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## LSA Pre-Law Newsletter

This newsletter is sent monthly to LSA students who have indicated an interest in pursuing a career in the legal field to highlight a variety of experiences and opportunities targeted for U-M pre-law students. The LSA Newnan Academic Advising Center Pre-Law team is looking forward to connecting with you as you navigate the pre-law path.

### **WINTER 2024 PRE-LAW EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**The Newnan Advising Center in collaboration with the LSA Honors Program would like to present information about Winter 2024 Pre-Law Programming. We encourage you to take advantage of the following opportunities, open to all University of Michigan students and alumni.**

**Updated information about future pre-law programming and workshops can also be found on the [LSA Newnan Advising Pre-Law calendar](#).**

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**PRE-LAW APPOINTMENTS:** Interested in speaking with a pre-law advisor? [Schedule a pre-law advising appointment.](#) Current students and alumni of all colleges welcome!

[Visit the Pre-Law Website](#)

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**Pre-Law Advising Events COMING UP:****Financing Your Legal Education - Tuesday, March 2, 2024 from noon to 1 PM**

- Join Sophia Sim, George Washington Law's Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, for a discussion about how to finance your legal education with a focus on minimizing your debt. Students of all levels are encouraged to attend.
  - [If you wish to attend, you will need to register for the event on Sessions.](#)

**Pre-Law 101 Information Session - Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from noon to 1 PM**

- The Pre-Law 101 Info Session is an exploratory program that focuses on developing strategies to explore the legal field and provides an overview of the law school admission process. The session will include a presentation given by Newnan Pre-Law Advisors followed by a live Q & A period. The session is open to all interested University of Michigan students and alumni.
  - [Registration & Link on Sessions](#)

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**Important LSAC Updates**  
**FAFSA Delays**

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applicants beginning in mid-March. This extraordinary delay is approximately five months behind a typical year's schedule.

#### What This Means

Schools require the FAFSA to determine applicant eligibility for federal student financial aid. This includes Federal Direct Loans and Federal Grad PLUS Loans.

To help applicants navigate this delay, LSAC has posted information on [LSAC.org](https://lsac.org) and in LawHub.

**Quick Reminder:** Registration for the April 2024 LSAT ends **February 29, 2024.**

[Register for this Test](#)

## Monthly Tip from a Pre-Law Advisor

Pre-law students should be familiar with ABA (American Bar Association) Standard 503, which requires that law schools use a "valid and reliable" examination to assess applicants for admission. The most popular option for the required examination is the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) because it is accepted at all ABA-accredited law schools. However, a growing number of schools also accept other examinations (the GRE, Law Ready, and JD-Next).

Students may wish to explore the differences between the acceptable admissions examinations for law school and select the option that is best for their aspirations.

## Pre-Law Opportunities

Periodically, our office is sent postings. Please note that these experiences are not endorsed by our office, but are offered as opportunities for those who may be interested. As such, please direct any follow-up questions to the listed contacts below.

### Academic Peer Leaders (APLs)

*Sponsored by: Newnan Academic Advising Center*

The Newnan Advising Center is hiring LSA students to work as Academic Peer Leaders (APLs) for First-Year Student Orientation in Summer 2024.

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This is a great leadership opportunity and a way to share your knowledge about UM with incoming first year students. Pay is \$17.00 an hour for approximately 20 hours a week between May 20 - July 19, 2024. Attend an info session to learn more!

## Intercultural Leadership Seminar

*Sponsored by: UofM International Center*



**INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**  
APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 18!

**SESSION 1: INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE**  
March 8: 3:00-5:00PM

**SESSION 2: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**  
March 22: 3:00-5:00PM

**SESSION 3: INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP**  
April 5: 3:00-5:00PM

**M**  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

The Intercultural Leadership Seminar (ILS) is designed for international and U.S. students who want to learn how to be more effective in a global environment. ILS includes brief lectures, discussion, experiential activities, and small group work. While at ILS you will:

- Increase your awareness of the impact of culture on communication styles;
- Gain skills necessary for effective intercultural communication;
- Discover your own leadership potential; and
- Develop and enhance your intercultural competence.

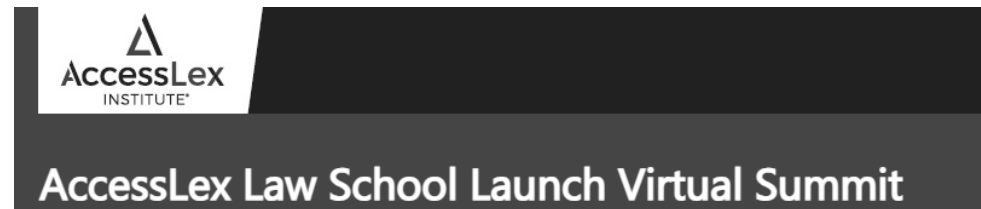
ILS is part of the [M-LEAD](#) collaborative of leadership programs for students, and it is connected to M-Lead's [Collective Impact Framework](#) and [competencies](#). Participating in ILS will help you to gain skills and knowledge of the following competencies: [Adaptability](#), [Authenticity](#), [Building Relationships](#), [Empathy](#), [Feedback](#), [Meaning-Making](#), [Resilience](#), [Self-Awareness](#), [Vision](#).

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To participate, please complete the application by Sunday, February 18 at 11:59pm. Students will be notified of their acceptance shortly after the application deadline. [Apply now.](#)

Questions? Contact the International Center at [icenter@umich.edu](mailto:icenter@umich.edu)

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AccessLex Institute is very excited to offer our first ever Law School Launch Virtual Summit – a half-day of live online sessions and speakers offering aspiring law students education, inspiration, and motivation to navigate the path to law school.

This event is totally free and will feature admissions and financial aid experts as well as a panel of current law students who will give the inside scoop on their experiences and insights. If you have students who are even considering law school in the future, this is going to be a value-packed event they can't miss!

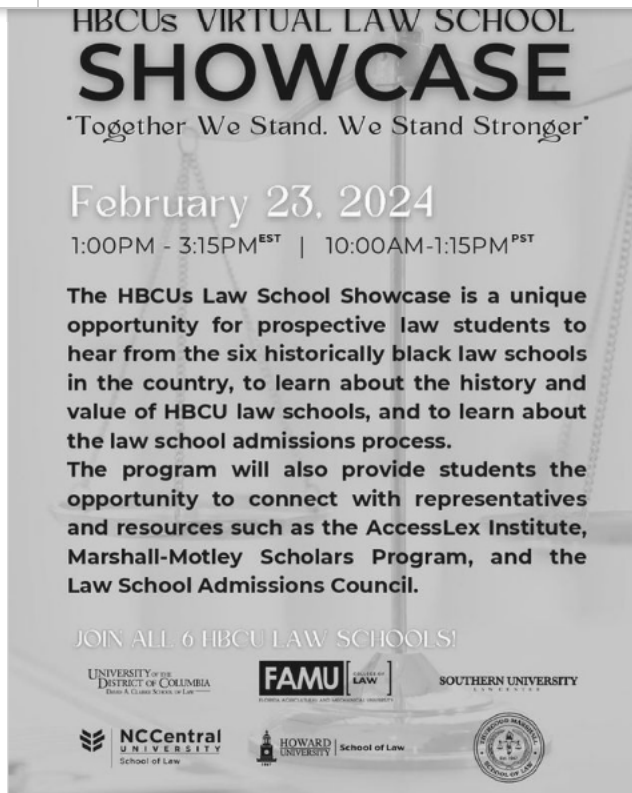
Please see the full agenda below, and share the [registration link](#) with your students now to help them sign up! Thanks for your support and partnership in supporting the next generation of lawyers!

Law School Launch Virtual Summit

**Saturday, February 24, 11 am – 2:30 pm ET**

Hosted by [AccessLex Institute](#)

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**HBCUs VIRTUAL LAW SCHOOL SHOWCASE**  
 "Together We Stand. We Stand Stronger"

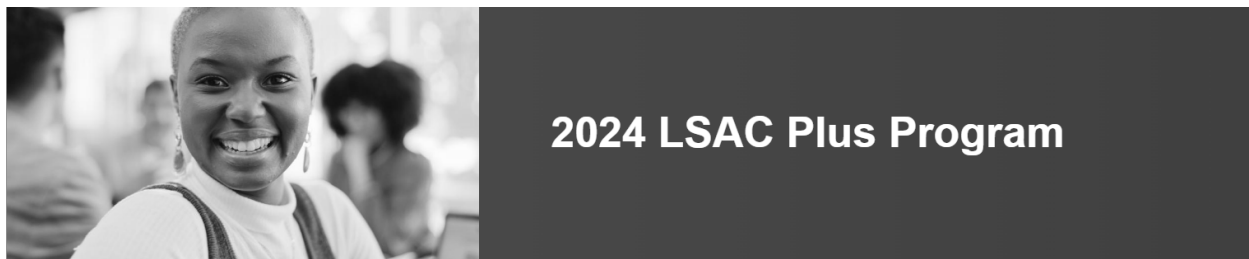
**February 23, 2024**  
 1:00PM - 3:15PM<sup>EST</sup> | 10:00AM-1:15PM<sup>PST</sup>

The HBCUs Law School Showcase is a unique opportunity for prospective law students to hear from the six historically black law schools in the country, to learn about the history and value of HBCU law schools, and to learn about the law school admissions process. The program will also provide students the opportunity to connect with representatives and resources such as the AccessLex Institute, Marshall-Motley Scholars Program, and the Law School Admissions Council.

JOIN ALL 6 HBCU LAW SCHOOLS!

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA School of Law | FAMU [FAMU] SCHOOL OF LAW | SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | NCCentral UNIVERSITY School of Law | HOWARD UNIVERSITY School of Law | UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA School of Law

- **Interested in attending?** [Register for the event here.](#)



Applications are open for the 2024 Plus Program.

Plus, Guided Journey will provide ongoing and direct support to individuals who intend to pursue law school but face structural barriers or other systemic challenges to accomplishing their goals. Designed exclusively for individuals planning to apply to law school during the upcoming cycle, the program will use a cohort-based model to accompany and support aspiring law students for an entire year as they navigate the law school application process.

In addition to the new Plus, Guided Journey program, interested individuals may also apply to participate in one of LSAC's Plus Summer programs. Hosted by participating law schools, these residential summer programs are open to individuals at many different stages of their prelaw

There is no cost to apply to these programs or to participate if selected. Visit the [Plus program website](#) to learn more.

# Michigan Legal Eagles



## Ryan E. Norman

*Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice*

### Educational Background:

- B.A., Political Science, minor in Crime & Justice, University of Michigan, 2009
- J.D., American University Washington College of Law, 2012

### What is your profession and how did you decide on a field?

I currently serve as a federal prosecutor at the Consumer Protection Branch of the Department of Justice. In this role, I primarily prosecute complex transnational and multi-jurisdictional consumer fraud, specifically schemes that

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where I prosecuted a variety of misdemeanor and felony offenses. From there, I served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia where I focused on prosecuting violent crime in Washington, D.C.

I was about 14 years old when I felt called to one day serve the community as a prosecutor. Growing up in Detroit, I saw firsthand the widespread effects that crime has on people and communities of all races and income levels. For years, I witnessed my neighbors and family grow increasingly weary and unnerved as a result of frequent break-ins in our neighborhood and reports of violent encounters taking place across the city. Neighbors were apprehensive to leave or to return to their own homes each night, fearful that they might be the next victim. Finally, I eventually became a crime victim one evening when my car was stolen out of my own driveway. Because of all these things, I knew that I wanted to be a part of the solution to make communities safer.

### **Why did you decide to pursue a law degree?**

My decision to pursue a law degree only slightly predates my decision to become a prosecutor. My family tells me that I was 10 years old when I first declared that I wanted to be judge (I still do!). When I learned that law school and being a lawyer were prerequisites to becoming a judge, the path was set. Additionally, I've always loved debating and attempting to persuade others about any number of topics that arise in daily conversation. I've also always liked proving things with logic and reason, so I knew pursuing a law degree was the right decision.

### **What do you enjoy most about what you do? Least?**

The aspect about my job that I enjoy most is trying cases. It is deeply satisfying to put a case together, gathering and marshaling physical and testimonial evidence in a way that successfully persuades the Court and jury to see the law and facts the way I believe them to be.

What they do not show in movies and TV shows is the amount of administrative paperwork and chasing down of uncooperative witnesses that lawyers have to do. Though necessary, I enjoy these tasks the least.

### **What can students do now to make the most of their undergraduate experience that will help prepare them for a career in law?**



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equally important, though, is establishing a demonstrated interest in the law. That is accomplished by taking courses that give you a taste of the law and what law school will be like i.e., courses that emphasize logical reasoning and strong writing. It is further accomplished by joining organizations and taking internships or research positions that have legal ties. I can honestly say that at times when I did not have the highest grades amongst other law school or job applicants, I have successfully been able to close the competitive gap by showing a sustained and genuine interest in the law. That interest, in turn, demonstrated the passion and dedication I would bring to the position if I were afforded the opportunity.

### **Have there been any courses, experiences, or trainings you later found surprisingly useful in your profession?**

A willingness to cultivate meaningful mentorship relationships has proven to be among the most useful skills I have learned. I have had several wonderful mentors throughout my career, without whom I would not be where I am today. Good mentors provide guidance, encouragement, and correction. They also foster opportunities for you to succeed by serving as references, speaking your name in rooms you are not in, and opening doors you do not yet have the ability to open. My strong advice is to find a good mentor.

**What do you think every aspiring lawyer should know?** Every aspiring lawyer should know that in this field, a good reputation is paramount. The legal community where you choose to practice will be surprisingly small. Accordingly, it is vital to form a reputation for being honest, reliable, kind (to support staff and lawyers alike), and competent. Because you will see your colleagues, adversaries, judges, court reporters, and paralegals often, a good reputation serves as a type of currency. Lawyers with poor reputations will always have a rough time. However, a lawyer with a stellar reputation easily finds assistance under tight deadlines, the benefit of the doubt when mistakes are made, and goodwill in courthouse and office hallways.

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