communications with our office-- how you treat people, how often you're in touch. I definitely don't want to end on a bad note. But I want to just talk about really egregious, egregious conduct. Katie brought up lying. Yeah, if you're going to be a member of the bar or if you're going to be a law student, especially at UVA where we have an honor code, lying is just-- that's the deal breaker, I would say.

KATIE DELSANDRO: That's my number one, by a landslide. And it's because a big part of the reason I'm doing this job is because I care about what the future of the legal profession and the law is going to look like. Which means I care a lot when you're behaving in a way that I find to be unethical or immoral or otherwise lacking in integrity.

NATALIE BLAZER: And luckily for us and for the future of the bar, there are so many ethical people who are not doing these things. And so one real easy way to count yourself out of this process is to lie about something, either in your application or in the admissions process. And it's not worth it. Remember that this is now 2024. A lot of our applicants were in this COVID era. We are used to resumes that don't look super perfect anymore. OK, there are gaps, there are odd jobs, there are people caretaking.

That is all fine. Don't fudge anything in your application. Because again, imperfect applications are admitted all the time. But lying is where we really don't have any patience for.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Yeah, and I think under the umbrella of honor, there's also cheating and stealing. And again, most people are not going to have this issue. But if you do, it is really important. Not just to the bar, but as a community member at this school. I mean, I think cheating is one of the big ones for you and me, Natalie. I feel like when we talk about CNF issues, we're like, gosh, all things equal. If you have someone who has never cheated before, I'll take that person.

NATALIE BLAZER: Yeah. Exactly. And again, we're not here sitting in judgment of you. Everybody makes mistakes. God knows, I have made so many mistakes. It's when you're in a pool of 5,000 people and someone with your exact profile and credentials is on the next one in the stack without that. That's what you have to think about. We can't admit everybody, and we have to make these difficult decisions.

So we want to end on a high note, even though we're like talking about what makes people inadmissible. That's just our nature. We said this in the mid-cycle debrief. We are rooting for everybody. We really are. The interviews, we get so excited about people. We have our big admitted student event coming up, which makes us very excited/nervous. So end us on something that you love about a recent admitted student or something that happened in the second half of the cycle.

KATIE DELSANDRO: So I will say UVA's first round of merit-based scholarships went out last week. And this cycle, for whatever reason more than others, I received quite a few thank you's from individuals who received a scholarship. And that just makes me feel so good to know not only that they're excited about UVA, but that they understand that they weren't entitled to receive XYZ scholarship, but they did. And they appreciate it.

We even had one admitted student who happens to live in Charlottesville come by to thank us personally, which I just thought was so incredibly sweet. So it's things like that where yes, we have spent a lot of this episode talking about the small minority of people who are off-putting in one way or another. But truly, this job is great because we get to interact with people who are so excited to move into this next phase of their lives and to do it at UVA. And that just really-- I mean, even in the hardest part of the cycle, that's what keeps me going.

NATALIE BLAZER: And just to take a step back from that, this is not about how we feel about you as a person or how-- if we agree with you or not or if we wouldn't do it the same way. We are trying to not stand in your way of getting to UVA Law. And that's what's so gratifying about when we see people deposit and when scholarships go out and people are thankful for it.

It's because of what you are ultimately going to bring to UVA. It sounds crazy, but Katie's absolutely right. When scholarships went out and we got a lot of positive responses, it's sad, but we're used to getting negative responses. Or this isn't enough for me. And gosh, it's nice that when you give somebody thousands and thousands of dollars, they say thank you.

KATIE DELSANDRO: Yes, yes. Can I do two high points? You can edit one out if you want to. My other is just this year in particular gotten to celebrate some real highs with some people who I have admitted who are accomplishing the dreams that they set out with when they came to law school.

ROSANNE IBANEZ: Big ones, big dreams.

KATIE Big dreams.

DELSANDRO:

NATALIE Big dreams.

BLAZER:

KATIE Big opportunities. And there is just nothing better than to get to play a role in that. So it's been a really great
DELSANDRO: year.

NATALIE I would say I have-- you're making me-- now we could just do a whole other thing about highlights. That is so
BLAZER: true. We're still in it once you're students. We're just, we're more just rooting for you.

KATIE Yeah. We're your buddies at that point.

DELSANDRO:

NATALIE Yeah.

BLAZER:

ROSANNE We can just be friends.

IBANEZ:

[LAUGHS]

I think for me actually-- and this is not one specific person, but I really love this time in this cycle because the reapplicants get to come back and live what they thought wasn't going to happen for them last year. That's one of my favorite things about law admissions, is there are multiple ways to get where you're trying to go. And so I think as of late, I've had a bunch of reapplicants who went and did something different or they worked for a year or they gave it another shot here or there on something that they thought they were weaker at.

And to see it pay off. I'm excited for all of my non-reapplicant students. But for people where that they have waited and worked for this opportunity for another cycle and see that really shine through and their enthusiasm for UVA just grows, I really, really love that, too.

NATALIE Such a great point. I can think of four or five-- just sitting here off the top of my head-- successful reapplicants
BLAZER: this cycle who did the work, who waited. I think especially when you're so young. A lot of these people that are applying are in their 20s. It's a wait a year seems impossible. And so for somebody to do that and then also put in the work and come back, yeah, we do love that.

Well, leave it to us to do an episode called Inadmissible and then just rave on and on and on about what we do love. Katie and Rosanne, it's always so fun having you on the show. Thank you so much, and you are by now by far the most regular repeat guests on *Admissible*. So thank you. I know it's a crazy busy time.

ROSANNE I love being on this podcast.

IBANEZ:

KATIE Me, too. Thanks, Natalie.

DELSANDRO:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NATALIE

This has been *Admissible*, with me, Dean Natalie Blazer at the University of Virginia School of Law. My guests

BLAZER:

today were Directors of Admission Katie Delsandro and Rosanne Ibanez. For more information about UVA Law, please visit law.virginia.edu. The next episode of *Admissible* will be out soon. In the meantime, you can follow the show on Instagram at [@admissiblepodcast](https://www.instagram.com/admissiblepodcast). Thanks so much for listening, and please remember to rate the show wherever you listen to podcasts.