Wayne Law's Co-Curriculars

Moot Court
Since 1949, the Law School has had a nationally acclaimed student-run Moot Court program that features a rigorous in-house appellate advocacy competition. Students prepare appellate briefs and present oral arguments to a panel consisting of practicing lawyers, law professors and actual judges. Our teams have competed at both regional and national competitions. A Wayne Law team won the 2003 National Moot Court Championship and another team won the 2006 Niagara Cup Championship Trophy. Students may also participate in the Phillip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, which simulates a case before the International Court of Justice (World Court).

Student Trial Advocacy Program (STAP)
The Student Trial Advocacy Program was founded in 1985 to train law students in trial courtroom advocacy. In a simulated courtroom setting, a student and a partner present one civil and one criminal trial over the course of the fall and winter semesters. This student-run program is open to upperclass students. Wayne Law's STAP students are known for performing well in both regional and national competitions.

Visit law.wayne.edu for more information.

Wayne Law, located in the middle of Detroit's historical cultural center, offers a unique urban experience. Detroit's vibrant legal market — including government offices, state and federal courts, multinational corporations, unions and major law firms — provides students a wide range of opportunities for employment and internships. Wayne Law also offers a network of more than 10,000 living alumni, including established leaders of the legal community, practicing in nearly every state of the nation and in more than a dozen foreign countries.

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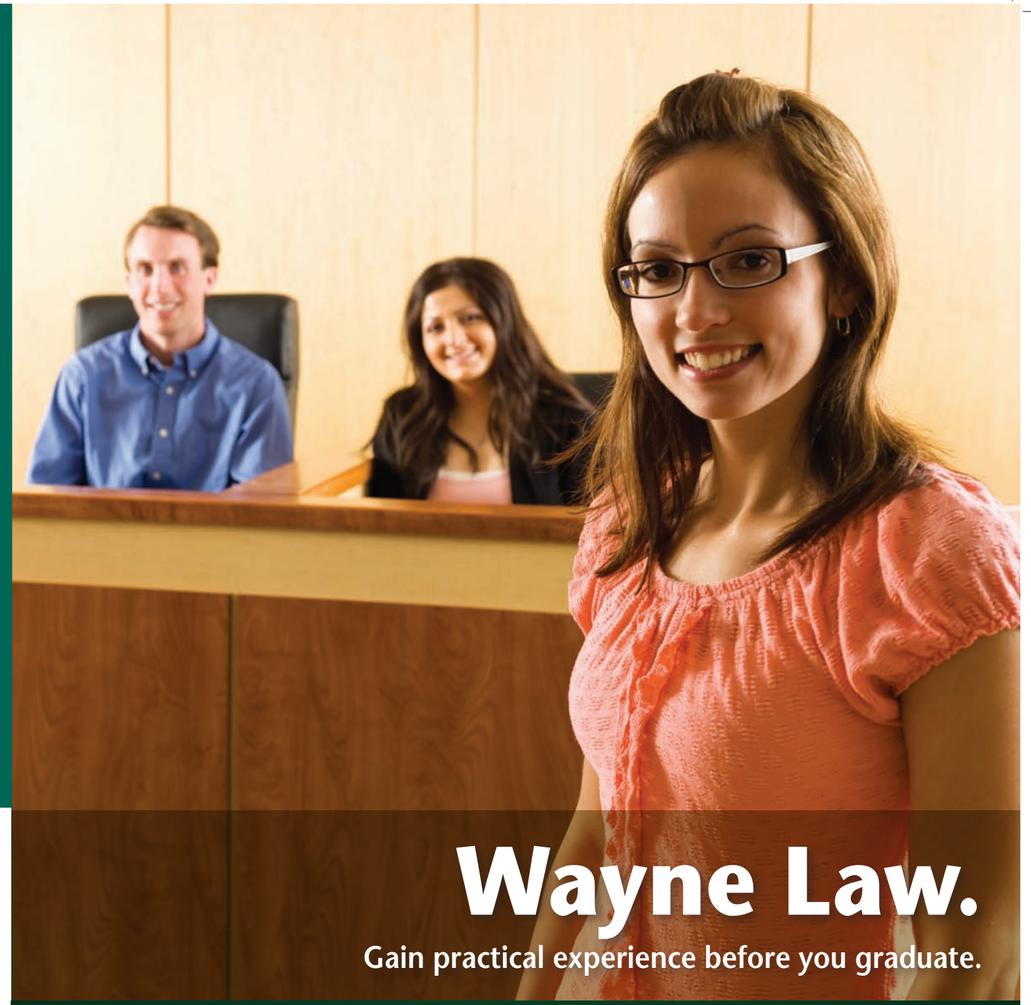

Wayne Law.

Gain practical experience before you graduate.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

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Today's employers are looking for candidates who excel in both legal theory and practice. More and more, they are looking to hire graduates who have already worked for legal practitioners on actual cases and have experienced firsthand the inner workings of the legal system.

Wayne Law's client clinics are directed by full-time expert faculty members and help bridge the gap between theory and practice. Located on or close to campus and offered for credit, our clinics provide hands-on casework to law students while simultaneously assisting residents of the Detroit Metropolitan community.

Wayne Law's Client Clinics

Disability Law Clinic

In this clinic, students assist low-income individuals with disabilities on a range of issues, including social security/SSI, health insurance and special education. Students help clients obtain the services and supports they need to live in their own homes, rather than in institutional settings. The clinic gives students intensive exposure to administrative advocacy, while helping one of Detroit's most underrepresented populations.

Students in this clinic have helped homeless individuals with mental illness obtain the public benefits they need to secure safe, permanent housing. They have helped children with intellectual disabilities obtain private health insurance coverage for computerized speech-generating devices, children with autism obtain Medicaid funding for physical, occupational and speech therapy services, and children with emotional and behavioral disabilities obtain the support they need to stay in regular classes at their neighborhood schools.

Small Business Enterprises and Nonprofit Corporations Clinic

This clinic is Wayne Law's transactional clinic and represents clients who cannot afford to pay for legal services offered by attorneys in private practice. The clinic assists businesses located within the city of Detroit and in the Detroit metropolitan area. Among the services the clinic offers are: entity formation, contract review and preparation, review and drafting of commercial real estate documents, preparation of trademark and copyright applications, and preparation of applications for tax-exempt status.

Since the clinic began serving clients in 2007, it has provided legal assistance to dozens of for-profit clients including record labels, a day spa, technology companies, a bath and body care manufacturer, and a financial literacy company, among others. It has also provided legal assistance to a myriad of start-up nonprofit clients including an organization formed to mentor at-risk students, an organization that provides free clothes and other material necessities to low income people, an organization formed to provide services to children of domestic abuse survivors, a public interest environmental law firm and more.

Environmental Law Clinic

This clinic gives students experience on a range of issues, from climate change and clean energy to water protection and environmental justice. It teaches students the skills and strategies needed to affect environmental policy in all three branches of state and federal government. Students learn about current environmental policy challenges and opportunities and explore these issues from multiple perspectives. They participate in the lawmaking process by preparing policy papers and formal legislative testimony, commenting on rulemaking and permit decisions, and engaging in judicial review and enforcement litigation. Students gain practical experience by working with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center.

Students in this clinic have provided legal assistance to help fight proposed coal plants in Michigan, developed a new clean energy funding mechanism for local governments, assisted local environment organizations with preliminary research on the expected air pollution permit renewal for the Detroit incinerator, and have worked with Friends of Tienken Road in opposing a major expansion of a road that threatens historic protections and would cause air pollution in the metro area. Students have also worked on a number of cases and proposals in the areas of water conservation, water diversions and water quality, as well as wetlands, shorelines and natural resources.

"It's one thing to learn the law to study for an exam. It's another to use the law to interview and counsel real clients. Clinical legal education integrates theory and practice. Our clinics give students hands-on experience, requiring them to formulate goals, explore options, plan strategy, and make decisions with limited time and, often, incomplete information. The decisions our students make have real consequences for real clients."

— Director of Clinical Education and Assistant (Clinical) Professor David Moss

Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic

This clinic allows students the opportunity to represent individual clients seeking immigration benefits including, but not limited to, asylum, withholding of removal, relief under the Convention Against Torture, U and T visas for victims of trafficking and other crimes, relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Special Immigrant Juvenile visas, and Temporary Protected Status, as well as help clients who obtain such relief with family reunification, adjustment of status and, eventually, naturalization.

Students represent indigent or low-income clients who could not otherwise afford legal assistance and will have the opportunity to work on a wide variety of immigration cases and gain experience working with federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Immigration Courts. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved with local community outreach and informational programs.

Child Advocacy Clinic

Students in this clinic represent children in abuse, neglect, foster care review, termination of parental rights, adoption and delinquency proceedings. Student interns learn about the child protection, child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and the roles and responsibilities of lawyers and other participants in those systems. Students conduct client interviews and home visits, prepare for hearings and trials, advocate for necessary services, perform research, draft motions, and attend juvenile court and foster care review board hearings.

This clinic recently facilitated the adoption of an infant by a relative-caretaker under the Indian Child Welfare Act; helped teenage siblings with psychiatric impairments return to their mother's home after more than a year in multiple out-of-home placements; and helped a neglected 16-year-old boy stay in a semi-independent living home where he could complete his high school education.

Criminal Appellate Practice

Each student in this clinical course, taught by a member of the State Appellate Defender Office, prepares a criminal appellate brief on behalf of a real client incarcerated in a Michigan prison who has been convicted of a felony after a jury trial. Students interview clients, present a mock oral argument to a panel of experienced criminal appellate practitioners, and ultimately have their briefs submitted to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Free Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC)

Students in this clinic work under the supervision of lawyers from Lakeshore Legal Aid and the Elder Law and Advocacy Center. Students gain valuable experience in state court on elder law and family law matters, such as custody, support, visitation and divorce.

Wayne Law students can also gain an edge through a number of co-curricular programs designed to sharpen minds and heighten capabilities.

Wayne Law's Co-Curriculars

The Wayne Law Review

The Wayne Law Review has been published since 1954. Three of the four annual issues include articles of general academic and professional interest authored by practicing attorneys and law professors, as well as comments written by the *Review's* student members. A fourth issue features an annual survey of developments in Michigan law and is widely read by members of the Michigan legal community. Students are invited to join *The Wayne Law Review* on the basis of high academic standing or through a writing competition held each summer.

The Journal of Law in Society

Students at Wayne Law established *The Journal of Law in Society* in 1997 to provide for the scholarly evaluation of the law in relation to various segments of society. The *Journal* is the scholarly voice of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. It addresses social policy issues in a legal context and combines legal theory with social reality. It is published twice each academic year and hosts an annual academic symposium. Students are invited to join the *Journal* based upon their performance in a writing competition.

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