

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

OVERVIEW

Drake Law School has a proven record of graduating successful litigators, mediators, negotiators, and judges. The program provides unique, inside access to real-world judicial processes directly from the classroom.

CORE EXPERIENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

First-Year Trial Practicum
Drake is the only American law school where all first-year students view an actual state or federal trial inside the school's courtroom. The program dissects every phase of a trial and includes debriefings with the presiding judge, attorneys, and jurors.

Iowa Supreme Court Special Session
The Court holds an annual session at Drake's Neal and Bea Smith Law Center to hear oral arguments. Students observe appellate procedures firsthand and participate in a Q&A session and a meal with the justices.

Judge-in-Residence
A resident judge is available at the Legal Clinic for ongoing student consultation and mentorship.

LITIGATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

CERTIFICATE AND TRACK OPTIONS

Credential
Students can earn a Litigation and Dispute Resolution Certificate, which is officially recorded on their transcript to signal expertise to potential employers.

Curriculum Requirements
All students take six foundational litigation courses. Certificate candidates complete an additional 22 credit hours of specialized study.

Sample Coursework
Includes Products Liability, Medical Malpractice, Pretrial Advocacy, and Environmental Practice.

SKILLS TRAINING

Skills Development
Courses focus on practical lawyering skills, including interviewing, counseling, negotiation, mediation, and trial/appellate advocacy. Specialized simulation courses include Contract Drafting, Negotiations, and other substantive courses.

Professional Networking
Students can join one of two local chapters of the American Inns of Court to build professionalism.

Competition Teams
Drake's Moot Court, client counseling, mediation, and trial teams excel at regional competitions.

CLERKSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Judicial Clerkships
Placements are available with state and federal trial and appellate judges locally (Des Moines) and nationwide over the summer and post-graduate.

Practice Areas
Local connections offer government agency internships in environmental, consumer protection, civil rights, juvenile, securities, and insurance law.

Prosecutor Internship
Students regularly try cases and gain direct jury trial experience.

Recent Placements Include
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Federal Public Defender's Office
- Iowa Supreme Court
- Iowa Attorney General's Office
- State Public Defender's Office

FACULTY

Our faculty are successful lawyers and outstanding scholars who actively contribute to the national debate on current issues. They have the professional experience to speak with authority and the practical perspective to teach you what practice is like. At Drake, lawyering skills are taught in the classroom, not just in clinics and internships. Outside of the classroom, faculty counsel students about personal and professional opportunities.

Drake UNIVERSITY | Law School

← **Visit our website:**
Drake.edu/law

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