

Drake Law Announcements

October 29, 2025

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Composite Photo

The 3L class composite photo sessions will be held in Olmsted rooms 312 and 313 on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, November 4th (RETAKES) from 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Use this [link](#) to schedule a time to take your photo. Every student must be accounted for. If you do not get your picture taken, you will be listed as "Not Pictured" on the class composite. Please reach out to Amelia Garber (amelia.garber@drake.edu) with any questions.

Drake Law School's Winter Store is now open until Wednesday, November 5!

Show your Drake Law pride during the winter season! The store includes vests, jackets, sweatshirts, a baby onesie, an ornament, lawn chair and much more! Check out the store using this [link](#) to make your wish list or to submit an order **before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5**. Feel free to share this link with your family and friends too. Orders will tentatively be shipped out on or around December 15. Contact [Tiffany Contreras](#) with any questions.

Note: When you click the link, you will be prompted to set up a new log-in for the storefront (or enter as a guest).

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice is officially back at Drake Law!

The organization is part of a national network of law students and lawyers working to defend and advance reproductive justice — the right of every person to decide if, when, and how to build their family and to parent with dignity, without discrimination, coercion, or criminalization.

We'll be hosting our first meeting on Thursday, November 6 at 5:30 PM in Cartwright Room 201.

This will be an informational session to (1) gauge student interest, (2) decide what programming and advocacy work we want to take on this year, and (3) finalize the chapter's executive board.

If you're interested in reproductive justice lawyering, policy work, or direct support for people impacted by pregnancy-related criminalization, this is the place to plug in — and this meeting is where that starts! You'll have a voice in shaping what If/When/How does at Drake Law this year, from on-campus education to advocacy and projects that matter.

Can't make it but want to be involved with If/When/How? Reach out to Courtney Meyers (courtney.meyers@drake.edu) or Hannah Houser (hannah.houser@drake.edu).

Spread the word — If/When/How is back up and running at Drake Law, and we hope to see you there!

Free Professional Headshot Session, Friday, November 7th

University Communications and Marketing will hold professional headshot sessions Friday, November 7th from 10:00-2:00 PM in the Old Main Conference Room 115. The sessions are free to all students, faculty, and staff.

[Please click here to register.](#)

February 2026 Bar Exam Application Deadline:

If you are a December graduate planning on taking the February 2026 bar exam, please take note of your application deadline. In Iowa, the February deadline is Saturday, November 1, 2025. If you are taking the bar exam in another state in February, please check your jurisdiction's website to ensure you have the correct application deadline. If you have any questions about the bar exam or how to find the correct deadlines for your jurisdiction, please contact Ashley Madsen at ashley.r.madsen@drake.edu.

Spring 2026 Class Schedule Available to View

Start planning your spring semester! Check out the class options and times in Self-Service and find a time to meet with your faculty advisor. Registration opens November 12 and 13. Remember to review the [graduation requirements](#) and [registration details](#) and forms available on Drake Law's website. *1L students will register as a group during ISG on Friday, November 21st.*

Sease Awards – Deadline October 31, 2025

Drake Law School is pleased to be able to offer the *Sease Awards* again this year.

The Sease Awards program is in honor of Adjunct Professor Edmund J. Sease ([learn more about his contributions here](#)).

Sease Awards support Drake Law School students interested in practicing Intellectual Property (IP) law (patent, trademark, copyright, right of publicity, trade secret, etc.).

Who Can Apply?

All Drake Law School students interested in IP law are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

Students should submit their proposals by email to Associate Professor and Sease Faculty Research Scholar [Sayoko Blodgett-Ford](#) (sayoko.blodgettford@drake.edu).

Proposals should include a *brief* summary (around 1 page) of the proposed event or project, including:

- Relevant project dates and deadlines
- Estimated expenses for which reimbursement is requested
- The IP law connection for the project

Application Deadline for 2025-2026 Sease Awards: October 31, 2025 (8 p.m. Central)

Funding Details

- Preference: Proposals requesting reimbursement of under \$500 are encouraged.
- Limits: Proposals over \$1,000 are highly unlikely to be funded.
- Partial funding: Sease Awards may cover the full or partial requested amount.

Examples of Potentially Eligible Expenses

- Reimbursement for registration for student memberships in professional organizations such as [INTA](#) (\$27 fee), [LES](#) (\$60 fee), or [IAPP](#) (\$50 fee)
 - NOTE: Students are also encouraged to register for FREE student memberships in [AIPLA](#) and bar associations of [Iowa](#) and any states of interest
- Conference registration & travel (e.g., [AIPLA](#), [INTA](#), or other IP-related events)
- Patent Bar [Exam](#) fees and patent bar review course fees
- Interdisciplinary (art, science, religion, history ...) or Industry-related (agriculture, insurance, entertainment, fashion ...) projects with an IP law connection.

Additional Notes

- Use of Sease Award funds must comply with all Drake Law School & University policies, and all procedures for reimbursement.

- Selection of any Sease Award recipients, and any amount (if any) of funding, is in the sole discretion of Prof. Blodgett-Ford and the Dean of the Drake Law School.
- The Sease Awards program may be modified or discontinued at any time.

Questions? Contact [Professor Blodgett-Ford](#).

Networking Information & Reception, Mon., Nov. 3

Come learn how to network! Receive practical tips on how to build meaningful professional connections, communicate effectively, and navigate the legal community with confidence. First Generation Lawyers and Business Law Society are teaming up with the Career Development Office to bring this opportunity to Drake Law. It will begin at 5 p.m. on Mon., November 3 in Room 206. Then, put those skills to practice by interacting with a wide variety of local attorneys from the area. The reception will follow in Kern Commons. Sign up on Symplicity.

Planning for 3L Year and Beyond! Wed., Nov. 5

Hey 2Ls! The second half of your law school career has a lot going on to plan for – the MPRE, planning for the bar exam, judicial clerkship deadlines, fulfilling graduation requirements, etc. Come join Ashley Madsen and Dean Laurie Dufoe on **Wednesday, November 5 at 2:45 p.m.** in the James Albert Classroom for a short informational session to go over the major deadlines and planning components for the second half of your law school career.

Exciting Update to Dean Gaughan's Spring 2026 Information Session(s)!

In an effort to make sure as many students as possible can attend, Dean Gaughan is very pleased to announce that he will hold TWO Spring 2026 information sessions for all 2Ls and 3Ls! He will provide information about the courses offered in the spring, give advice on planning your schedule, and answer any questions that you may have. He will also provide a preview of the Fall 2026 schedule (and even a bit of the Spring 2027 schedule) so that 2Ls can plan ahead two semesters. Here are the information session dates, times, and locations:

- Thursday, November 6 from 3 to 4 pm in the Albert Classroom
- Friday, November 7 from 3 to 4 pm in Cartwright 206

Be sure to make one of them if you can!

Iowa Court of Appeals Arguments at the Clinic November 6 at 1:00 p.m.

On Thursday, November 6, the Iowa Court of Appeals will hear two arguments in the Legal Clinic Courtroom starting at 1:00 p.m. Following the arguments, the Court will provide students with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the role of clerks. 1Ls can go to the Legal Research TWEN page to sign up for a noon lunch with one of the judges. 2Ls & 3Ls should e-mail Dean Edwards john.edwards@drake.edu to request a spot. Argument schedules are posted [here](#).

Drake Law Students are invited to attend the 2025 Corporate Counsel Institute at the ISBA Building on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

The Corporate Counsel Institute provides a platform for both in-house attorneys and private practice lawyers specialized in corporate law to convene. The agenda is curated to delve into critical issues pertinent to their practice areas, fostering an environment conducive to extensive learning, strategic collaboration, and meaningful professional networking.

HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

- Alternative Dispute Resolution - Craig Nierman, Nierman ADR
- Immigration Update - Matt Mauntel-Medici, BrownWinick Law Firm
- Privilege Issues for In-house Counsel - Ben Roach, Nyemaster Goode PC
- Generation Diversity - Malycki Mañon-Sosa, ISBA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director
- From 4:30 - 5:30, Corporate Counsel Institute attendees and law students are invited to attend a complimentary reception at the ISBA Building.

Students can attend full day, ½ day, and/or the reception. If you just want to attend the reception, put a note in the special request box on registration that you can only attend the reception.

Registration can be found here, with more event details:

<https://www.iowabar.org/?pg=events&evAction=showDetail&eid=311318&evSubAction=listAll>

Please email Christy Cronin at ccronin@iowabar.org for any questions.

Judges *ALSO* Needed for Collegiate Moot Court Competition Nov. 14 and 15

Drake Law School is partnering with the American Moot Court Association (AMCA) to host an undergraduate regional moot court tournament at Drake Law on Friday, Nov. 14, and Saturday, Nov. 15. **All law students and faculty are invited to judge.**

The competition begins in the afternoon of Nov. 14th. A round lasts about an hour, and volunteers can indicate availability for particular rounds via link provided below. On Saturday, rounds begin at 9 a.m., with the greatest need on Saturday for volunteers during the first two rounds. The case problem, bench brief, and a judge orientation are provided to all judges. This is a great opportunity to help students with a unique educational experience and to help welcome them to Drake.

[Click here to volunteer.](#)

IP Scholarship Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the Mark T. Banner Scholarship. This scholarship is part of The Richard Linn American Inn of Court's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers of high ethics, civility and professionalism, and including those from diverse backgrounds. Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to a career in Intellectual Property Law.

The recipient of the scholarship receives \$10,000 to be applied to their legal education. This scholarship is available to law students who have entered into a JD program at an ABA-accredited law school in the United States and who will continue in that program through at least the Fall 2026 semester. Scholarship recipients are selected by the Mark T. Banner Scholarship review board. Please

visit <https://www.linninn.org/Pages/scholarship.shtml> for award criteria and application details. Applications need to be submitted by December 6, 2025.

Press Release from Drake Law

We want to be sure you know what is happening here and how proud we are of the efforts of our students, faculty and staff.

[Drake University Law School Ranked as a Top School for Criminal Law in PreLaw Magazine](#)

(Monday, October 27, 2025)

Drake University Law School earned an A- ranking for criminal law in *preLaw Magazine*, placing Drake among the top law schools in the nation for this field.

The publication based the rankings on law schools' offerings in criminal law, including clinical programs, certificates, externships, partnerships, and courses. The results are reported in *preLaw's* [Fall 2025](#) issue. Read more [here](#).

Join Drake Law Connect - A new platform exclusively for members of the Drake Law community

All students are invited to join Drake Law Connect, a professional development platform for students, alumni, faculty and staff focused on making connections. It's never been easier to connect with Drake Law alumni and build your network. [Click here to get started](#).

Questions? Please contact [Tiffany Contreras](#).

Religious Observance Accommodations

If an academic deadline or exam conflicts with your religious observance, please contact Dean Battles before the conflict to arrange reasonable accommodations.

ADA accommodation renewal

Remember that accommodations must be renewed annually! To establish or renew accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), contact the [Office of Access and Success](#) for an appointment. Drake provides reasonable accommodations, as required by federal law, so that students' success is not hindered by disabilities.

Drake Law Women Emergency Fund

The DLW Emergency Fund offers confidential financial assistance to any Drake law student experiencing unforeseen emergencies. Applications for funding are anonymous and are open to all students. For more details and to fill out an application, visit the Resources tab of SBA's website here: <https://drakelawsba.org/dlw-emergency-fund/>. Questions can be directed to roxsanna.allen@drake.edu.

Changeover from Cooling to Heating Began This Week

Drake has begun transitioning from cooling to heating, a process which will take several weeks. This means cooling will no longer be available, so dress appropriately if the weather turns warm in the next few weeks.