

# *Drake Law Announcements*

*April 8, 2026*

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## Security Reminder

Remember that Opperman and Cartwright Halls are open to the public during posted library hours. Please do not leave laptops or other valuables unattended. Also, if the building is locked, do not open the door for someone you do not recognize. Public Safety reports that unauthorized individuals have been let into the building after hours. Do not hesitate to contact a staff member or call Public Safety at 515-271-2222 anytime you have concerns.

## [2026 Constitutional Law Symposium – “The Roberts Court, Executive Power, and the American Experiment in Self Government” – April 11](#)

The Constitutional Law Center at Drake University Law School is bringing scholars from across the country to campus to speak at the 2026 Constitutional Law Symposium on Saturday, April 11. Speakers include: [Andrea Scoseria Katz](#), Washington University School of Law; [Aaron L. Nielson](#),

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University of Texas at Austin School of Law; [Victoria Nourse](#), Georgetown Law School; and [Peter M. Shane](#), The Ohio State Moritz College of Law. The symposium is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and will be held in the James A. Albert Classroom in Cartwright Hall. This program is open to the public and is pending Iowa CLE credit. For more information and to register for this free lecture, please click [here](#).

### **Academic Credit for Internships this summer**

In response to student interest, Drake Law School will now offer academic credit for internships in summer 2026.

Students need to weigh a number of factors to determine the right path to their degree. Below find some initial tips and considerations. Be sure to discuss with your faculty advisor and the financial aid office to determine if a summer internship for credit is the right choice for you. Credit-bearing internships count toward the six credits of skills required for graduation.

What positions are available for credit?

- Government and non-profit organization positions that are supervised by an attorney.
- Can be paid or unpaid by your site.
- Check CDO's Symplicity website under Job Postings. Select Position Type- Field Placement for Academic Credit.
- Most positions range from 1-3 credit hours. Limited judicial clerk positions earn 6 credit hours. All positions require 45 hours of work for each 1 hour of academic credit.
- If you secured a position with a government office or non-profit that's not listed on Symplicity, check with Dean Battles about credit options.

Do I need a student practice license? – This is a separate question from academic credit!

- Will you be directly advising clients, appearing in court, or questioning witnesses in court? Does your site supervisor say you need a student practice license? Then you might need one!
- The [Zero-Credit Summer Internship](#) enables you to receive a student practice license without tuition costs. You must participate in the online learning and practice seminar to comply with licensure requirements.
- Internships for credit also complete the online learning and practice seminar for both credit supervision and licensure requirements.

What about financial aid?

- Federal financial aid will not be available in many situations. Federal aid for summer requires enrollment for a minimum of 5 credits. Most internship positions on their own will not qualify.
- Individual Research projects may be 1-3 credit hours; 2-3 credit projects can qualify for Advanced Writing credit. A student must find a faculty member to agree to supervise their research and writing. [Find the Individual Research form here](#).

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- Interdisciplinary courses are upper division or graduate-level courses in other programs within Drake. The course must relate to the student’s educational goals. A maximum of six interdisciplinary credits may count toward a student’s J.D. [Find the Interdisciplinary Credit form here.](#)
- Summer tuition is billed per credit hour at the law school rate. [Find tuition and fee rates here.](#)
- Summer financial aid can impact the calculation for your fall and spring semester aid. Please contact the University Financial Aid Office at [financialaid@drake.edu](mailto:financialaid@drake.edu) for your particular loan impact. Drake Law School scholarships are not available for summer internships.

How do I register?

- Once you’ve accepted a position, contact Betty Straub, [betty.straub@drake.edu](mailto:betty.straub@drake.edu), with documentation of your position.
- Positions must be secured by May 15th.

As a reminder, some of these roles could qualify for [public service](#) or [rural access to justice](#) summer stipends. Funds are limited, so apply today. Contact the CDO for more information.

**Bar-Ready Bonus – new for summer 2026**

Your best path to passing the bar exam is completing your commercial bar prep program – and now you can get a little bonus to celebrate your persistence! May grads who are studying for their first bar exam in July 2026 can be eligible for the Bar-Ready Bonus. Show your commitment by [signing up here](#). Complete 80% of your commercial bar program and take your company’s simulated bar exam by July 24<sup>th</sup>, and you’ll earn \$100 from Drake Law School! Details and terms in the sign up.

**Office Hours at the Legal Clinic**

Dean Jones will be working at the Drake Legal Clinic during the Spring Semester. If you’d like to stop and say hello, please do so. All faculty, staff and students can always stop by to chat, make an appointment to speak with him at any time -- at the Clinic or the Law School.

Date	Time	Location
Mon., April 13	2-4:30 p.m.	Office 101

**Moot Court Board applications due Friday, April 17 at 5 p.m.**

Moot Court Board is a one-credit, non-competition organization focused on planning and supporting Drake Law’s advocacy programs and events throughout the year. Board members help with FYOA, the C. Edwin Moore competition, banquet, and other advocacy-related initiatives, while also gaining valuable opportunities to connect and network with local attorneys and judges. Application can be found on TWEN under Moot Court Board Course.

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## **Food Security Survey**

Drake University Food Security Coalition is conducting a campus-wide survey to better understand students' access to fresh, nutritious food. The law school has included a few questions specific to our Law School Food Pantry. We hope you'll share your experiences to help Drake respond to student need. [https://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0rpGD3aI72807D8](https://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0rpGD3aI72807D8) Questions or suggestions about the food pantry may be directed to Lyra Halsten, [lyra.halsten@drake.edu](mailto:lyra.halsten@drake.edu), or Dean Battles, [liz.battles@drake.edu](mailto:liz.battles@drake.edu).

## **Press Releases from Drake Law**

Throughout the year we will be sharing the press releases about 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.

*April 1, 2026*

### **Drake University Law School Earns Top Ranking for Trial Advocacy**

Drake University Law School was awarded an A- ranking for trial advocacy by [The National Jurist](#), placing Drake among the top schools in the nation for this category.

The publication based the rankings on law schools' offerings in trial advocacy, including programs and opportunities that allow students to develop their ability to deliver arguments, evidence, testimony, and substance. More information can be found [here](#).

*April 7, 2026*

### **Drake Law School No. 91 in U.S. News & World Report Best Law School Rankings**

National survey highlights excellence in Law, Health Sciences, and Education

Drake University has once again been recognized as an exceptional school for advanced professional education, with multiple programs ranked among the top in the nation in the [U.S. News & World Report 2026 Best Graduate Schools rankings](#). The national survey recognized Drake for its strong programming across several disciplines. The University's Law School, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (CPHS), and the School of Education each earned high rankings in this year's list. The full press release and detailed information about the Law School can be found [here](#).

*April 8, 2026*

### **Drake Programs Ranked Among Best Graduate Schools by U.S. News & World Report**

National survey highlights excellence in Law, Health Sciences, and Education

Drake University has once again been recognized as an exceptional school for advanced professional education, with multiple programs ranked among the top in the nation in the [U.S. News & World Report 2026 Best Graduate Schools rankings](#). The national survey recognized Drake for its strong programming across several disciplines. The University's Law School, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (CPHS), and the School of Education each earned high rankings in this year's list. Details about the Law School can be found [here](#) in the full press release.

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### **AccessLex Law School Scholarship Databank**

Numerous postings for national law student scholarships and writing competitions are available at <https://www.accesslex.org/databank>. Students can search by scholarship details and deadlines.

### **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 [roxanna.allen@drake.edu](mailto:roxanna.allen@drake.edu).

### **TimelyCare – Drake's new virtual health and well-being platform**

Drake recently partnered with [TimelyCare](#) to deliver a new virtual health and well-being platform for students. (Please note that TimelyCare replaces the previous virtual platform, Uwill.) With TimelyCare you can access free, 24/7 virtual care from anywhere. See attached flyer for more details or scan the QR code to get started.



### **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.

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

All students are invited to join Drake Law Connect, which is 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](#).