

Drake Law Announcements

September 17, 2025

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2025 Constitution Day Lecture: “Aligning Constitutional Law”, Sept 18, 3 p.m.

This year’s Constitution Day lecture will feature [Nicholas Stephanopoulos](#), Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, Harvard Law School. The lecture will take place Thursday, Sept. 18, from 3–4 p.m. in Cartwright Hall, James A. Albert Classroom (second floor).

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

Scholarship available!

Drake Law School Admissions is in search of eligible students for the James P. Irish Scholarship. Donald G. Beattie and Edwin W. Skinner established this scholarship in honor of James P. Irish, a 1931 Drake Law School graduate. The scholarship is designated for Drake Law students who were graduates of Southeast Polk High School. Qualified students can email Matt Johnson at matt.johnson@drake.edu. Please include the following information: name, student ID #, expected Drake Law School graduation date, and the year you graduated from SE Polk High School. This information should be sent to Matt by **Friday, September 19.**

Food Pantry and Snack Cupboard

Is your grocery budget feeling a bit tight? Your brain learns best when your body has the nutrition it needs to focus and grow. The food pantry and snack cupboard in Kern Commons is there to supplement when you need it. Check the labeled sections of the fridge, freezer, and cupboard beside for snacks or the components of a larger meal to make at home. If you experience larger or more sustained food insecurity, please talk to Dean Battles.

Law School Golf Outing sponsored by the Business Law Society, Delta Theta Phi, and Sports & Entertainment Law Society

You are invited to join us for our Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Waveland Golf Course! This event is one of the highlights of the fall semester, and we would love to have a ton of law students join us for a fun, low-pressure round of golf. **No experience is necessary—we'll have a mix of players at all skill levels.**

We're hoping to get a lot of groups out, so please help spread the word and encourage your friends to sign up! You do not need to be a member of any of these organizations to sign up.

Event Details -

Location: Waveland Golf Course

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025

Time: First group will tee off at 2:00 p.m. (Specific tee times to each group a few days before the event, when groups are finalized.)

Cost: \$45 paid via Venmo to @Ali-Bestell (includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, and post-round refreshments.)

Teams:

- If you already have a group of 3-4 players you'd like to golf with, great! We will honor those pairings; just let us know on the Google Form below.
- If you do not yet have a team or only have one partner, we'll do our best to pair you with others we think you'll enjoy golfing with.

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with students and colleagues in a relaxed, community-building setting. If you're interested in attending, simply fill out the Google Form here:

<https://forms.gle/r5tqFrntQEPmBQAz5>.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jack Grotenhuis (jack.grotenhuis@drake.edu) or Zach Noonan (zach.noonan@drake.edu) directly. We hope to see you on the course!

Join the Drake Law Republicans for mini golf!

Thursday, September 26th at 4:00 pm Drake Law Republicans kicks off their welcome to school event at Toad Valley where a fun game of mini golf will commence at 4:00 pm. Please RSVP to Ella Stafford (ella.stafford@drake.edu). Toad Valley is located at: 237 NE 80th St, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327.

Writing Competitions

If you have completed a paper for a class or have a research interest in a particular area, be sure to check out our [Writing Competitions Page](#). Almost every subject area is covered.

NextGen Bar Exam Info Session, Wed. Oct. 8 at 2:30 p.m.:

If you are planning to or are considering taking the bar exam in Missouri, Washington, Idaho, Connecticut, Maryland, or Oregon in July 2026, please note that these states will transition to the NextGen Bar Exam. *All other states, including Iowa, will continue with their current iterations of the bar exam in July 2026.* Ashley Madsen will be holding an informational session on the NextGen Bar Exam on **Wednesday, October 8 at 2:30 in Cartwright 202** to discuss the new exam format. We highly encourage you to attend this information session *and* contact Ashley Madsen (ashley.r.madsen@drake.edu) to discuss considerations on how to approach the changing exam if you are intending to take the bar in one of those six states.

July 2026 Bar Application Info Session, Thurs. Oct. 9 at 2:30 p.m.:

This information session is for anyone planning on taking the July 2026 bar exam to discuss when to start gathering information, important deadlines for applying for the bar (preview: in Iowa, the July application is due April 1), and understanding the process of applying for the bar. Come join us on **Thursday, October 9 at 2:30 p.m. in Cartwright 213** to get a heads up on things to track in the spring and get your bar exam-related questions answered. If you have any questions about the bar exam or application process, please contact Ashley Madsen at ashley.r.madsen@drake.edu.

Cady Day of Service – Friday, Oct. 17

This year's Mark S. Cady Day of Service will be held on Friday, Oct. 17. Cady Day is an annual day of service held in honor of the late Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court Mark Cady. We welcome your suggestions for projects or programs to be held in honor of Cady Day. While the "official" Cady Day is Oct. 17, any projects/programs held during the month of October and planned in honor of Cady Day will be recognized. Drake Law sponsored programs are just starting to come in and there will be many opportunities to get involved in the coming weeks. We hope you will participate in some way – either by supporting an existing project or planning your own. Check out the complete list of projects and programs or submit your own program [HERE](#).

One example of how our community is coming together is through a series of **Advanced Directives and Simple Wills Clinics** hosted by Drake Law School and Dickinson Bradshaw law firm. Student and attorney volunteers are needed to help clients complete the required forms to establish financial and medical powers of attorney, living wills, and simple wills. This opportunity is open to all 1L, 2L, and 3L students. No previous experience is necessary. The Clinics will be held on Friday, Oct. 17 from 9-10:30 a.m., Noon-1:30 p.m., and 4-5:30 p.m. at the Law School. [Sign up to volunteer for one or more sessions here.](#)

Composite Photo

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

- Wednesday, October 22nd from 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 23rd from 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- 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.

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 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.

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](#).

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 Named as a Top School for Family Law by PreLaw Magazine](#)
(Tuesday, September 16, 2025)

Drake University Law School earned an A ranking for family law in *preLaw* magazine, placing Drake among the top law schools in the nation for this field. This is the eighth year in a row that Drake Law received recognition for excellence in child and family law. 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.