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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](#).

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](#)



[Pre-Law Advising Events COMING UP:](#)

Personal Statement Workshop

Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 5 PM to 6PM

- The Personal Statement Workshop is open to all interested University of Michigan students and alumni. The workshop will help students gain a better understanding of the mechanics of the law school personal statement. It is designed to give insight into the brainstorming, drafting, and editing phases of the process. The session is open to all interested University of Michigan students and alumni.
 - [Registration & Link on Sessions](#)

Speaker Panel: *What I Wish I Had Known Before Law School*

Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 2 PM to 4 PM

- Planning to attend law school in the fall, or thinking about applying in the upcoming cycle? If so, join us April 6, 2024 panel discussion featuring guest JDs and JD candidates sharing what they wish they had known before their legal training and/or their legal careers. The panelists will share their experiences as law school applicants, law students, and professionals working in the legal field.
 - [Registration Required on Sessions](#): Seating is limited. If you wish to attend, you must register for the event on Sessions. For disability accommodations, please contact Monika Basseur-Carter at mjcarter@umich.edu or Kadija Deen at kdeen@umich.edu by April 4, 2023 to allow time for arranging services.

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Important LSAC Updates

[2024/2025 LSAT dates have been released](#)

Reminder: the April LSAT Scheduling opens on March 19, 2024



Harvard Law School Junior Deferral Program Virtual Information Sessions

The HLS J.D. Admissions Office is hosting four virtual information sessions for students who are interested in the Junior Deferral Program. The sessions will take place on [April 18](#), [May 16](#), [May 30](#), and [June 13](#). At these sessions, students will learn more about the program and gain insight into the application process. Students can register for these sessions on the [Junior Deferral Program website](#).

HLS Junior Deferral Program

The [Junior Deferral Program](#) is an excellent option for students who know they want to go to law school but want to explore other professional, educational, or service opportunities first. Through JDP, undergraduate students in junior standing (or the international equivalent) can apply to HLS as long as they are scheduled to complete all required coursework and graduate the following year. If admitted, they must commit to defer their matriculation date at HLS for at least two years after they've completed their undergraduate degree. Students can then use the deferral period to explore their interests and gain hands-on work experience before returning to the law school classroom.

Application Timeline

This year's application will open on May 1, 2024 and close on July 1, 2024. For more information on eligibility and the application process, please refer to our [Junior Deferral Program FAQs](#).

to apply to the program free of charge through the [HLS Junior Deferral Program website](#). This will save JDP applicants the cost of registering for the Law School Admission Council's Credential Assembly Service.

Monthly Tip from a Pre-Law Advisor

Careers in the legal field are stressful. Similarly, the life of a pre-law student can also be stressful. Pre-law students would benefit from developing stress management skills during their undergraduate careers, which will help them in their future roles as a law school applicant, law student, and attorney.

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.

Michigan Law School's Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic

Ever wonder what a trial looks like? Want a chance to be a juror? Every semester Michigan Law School's Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic conducts full mock jury trials with law students as the lawyers. As a juror, you will get to see what a real trial looks like, deliberate and render a verdict, and then interact with, and provide feedback to Michigan Law Faculty, local attorneys, and the students who are trying the case.

Jurors are needed for the dates below:

- **Thursday, March 28**
- **Monday, April 1**
- **Thursday April 4**

All trials are held in the Law School's moot court room, 232 Hutchins Hall ([625 S. State Street](#) - the building on the corner of State and Monroe Streets). **Jurors need to arrive by 1:20** and typically leave before 5pm. If you're even remotely considering law school, this is a great way to learn about it and the practice of law. Interested students should

ABA's Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by: The American Bar Association (ABA)

The American Bar Association (ABA) awards an annual Legal Opportunity Scholarship to first-year law students. The mission of the program is to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to law school and to provide financial assistance to attend and complete law school. The ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship grants 10 - 20 incoming diverse law students with \$15,000 of financial aid over their three years in law school.

The 2024 ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship Fund application for first-year students entering law school in the fall will open on February 1st and close April 15th. You can access the 2024 LOSF application portal to submit your application at:

<https://losf.smapply.io/>

Future Lawyer's Scholarship

Sponsored by: Andrew Cores Family Law Group

Andrew Cores Family Law Group provides extensive trial experience and thoughtful legal counsel to our clients. The attorneys at our Illinois firm believe in investing resources and time into the legal community for the betterment of future generations of lawyers and the profession as a whole.

Having dedicated our lives to the legal profession, the attorneys with Andrew Cores Family Law Group are excited to assist law students with expenses related to their college education. Each semester, the firm is offering an aspiring or current law student the opportunity to win \$2,000 through the Andrew Cores Family Law Group Future Lawyers Scholarship. Applications must be submitted [online](#) and must be submitted by March 19, 2024, at 11:59 PM.

Virtual Application Workshops at Penn State Dickerson Law

At [Penn State Dickinson Law](#), we are passionate about helping prospective students get the knowledge they need to successfully navigate the law school admissions process. To this end, we are offering [virtual application workshops](#) throughout the spring semester.

The [details](#) are as follows:

Virtual Application Workshops

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- Wednesday, April 24, 2024 from 6 to 7 pm ET — [Register here.](#)

Additional information [can be found here.](#)



Launch Into Law at Toledo Law

Join us for an immersive, 5-day experience at Toledo Law designed to prepare students from historically underrepresented groups for the law school application process. Learn test-taking strategies for the LSAT, enhance your legal writing skills, and connect with student and professional mentors to explore law school options and legal career paths.

This program is open to highly qualified undergraduates at no cost. Application required. Deadline is Friday, April 12, 2014 . For more information, please [visit here.](#)



Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

[Model Constitutional Convention](#)

Interested in constitutional law and the amendment process? Take part in a student-led constitutional convention! Undergraduate students, public affairs students, and law students will convene May 23-26 for a model constitutional convention. Participants will propose, debate, and adopt amendments to the U.S. Constitution during the simulated convention.

The convention will take place on campus at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Phoenix, Arizona. All expenses will be paid for student delegates accepted to the convention. Apply [here](#) by March 15. Applicants will be notified on April 1.

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The D.C. Leadership Academy is seeking to inspire and prepare the next generation of leaders at the intersection of law and public policy. The Academy is aimed to enhance students' experiential experiences in D.C. and help their career paths. Any university student interning or working in D.C. during the summer is invited to apply to participate.

The program will run from June 4 to August 6, 2024. Sessions will meet one evening a week for two hours at the ASU Barrett and O'Connor Washington Center. Each training session is designed to provide support towards a future career path in D.C., led by federal officials, attorneys, and other top experts.

The Academy is completely free. Dinner will be provided at all sessions. Program participants will receive a certificate of completion from the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Further information and the application form can be found [here](#). Applications are due by May 1.

LawHub Live Event – FAFSA Delay: What's Happening and What's Next

The U.S. Department of Education has announced an extraordinary delay in processing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form for the current application cycle. How will this delay affect your efforts as you pursue financial aid to attend law school? Join LawHub on **Wednesday, March 20, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET** for a look at the 2024-25 FAFSA form, what's happening now, and how you can adjust to current conditions as you embark on your law school journey. This webinar will include a moderated panel discussion with experts in law school financial aid who will offer guidance on navigating this unexpected delay. If financial aid is part of your current, or future, plans for law school, this informative event is for you.

Michigan Legal Eagles

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Dana Muir

Professor, Ross School of Business

Robert L. Dixon Collegiate Professor of Business, Arthur F. Thurnau

Professor of Business Law, and Area Chair of Business Law

Educational Background:

- A.B., Economics, University of Michigan
- MBA, University of Detroit
- J.D., University of Michigan

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

I took a winding career path. After undergraduate, I worked in Human Resources at Chrysler Corporation in the days when it still was Chrysler. From there I went to law school and was a lawyer at a large Chicago and then at a large Detroit law firm. When I came to Ross as a faculty member, it was an opportunity to combine my business and law backgrounds. In some ways, being a professor is my third career and the one that stuck.

Why did you decide to pursue a law degree?

I became interested in law as an undergraduate student, but was not ready financially or professionally to attend law school immediately. For me, working for a time was important because I developed a better understanding of how large organizations worked and had an opportunity to observe various career tracks. When I went to law school, I enjoyed being back in an intense educational environment. I always encourage people to at least consider taking an "action" year or two. I dislike the term "gap year" because it implies people

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

I most enjoy that there always is something new to think about in law. That is true whether it is a subject I am teaching or in my research. Law constantly evolves and is being applied to new situations. For example, consider all the new challenges AI raises and the questions on how to regulate it while enabling it to continue to develop. It is a challenge to keep up and to keep having to change class materials or revisit research topics. Mostly, though, it is a good challenge. My least favorite thing... I hope I don't get in trouble for saying -- meetings.

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

Take a few law courses. I would be failing in my responsibility as Chair of the Ross Business Law Area if I didn't say that we have a great, interesting, highly rated law course that is open only to non-Ross students: BL 302, Law for Business. Students do not need any prior business or law knowledge to do well in the course. It provides a good overview of the types of topics that are important for lawyers who provide advice to businesses. Contact me at dmuir@umich.edu if you want more information or look online on the Ross Business Law Area website. It also is important though to take a wide variety of courses. The best lawyers are skilled at critical thinking, writing, absorbing and integrating large amounts of material, and being comfortable thinking about entirely new topics. Being exposed to many courses and ideas in college helps develop all of those abilities.

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

I have so many answers to this question. The courses I liked best probably have been the most useful, not so much because of the content but because I was more deeply engaged in those courses. I think, though, that people make the most difference in almost any profession. Find mentors. They don't have to work in law. They need to be people you trust, people who can help you think through the hard career decisions, and people who can help you keep going when you bump up against a challenge. I am so grateful to the many people who encouraged me.

What do you think every aspiring lawyer should know?

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law they want to practice. That should not dissuade or cause stress to any aspiring lawyer. Give yourself the space to figure it out as you go. You will. If you are certain you know exactly what you want to do with a law degree, great. But, do not close your eyes to other opportunities as they present themselves. I have so many friends and former students who now are successful and happy lawyers. I also have many friends and former students who now do not practice law at all. They work in business, teach in areas other than law, are in counseling, etc. All of them agree that they would not be where they are but for law school.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Newnan Academic Advising Center.

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