

Leadership Project

ANNUAL REPORT | 2024-2025

The University of Illinois College of Law's Leadership Project recently completed its fourth full year. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the Project hosted or co-hosted the events outlined below, attracting participation from over 175 students.



Leadership Project Lectures

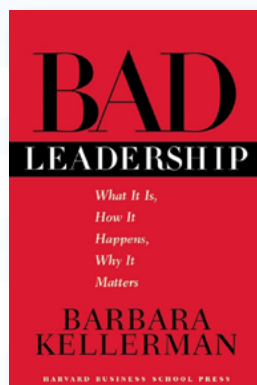
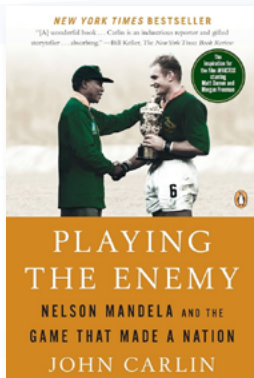
This year, the Leadership Project hosted five discussions with notable leaders:

- **Alexi Giannoulis**, Illinois Secretary of State (co-sponsored by the Student Bar Association)
- **Cardelle Spangler**, Managing partner of the Chicago Office of Winston & Strawn LLP
- **Michael Strautmanis**, Executive Vice President for External Affairs for the Obama Foundation
- **Michael Osanloo**, Chief Executive Officer of Portillo's Hot Dogs
- **Steven Molo**, Founding partner of MoloLamken

Leadership Project Book Discussions

In 2024-2025, the Project hosted two book discussions:

- **“Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation”** by John Carlin (co-sponsored by the Black Law Students Association, the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and Inclusive Excellence)
- **“Bad Leadership”** by Barbara Kellerman



Leadership Project Classes

During 2024-25, the College of Law offered nearly 30 classes that either focused on leadership expressly, such as Lawyers as Leaders, or that foster skills essential to good leadership. A full list of these classes is available [here](#).

This year's Lawyers as Leaders course, taught in the spring semester, featured guest lectures from Brad Lerman, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Starbucks Coffee Company, Michael Strautmanis, the Obama Foundation's Executive Vice President of External Affairs and the College of Law's 2023-2024 Leader in Residence, and Sam Mendenhall, a partner in the Chicago office of Winston & Strawn LLP and Pastor of Hope Church in Chicago's Bronzeville community. This intensive four-day course challenged students to delve deeply into leadership principles, and explore their own strengths and weaknesses as leaders.



*Lawyers
as Leaders*

2024-25 Leadership Project Scholars

This academic year, twelve students completed the required number of lectures, book discussions, and classes for certification as a College of Law Leadership Scholar. This year's Leadership Scholars participated in a half-day leadership retreat led by Fritz Seyferth, an accomplished executive coach and the author of the new book "The Shift From Me to Team."

See this year's Leadership Scholars on the following page.



Illinois Law



Learn more about the Leadership Project and how to get involved:

law.illinois.edu/leadership-project

2024-25 Leadership Project Scholars



Alexandra Battaglia
Class of 2025



Matthew Carlins
Class of 2025



David Catalan
Class of 2025



Darineice Davis
Class of 2025



Bethany Ekwonwa
Class of 2025



Nicole Marcinkus
Class of 2025



Shil Mehta
Class of 2025



Maria Palazzolo
Class of 2025



Erica Prosser
Class of 2025



Sarah Shamsi
Class of 2025



Alexandria Wilson
Class of 2026



Joshua Yeh
Class of 2025