The University of Illinois College of Law’s Leadership Project completed its second full year in the spring of 2023. During the academic year, the Project hosted or co-hosted more than a dozen events and attracted participation from more than 350 students, alumni, and friends. In addition, the Project began to develop collaborations with student groups at the College, which significantly enhanced student participation in Project events.

Leadership Project Lectures

In 2022-23, the Project hosted or co-hosted the following lectures and presentations:

- Leadership Project Lecture, featuring Sue Bettman
- A Fireside Chat with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White
- Leadership Project Lecture, featuring Miguel Zaldivar, CEO of Hogan Lovells
- Leadership Project Lecture, featuring Carl Bergetz, chief Legal Officer for Rush University System for Health (Co-sponsored by Health and Elder Law Society)
- Leadership Project Lecture, featuring John Milhiser, former Sangamon County State’s Attorney and United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois (Co-sponsored by the Criminal Law Society)
- Student Leader Panel Discussion (Co-sponsored with the Student Bar Association)
- Women’s Law Society Symposium Panel Discussion: Creating Change Through Public Service
- Leadership Project Lecture, featuring Jill Nicholson of Foley & Lardner LLP (Co-sponsored by the Bankruptcy Law Society)

Leadership Project Book Discussions

In 2022-23, the Project hosted three events focusing on two different books:

- March of 2023 discussion of President Barack Obama’s “A Promised Land,” co-sponsored in conjunction with the American Constitution Society at the College of Law.
- June 2023 continuing legal education program for alumni and friends focused on “A Promised Land” and featuring Michael Strautmanis, Executive Vice President for External Affairs of the Obama Foundation. More than 125 alumni and friends attended.
2022-23 Leadership Project Scholars
In the spring of 2023, six students who completed the required number of lectures, book discussions, and classes participated in a half-day leadership retreat. Fritz Seyferth, an accomplished executive coach and the author of the new book “The Shift From Me to Team,” provided students with insights and techniques that will prove invaluable in their new careers and on their leadership journeys.

“The Leadership Project gives students a chance to learn about prominent leaders and take away valuable insights from different leaders. Through the discussions and lectures, I gained a deeper understanding of my own leadership qualities, including my strengths and weaknesses.”
—GyuHui Hwang

Leadership Project Classes
During 2022-23, the College of Law offered approximately 25 classes that either focused on leadership expressly, such as Leadership as Behavior, or that foster skills essential to good leadership. View a full list of Leadership Project classes.

Emily Cranny
Class of 2024
Dillon Diffie
Class of 2023
Andrea Fischer
Class of 2023
Josh Hanson
Class of 2023
GyuHui Hwang
Class of 2023
Elizabeth Patton
Class of 2023

Learn more about the Leadership Project and how to get involved.
law.illinois.edu/leadership-project