

Drake Law Announcements

February 4, 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.

Last Day to Drop a Class with a W

An important deadline for class changes: Last day to drop a class *with* a W – Sunday, March 22

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Attention 3Ls – You are eligible to apply for the Order of the Barristers

The Order of the Barristers application period will open on **Monday, Feb. 2 at 8 a.m. and close on Monday, Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.** The National Order of the Barristers recognizes law students who have made outstanding contributions to advocacy programs and demonstrated exceptional skill in oral advocacy during law school. Drake Law School may select up to twelve honorees. Eligibility is limited to graduating 3Ls, including members of the Class of 2026 who graduated in December 2025. Honorees are selected by a vote of all members of the Moot Court Board, appellate teams, mock trial teams, and skills teams. The selected students will be announced at the Moot Court Banquet on Wednesday, March 25, at 6 p.m. in Kern Commons.

Applications will be emailed to all eligible students at 8 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 2. Please contact Tiffany Contreras (tiffany.contreras@drake.edu) if you have any questions.

I'll Make Me a World in Iowa – Saturday, February 7

Plan to attend ["I'll Make Me a World in Iowa,"](#) Iowa's African American Festival on Saturday, February 7. [Education Day](#) is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and [Celebration Day](#) is from 12-7 p.m. Both are being held at the Horizon Events Center (2100 NW 100th St., Clive). Admission and parking are both free for these events. During Education Day students from across the state come to central Iowa to experience African American culture, learn success strategies for education, and connect with professionals from a wide range of career paths. Celebration Day brings Iowa performers, small businesses and nonprofits together. The headline for 2026 is MAJOR, a Grammy nominated recording artist. There is something for everyone!

Brownbag Lunch with EPA Administrator – Tuesday, February 10

The Regional Administrator of EPA Region VII will visit Drake Law on February 10 and DAELA is hosting a brown-bag with students from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the Faculty/Staff lounge (Opperman 151). The visiting group will include Regional Administrator Jim Macy, Chief of Staff Julie Linck, and Ag Advisor Doug Jones.

Historical Discrimination and Cultural Cleansing CLE – Friday, February 27

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, this CLE examines the concepts of cultural cleansing and historical discrimination, exploring how laws, policies, and institutional practices have been used to diminish the histories, identities, and cultural experiences of many marginalized communities. Join together on **Friday, February 27 from 12-1:30 p.m. in Cartwright, Room 202 (Courtroom)** for this CLE. The program will trace recent federal and state laws, regulations, policies, actions, and executive orders that expand efforts to erase protections for and contributions by members of marginalized communities. Webinar CLE sponsored by the ISBA. Pizza sponsored by the SBA DEI committee.

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Bar(e) Necessities Bar Study Fund – Applications due February 28

Worried about how you'll pay the bills while you study for the bar exam? Drake is excited to pilot a new need-based award to help pay for basic needs while studying for the bar — the Bar(e) Necessities Study Fund! A limited number of awards are available, the maximum award is \$1000, and applications are due February 28th. [Apply here](#) to tell us more about your situation and how we can help.

Dean's Speaker Series – Tuesday, March 3

This spring's Dean's Speaker Series will feature **Melissa Murray**, Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law at NYU and cohost of the podcast Strict Scrutiny and **Stuart Delery**, partner at Gibson Dunn and former White House Counsel for President Biden. This is a fireside chat/Q&A program themed as Upholding the Rule of Law. Join us on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 4:00 p.m. in Cartwright, room 206. [Register here.](#)

Free Mock MPRE – Friday, March 6

Taking the March MPRE? Want to get a test run in before the real deal? Join Helix Bar Review for a Mock MPRE on Friday, March 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Opperman LL19. Even if you don't feel like you're ready for it, completing a simulated exam before attempting the actual MPRE is a great way to get in the right mindset for the test and help you know what to expect so you can feel confident walking into the testing center. The feedback you receive from your simulated MPRE will give you a snapshot of your current areas of strength - and weakness - so you know where to focus your efforts between now and exam day. Registration details are forthcoming. If you have any questions, please reach out to Director of Academic Success Ashley Madsen at ashley.r.madsen@drake.edu.

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_OrpGD3al72807D8 Questions or suggestions about the food pantry may be directed to Lyra Halsten, lyra.halsten@drake.edu, or Dean Battles, liz.battles@drake.edu.

Food Insecurity Resources Available

Here is a link to resources to assist those who are facing food insecurity:

<https://t.e2ma.net/webview/r64lwj/03b7ffd51b70cfe31c075bcd1657d24b>

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Press Release 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.

January 29, 2026

Drake University Launches Joint Law and Education Graduate Degree Program

Students can simultaneously earn a Juris Doctor and Ph.D. or Ed.D. on an accelerated track

The Drake University [Law School](#) and the [School of Education](#) have established a new [joint degree program](#) that enables students to earn a Juris Doctor from the Law School alongside either a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Education in Leadership (Ed.D.) from the School of Education on an accelerated and integrated track. Learn more [here](#).

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.

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.