Leila Marchetti - Harvard Law School J.D. application (2026-27 cycle, entering fall 2027)

Tucson, AZ · leila.marchetti.test@example.com · LSAC No. L00000000 (sample)

Applying to: Harvard Law School J.D., 2026-27

This is a fictional applicant written for this sample. Leila, her employers and everyone named here are invented; universities, public agencies and tests are real.

At a glance

- **LSAT:** 170 (June 2026); earlier score 163 (November 2025).
- **Undergraduate GPA (LSAC):** 3.71 (3.92 over junior and senior years).
- **University of Arizona**, Tucson - B.A., Economics, minor in Spanish, May 2022. W.A. Franke Honors College.
- **Work since college:** four years full-time at a utility ratepayer nonprofit.
- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (professional working).
- **Submitted:** October 28, 2026. Optional addendum included.

Resume

LEILA MARCHETTI Tucson, AZ · leila.marchetti.test@example.com

EXPERIENCE

Sonoran Ratepayer Alliance (six-person nonprofit representing residential customers in utility rate cases), Tucson, AZ *Senior Policy Analyst*, January 2025 - present; *Policy Analyst*, August 2022 - December 2024 - Analyze rate-case filings before the Arizona Corporation Commission for two electric utilities and one water utility; built a bill-impact model using 1,100 anonymized household bills that our outside counsel uses in every case. - Drafted 11 sets of public comments and the first drafts of two pieces of expert testimony; prepared exhibits and answered utility data requests. - Ran the shutoff-complaint line (2022-2023): logged 640 calls; found that 38% of callers with a medical condition had never heard of the state's medical-hold protection; wrote a one-page bilingual guide now handed out by two county health clinics. - Coordinate the summer heat-season outreach with three community groups; trained and supervise three interns a year.

Desert Lantern Café, Tucson, AZ *Server and shift trainer*, June 2019 - May 2022 (20-25 hours/week during school, paid)

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ - B.A., Economics, minor in Spanish, May 2022. GPA 3.71. - Senior thesis: *Who Pays for the Peak? Time-of-Use Electric Rates and Low-Income Households in*

Tucson, 2016-2020. Advisor: an Economics Department faculty member. - **Department of Economics Outstanding Senior Thesis Award** (one of two, 2022). - Team lead, applied policy practicum (spring 2022): four-student team studying late-payment fees for a regional water utility; final report presented to the utility's customer-service staff. - Research assistant to an energy-economics professor (2021-2022), 8 hours/week: cleaned meter data.

ACTIVITIES - Treasurer, Wildcat Renters' Association (2020-2022), about 5 hours/week: managed a $6,200 budget; ran a lease-review table at move-in. - Volunteer tax preparer, IRS VITA site (2021, 2022 seasons), 6 hours/week: prepared about 90 returns, many in Spanish.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS Excel, Stata, basic Python. Open-water swimming at Saguaro Lake; restoring a 1974 Schwinn; night hikes in the Tucson Mountains.

Personal statement

In July 2020 my mother's electric bill was $412, more than our rent that month had been the year I was born. She asked me, the economics major, to explain it. I couldn't. I spent a weekend reading our utility's tariff, the forty-page document that sets every charge, and found the answer on page 23: we had been moved onto a time-of-use plan, and our house, with a swamp cooler and a mother who worked nights, used most of its power between 3 and 8 p.m., exactly when it cost most.

That weekend became my senior thesis. Using five years of anonymized meter data, I found that time-of-use rates saved money for most households but cost the lowest-income quartile in Tucson about $9 a month in summer, mostly older homes that could not shift their cooling. I argued against the plans. I was proud of the thesis and it won the department's prize, but I now think its conclusion was too simple.

At the Sonoran Ratepayer Alliance I learned why. In my second year, a utility proposed expanding time-of-use rates, and I started drafting comments against it. Our outside counsel asked me a question I had not asked in the thesis: what would happen to the same families if the plan came with a summer bill cap and a free weatherization program? I ran the numbers. With those protections, most of the families I worried about came out ahead. We supported the plan with conditions, and the Commission adopted two of our three. I changed my mind because a lawyer changed the question.

I also learned how much depends on getting the record right. In 2023 I built an exhibit that double-counted a fixed charge, overstating the bill increase by about $4 a month. The utility's lawyers found it in a data request before I did. I had to tell our counsel, rebuild the model and help file a correction, and I watched an opposing witness use my mistake to question everything else we had filed. Since then I check every exhibit against raw bills and have a second person do the same. Being careful is not the same as being slow; it is the job.

Not every hard moment was with the other side. A colleague I respect wanted our 2023 shutoff report to lead with the single worst case we had heard, a man on oxygen whose power was cut in August. I thought the 38% figure on medical holds was the stronger point and that one story could be dismissed as an outlier. We argued for most of a week. We ended up opening with his story and putting the number in the first paragraph, and the report was better than either of our drafts.

Four years in, I can model a rate design and I can sit with a caller who is afraid of losing power in 110-degree heat. What I cannot do is argue the case. Since the Supreme Court ended Chevron deference in 2024, the questions in my field are increasingly legal ones: how much a commission can decide on its own, what a statute requires, who gets to challenge it. I want to be the person in the hearing room who can answer them, and I want to do it while the field is being rebuilt, not after.

Addendum: academic record and LSAT

My sophomore year GPA was 3.08, including a C- in organic chemistry. I was pre-med, working 25 hours a week, and in the fall my father had back surgery that kept him out of work for four months. I dropped pre-med, reduced my hours and declared economics in spring 2020; my GPA for the last two years was 3.92. My first LSAT (163) was taken during a heavy rate-case month with little preparation; I retook it after four months of morning study and scored 170.