

College of Law

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Welcome

I made the University of Illinois College of Law my professional home more than fifteen years ago. *It was one of the very best decisions I ever made.*

I've lived in several parts of the country during my career, working both inside and outside of the legal profession. While each place was wonderful in its own way, none quite compare to Illinois Law. Its excellence isn't captured solely by the publicly available data marking it as one of the most highly regarded law schools in the country. We also have a first-rate faculty of teacher-scholars who dedicate themselves to their students. We have a large, enthusiastic, and incredibly accomplished alumni corps who welcome opportunities to give back. We are a proud part of one of the nation's most impactful research universities, which offers innumerable opportunities for our students to deepen their understanding of both the law and the world. Most importantly, the academic rigor, intellectual excitement, and easy camaraderie that defines our law school community is truly unique.

Despite all of these assets, Illinois Law never rests on its laurels. The legal profession is constantly evolving to keep up with an increasingly complex society. We continually strive to be at the forefront of understanding this change, seeking new opportunities to deliver value to our students, the bench and bar, and society as a whole.

I invite you to learn more about what Illinois Law can offer you. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly (jcsharpe@illinois.edu) or contact our Admissions Office to schedule an in-person visit.

Thanks for considering Illinois Law, and I look forward to hearing from you.



Jamelle C. Sharpe

Dean, Professor and Guy Raymond Jones Faculty Scholar



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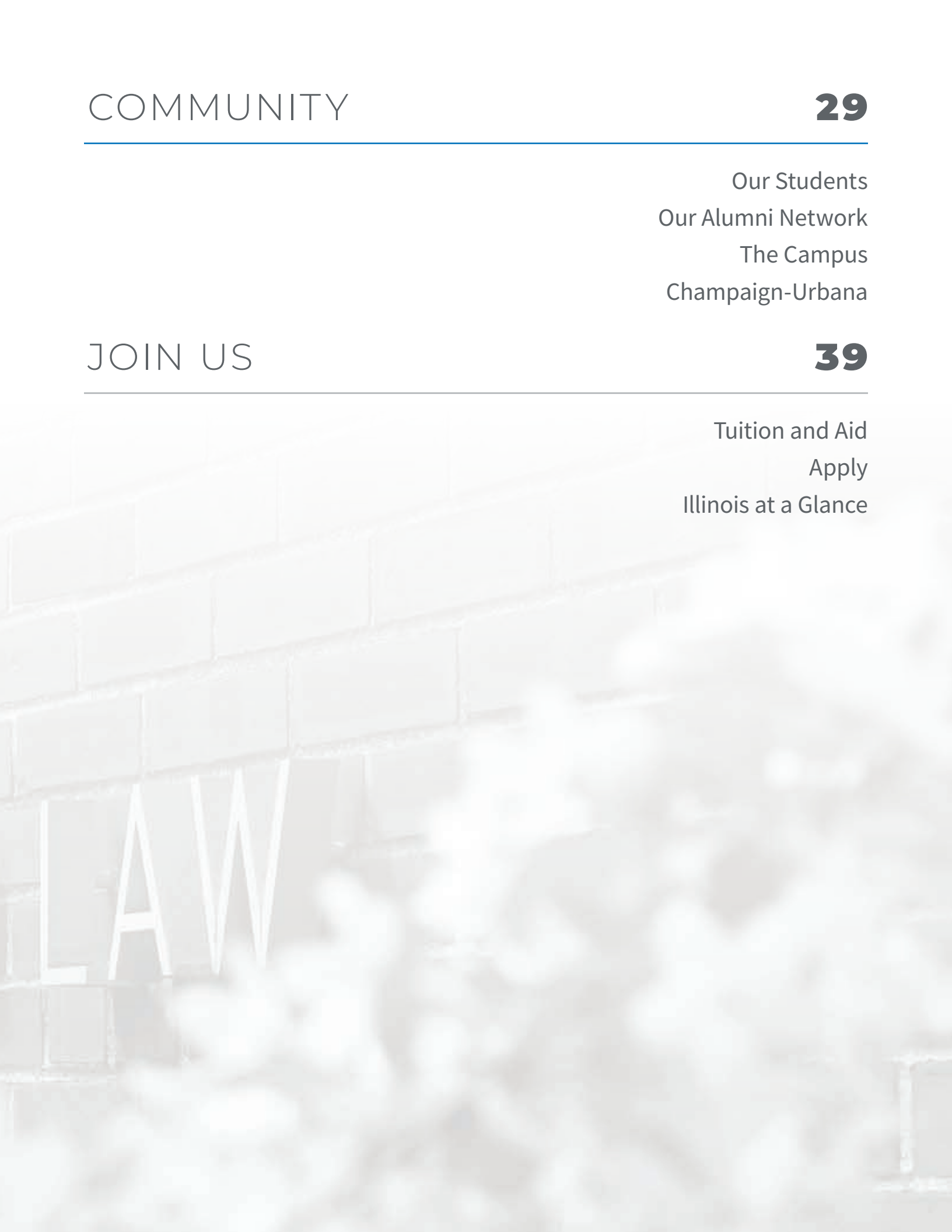




THE 1L EXPERIENCE



First Year Courses

- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Fundamentals of Legal Practice
- Introduction to Advocacy
- Legal Research
- Legal Writing and Analysis
- Property
- Torts

Finding your path at Illinois begins in the first year. As a 1L, you'll learn the broad legal strokes that will help direct the rest of your education. Whether business law, intellectual property, public interest or another field sparks your imagination, Illinois has the esteemed faculty and real-life learning opportunities to help you design your own unique experience.

Professional Development

The Class of 2025 had a 95% employment rate nine months after graduation. Their success in finding the jobs they desired started even prior to orientation, thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated team of attorney-counselors in the Career Planning Office.



Programs for 1Ls

Illinois Law Mentoring Program

Before even setting foot on campus, incoming students have the opportunity to connect with alumni who are eager to share career insights with them.

Closer Look Networking Reception

Each January, the College of Law invites firms and other employers that will be recruiting on campus to meet our first-year class.

Careers in Public Service Reception

Similar to Closer Look, this annual event allows students interested in public service to meet alumni working in the public sector and form early connections.



Bona Fide ILLINI

Masha Polupan ’26

“Without the Illinois alumni network, getting a job would not have been possible. There would have been no way for me, especially as a first-generation law student. I have never been in a position before where somebody really stood up for me because of our institutional affiliation, and for me that reaffirmed that Illinois was the right choice. If this program means so much to alumni that they will reach out to a student they don’t necessarily have a relationship with and want to support them—that is amazing.”

I love watching the metamorphosis of each 1L student over the course of the year. I have the pleasure of seeing a student in their very first week of class and then that same student during their final oral argument at the end of the year. I get a glimpse of the lawyer they will become.

I teach the skills students will need as they go into practice—legal writing and analysis and advocacy. These are skills that are not only fundamental but also each student will use them far beyond the first year. My hope is that somewhere in that journey, each of my students discover how much they improve and learn in that process.

Professor Rummana Alam



Student Support

Illinois Law welcomes individuals from all walks of life, and actively invests in the success of all its students. We have dedicated substantial resources to foster a community where everyone can thrive, and our team is fully committed to being a constant source of encouragement and guidance throughout the law school experience.

Prioritizing Student Success

Beyond their first-year courses, we offer law students continued support during their first semester in a series of workshops called **Law School 101.** Because the transition to law school requires new academic and professional skills, Law School 101 workshops cover topics such as law school logistics, academic study and exam strategies, wellness and belonging, and career planning and professional opportunities to gain legal experience while in law school. The things that students learn in Law School 101 contribute to their success in the first year and beyond.

Our **Academic Success and Bar Support Program**, lead by Professor Michael Loch, begins before orientation. Our philosophy is the more you understand about how you learn and how to apply that to law classes, the better off you will be in law school. Accordingly, the more you understand about how you learn and apply that to bar prep, the better your chances of success on the bar exam. This learning philosophy is implemented in pre-orientation sessions, continues in orientation programming, extends through workshops during 1L and 2L years, and culminates with the Countdown to the Bar series, covering everything students will need to know to effectively prepare for and successfully pass the bar.



Meet Our Team



Kelly Salefski
Assistant Dean of Academic Administration and Dean of Students



Matt Petruszak
Associate Director of Academic Administration



Maggie Verklan
Embedded Counselor

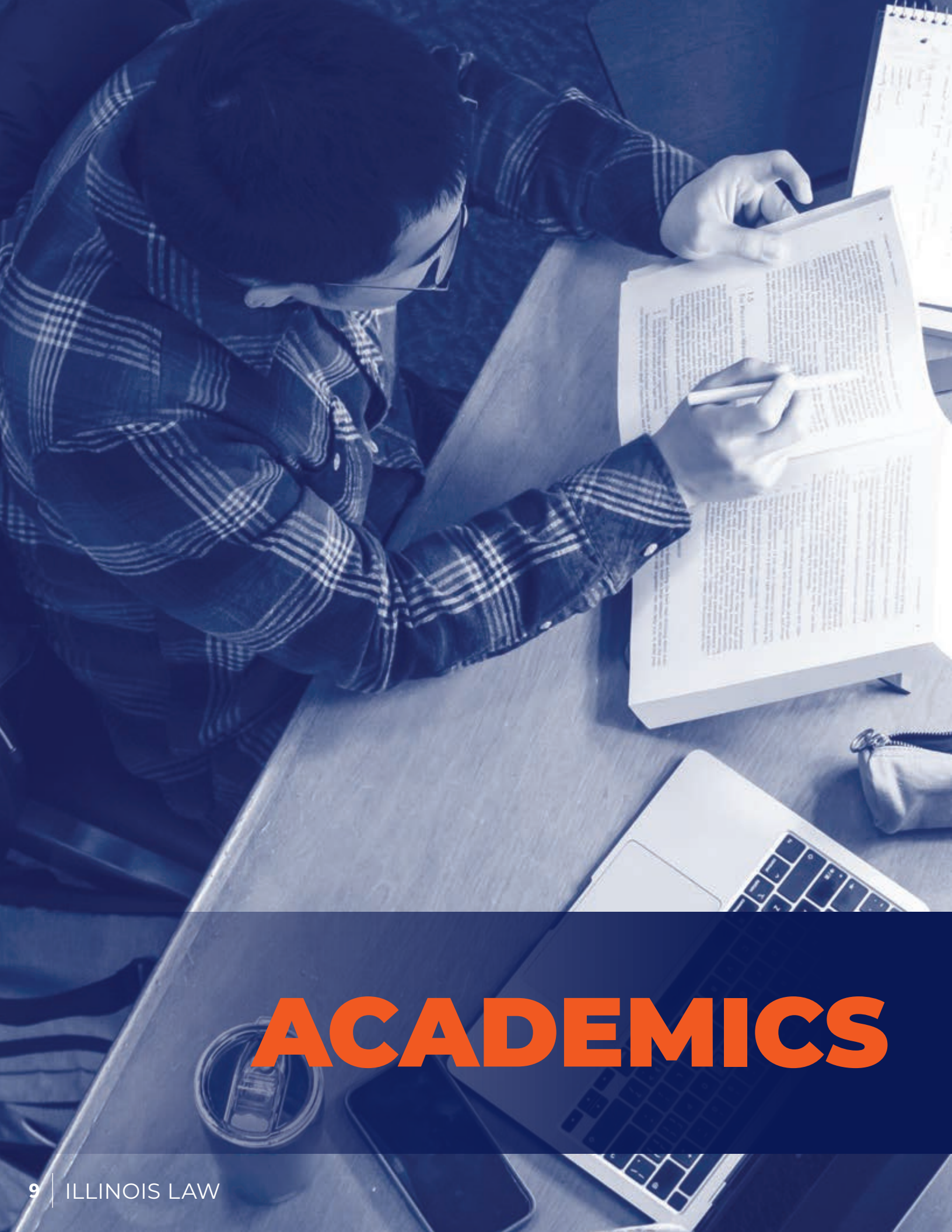


Michael Loch
Professor and Director of Academic Success and Bar Support

Dean Salefski

"At the College of Law, we are committed to supporting every student's academic, professional, and personal growth. Our student services include academic success advising, accessibility support, bar exam preparation, mental health counseling, and comprehensive wellness programming. In addition, our vibrant student community is enriched by a wide range of student organizations that foster belonging, leadership, and connection across diverse backgrounds and interests. You won't just study law here—you'll find your people and your path."





ACADEMICS



8

Joint Degree Programs

135+

Courses

30+

Study Abroad Partner Schools

3

Student-edited Journals

Illinois provides a flexible academic experience, allowing you to gain valuable experience in areas where we have a strong and established legacy. Illinois Law students are encouraged to explore a wide variety of legal subject areas, leading to well-rounded attorneys and counselors. You may also augment your education outside of the traditional classroom environment, in Champaign or around the globe.

Faculty & Research

Integral to the academic experience at Illinois are the great legal minds that will be shaping yours. Our faculty are acclaimed teachers, community-minded innovators, and interdisciplinary experts. They are national leaders in many areas of law, and their highly cited research is shaping the modern legal landscape.







Professor Lesley Wexler

"The moment when the lightbulb goes on: it happens at a different point in the semester for each student, but at some point they're going to start thinking about how to answer questions like a lawyer. I love being there to see it."

46%

Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty with Advanced Non-Law Degrees

#38

Scholarly Impact Ranking

(Leiter Poll, 2024)

6.2:1

Student to Teacher Ratio



Our faculty are regularly quoted by and pen op-eds for major media outlets, including CNN, NPR, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and many more.

*Visit **law.illinois.edu/news** to see the latest.*



Spotlight

Public Interest

As part of the state's land-grant university, an important aspect of our mission is to advance justice and the public good. We offer significant resources to our students that aspire to careers in the public sector, from experiential opportunities such as clinics and field placements to fellowships, scholarships, and a career counselor devoted entirely to public interest.



Eliana Finkelstein '25

"My fellowship with the Justice John Paul Stevens Foundation has enabled me to spend my 2L summer clerking at the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender. My experience working in a misdemeanor courtroom on Chicago's West Side has been phenomenal. Throughout the summer, I've been forming meaningful relationships with the attorneys and our clients, researching fascinating areas of criminal law, and developing my litigation skills. Using my 711 student practice license and under an attorney's supervision, I represented a client at trial on my own and won a not guilty verdict. Without the support of the Justice John Paul Stevens Foundation, I may not have had the ability to take on an unpaid position and would have missed this incredible opportunity."

Public Interest Clinics

- Family Advocacy Clinic
- Immigration Law Clinic
- Veterans Legal Clinic

Field Placements

- Legal Externships
- State Appellate Prosecutor

Coursework **sample listing*

- Comparative Equality Law
- Ethics, Law, and the Environment
- Climate Law & Policy
- Poverty and the Law
- Race & Policing
- Social Justice & the Supreme Court
- Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and the Law

Fellowships

To financially assist students in building careers in the public sector, the College of Law offers support to current students as well as graduates in the form of fellowships and Loan Repayment Assistance.

Learn more about these opportunities at law.illinois.edu/fellowships.

Costa Rica: An Environmental Law Laboratory

To best understand how to advance justice and public good, students should know how the law benefits the public in many places. Since 2012, the College of Law has broadened its students' horizons through the course **Costa Rica: A Case Study in Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development.** Taught by Professor Heidi Hurd in conjunction with local partners, the course exposes participants to novel legal methods employed by the Costa Rican government to reverse environmental degradation and protect natural areas.

Through the classroom portion of the course, students learn the framework of the laws that help preserve natural resources, which is reinforced through hands-on experience in Costa Rica. On the most recent trip, students spent nine days meeting politicians, touring waterways subject to new regulation, and exploring a cloud forest protected from logging interests in order to gain a deeper understanding of why environmental law solutions were necessary to protect these areas.

"What makes Costa Rica so special is that it suffered dramatic degradation in the middle of the 20th century, mass deforestation. And, finally, Costa Ricans woke up to the fact that they were imperiling the tropical treasures that made Costa Rica so special," Professor Hurd said on a recent Illinois LawCast episode. "They worked some really innovative legal changes to reverse the degradation and to motivate dramatic reforestation. And so it's a wonderful laboratory in which law students can study how legal apathy can allow degradation and how creative legal strategies can be employed to reverse degrading trends and protect natural areas."

Though the course is not offered yearly, Professor Hurd tries to schedule it in a way so that no student will go through three years at Illinois without having a chance to participate. For those who do take the opportunity, it is quite memorable.

"Those types of experiences, where you go head-on and you go into the communities and immerse yourself, was very eye-opening and unique," Sophia Abedi, a rising 3L, said on Illinois LawCast. "It's really great to read something like that, but being there in person was really transformative."

To learn more about the Costa Rica trip and how Illinois Law students gain hands-on legal knowledge, ***visit our website or listen to in-depth interviews on Illinois LawCast.***



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Professor Heidi M. Hurd

Ross and Helen Workman Chair in Law
Co-Director, Program in Law and Philosophy



Spotlight

The Chicago Program

The Chicago Program offers semester-long Chicago-based courses and events for interested third-year students. The innovative curriculum is taught by leading practitioners and College faculty, who offer real-world experience and advice to students. Being in the heart of Chicago gives students opportunities to network and attend the College's Chicago-based alumni programs. A flexible schedule also allows students to work part-time, start post-graduation jobs early, intern with firms or judges, or interview with prospective employers.

Events and lectures are open to all third-year students, offering fantastic opportunities to network with the College's more than 4,000 Chicago-based alumni. Launched in 2012, the Chicago Program is designed to enrich the College's curriculum, expand professional opportunities for students, and involve alumni and other practitioners more closely in the College's educational mission.

Hear more about what to expect in the Chicago Program at ***law.illinois.edu/chicagoprogram***





Madelyn

"From the moment I heard about the Chicago Program, I knew I had to participate. I was eager to integrate into the Chicago legal market and begin my career as soon as possible. I was able to structure my classes in a way that maximized the time I had available to work part-time. The Chicago Program was the perfect way to spend more time in the city, working, studying, and envisioning myself as a lawyer practicing in downtown Chicago, and because of it I was able to connect with a firm that will now be my first legal employer after taking the bar exam."

Madelyn Bird '26 | *Hall Prangle LLC*

Corporate Counsel Practicum

At the start of each summer, interested students have the opportunity to earn academic credit while learning in an in-house legal department via our Corporate Counsel Practicum. The course begins with an intensive one-week classroom component and culminates in a field placement at a general counsel's office. As part of their placement, students may be asked to conduct legal research, write memoranda, sit in on meetings or negotiations, and more.



Recently, the classroom component of the program has begun incorporating daylong visits to companies hosted by our alumni in general counsel positions. The 2025 cohort visited Caterpillar Inc., where they toured the factory and worked with in-house attorneys on a series of case studies focused on intellectual property, commercial litigation, and compliance issues.

Professor Nicola Sharpe

"The best learning takes place when the classroom meets the real world. The day with Caterpillar attorneys offered College of Law students exactly this type of invaluable educational opportunity. Beyond learning, we got to take a virtual ride in the Cat 797F Mining Truck, which was fantastic! The visit was the highlight of the week, and we are grateful for the experience."





DISCOVERY



10

Clinics, Field Placements, and Live Client Courses

20+

Professional Skills Courses

20

Competition Teams

(Trial, Moot Court, Negotiations, and Client Counseling)

Students and alumni frequently report that hands-on, active learning programs are among the most meaningful experiences that they have at Illinois Law. During the second and third years of law school, you'll "learn by doing" in live-client and professional skills courses, clinics, and externships. Through these formative experiences, you'll discover the type of lawyer you want to be and, ultimately, the career path you plan to pursue.

Trial Advocacy

In 2021, the trial advocacy program at Illinois benefited from the establishment of the Anderson Center for Advocacy and Professionalism and the hiring of seasoned advocacy professor Tony Ghiotto. The Center provides best-in-class training to Illinois students in a wide variety of advocacy skills as well as professional responsibility, an important aspect that sets our program apart.

65

student participants



#35 in Trial Advocacy

U.S. News, 2026



Regional Champions

National Moot Court Competition
(four consecutive years)

National Champions

Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition



8th

American Mock Trial Association
Team Power Rankings (2026-2027)

11th

Gavel Trial Rankings



Ashley Bussell '26

"As a first-generation law student, I truly appreciate the opportunity to not only advance my advocacy skills but also to consider what types of law interest me the most.... I want to use my JD to advocate for my clients, acting as a voice for those who need it most. Being part of trial team will help me gain the experience needed to achieve this goal, as well as greatly enrich my law school experience."

Spotlight

First Amendment Clinic

First Amendment Clinic students present argument before the Sixth Circuit

Tuesday, June 11, was about as perfect a day as you could ask for in Cincinnati, Ohio. There was barely a cloud in the sky and the mercury never surpassed 77 degrees. As First Amendment Clinic Director Lena Shapiro and clinicians Lilian Alexandrova ‘24 and Jonathan Resnick ‘24 approached the steps of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, however, Resnick’s brow might have been a bit dewy.

“The night before and the morning of, I was incredibly stressed and nervous, like nothing I've ever felt in my life,” Resnick said with a laugh.

His nerves were understandable, of course, as he stood before the last appellate court before the Supreme Court, ready to take part in the first arguments presented by any First Amendment Clinic students.

He, Alexandrova, and Shapiro were appearing on behalf of a group of Libertarians whose members fell out of favor with the national party and were banned from using the national organization's name and logo. The group had been restricted via an injunction from U.S. District Judge Judith E. Levy in August. It was at this point the Clinic got involved, helping appeal the decision to the Sixth Circuit in the case of Libertarian National Committee v. Saliba.

Alexandrova and Resnick were paired together for this case in fall 2023 and dove headlong into the work, finding inspiration in other classes and drawing upon their whole experience at the College of Law to create a strong argument for their clients. Close to the deadline for the brief, the clinicians, along with Shapiro and co-counsel, C. Nicholas Curcio of the Curcio Law Firm, went through an estimated eight or nine revisions over the course of several weeks, sacrificing free time and working late. The experience was nearly overwhelming, but the pair agreed it was among the most consequential aspects of their legal education.

“I honestly think it's the most valuable thing I did in law school,” Alexandrova said.

“I think this type of experience is almost necessary,” Resnick agreed.

Brief writing was just a part of the experience, however, and the immensity of it did not scare the students away from signing up for another semester. To prepare for oral arguments in spring, College of Law professors put Alexandrova and Resnick through a litany of moot court sessions. With help from fellow students Christian Hallerud ’24 and Diana Sweeney ’24, the duo created arguments to present before the likes of Rummana Alam, Vikram Amar, Sean Anderson, Jim Fessler, Eric Johnson, Andrew Leipold, and Jason Mazzone. Despite the challenge—particularly from Amar and Mazzone, Resnick noted—the young attorneys felt much better prepared as a result.

“They were pretty intense. They didn't hold back. They would interrupt you nonstop,” Alexandrova recounted. “I think that helped make me a better advocate for sure. I learned how to think on my feet a lot more than I ever have before. I personally, I have six years of mock trial experience, so I'm used to responding to evidentiary objections on the spot, but when it's about the law and your entire argument, I think that's a little bit harder.”

Although the anxiety was real as they entered the courtroom in June, their preparation and the presence of Shapiro at their side helped to settle

their nerves. As the last case on the day's schedule, the experience of watching other arguments—including arguments from University of Michigan law students—calmed them further.

When Libertarian National Committee v. Saliba was brought before the judges, Alexandrova delivered the argument while Resnick and Shapiro took notes and helped organize their rebuttal, which Resnick delivered. Their line of reasoning, that the case is fundamentally about the right to dissent and how not overturning or vacating the preliminary injunction would have a chilling effect on free speech, drew kind words from the judges hearing the case.

Shapiro had nothing but praise for her students as well.

"I'm extraordinarily proud," she said. "They were very diligent. They took this very seriously, and they gave up time during their bar prep study in the summer to do this…. They worked great as a team. It was a pleasure to have them both semesters and into the summer. I would just really commend their hard work and their persistence to get better and advocate on behalf of our clients."

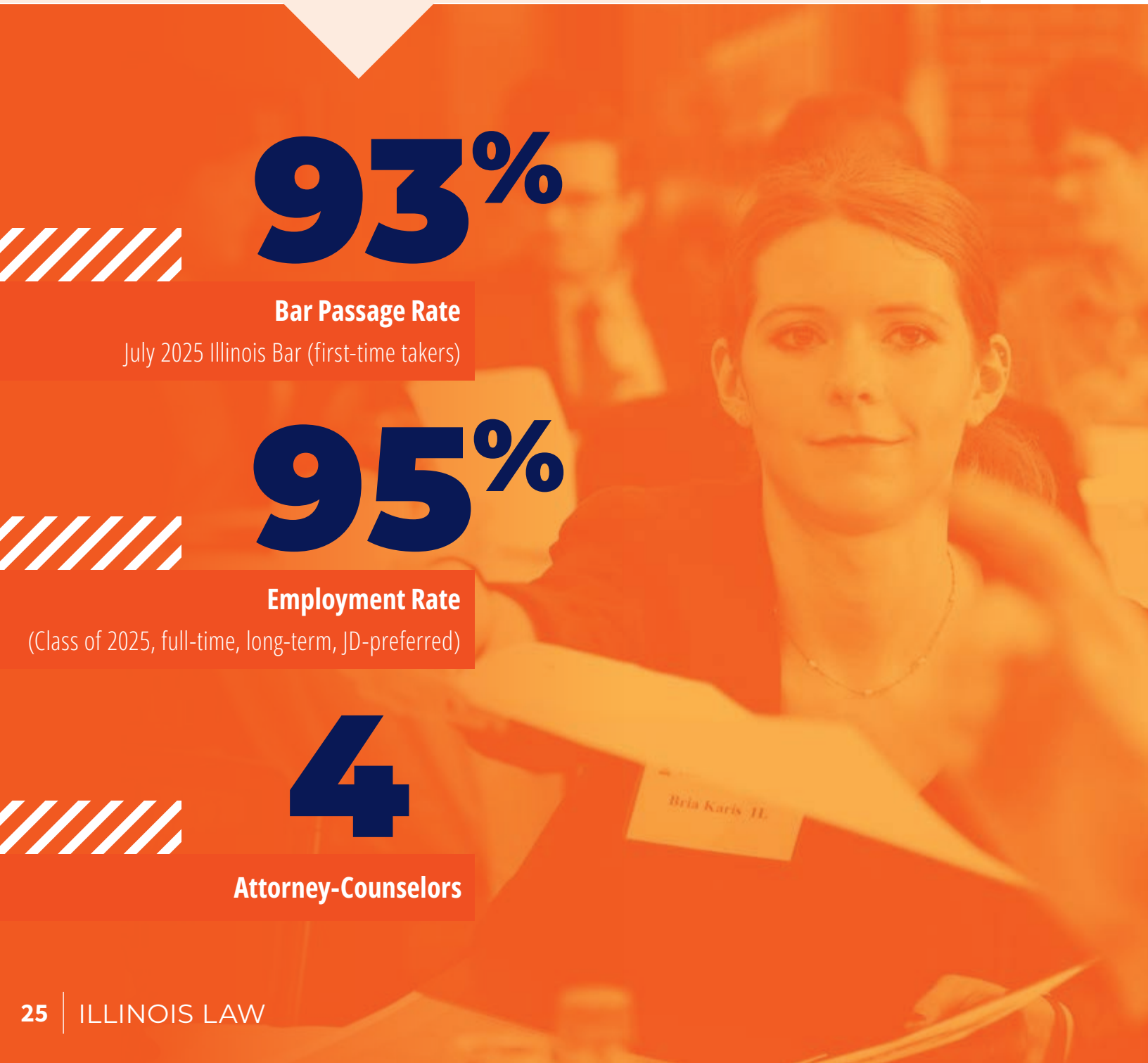
Though they must wait on a decision, the experience itself has been something both clinicians reflected fondly upon as they studied for the bar and prepared for careers in litigation.

"When we were in the Sixth Circuit in Ohio, I felt like there was a reason we were doing this kind of work," Alexandrova said. "And when you really think about it, if the Clinic didn't take the case, I think effectively our clients would have been silenced. So, on a big-picture level, I think what we did was important."



Career Planning and Professional Development

The Office of Career Planning and Professional Development prepares students to succeed in a competitive legal marketplace by providing them with ready access to the Chicago market and other major markets, a strong alumni network, practical skills training, alternative avenues to begin their careers, and individualized support.



93%

Bar Passage Rate

July 2025 Illinois Bar (first-time takers)

95%

Employment Rate

(Class of 2025, full-time, long-term, JD-preferred)

4

Attorney-Counselors



Liam Davis ’28

"If you're looking to network, the Career Services Center is so helpful. They keep running lists of where all our alumni end up, and so if you go to them and say, ‘Hey, I want to practice real estate law in Florida,’ they can find someone for you who's willing to help, who's a fellow Illini. Having those great resources, having someone who's pushing you to keep looking for things, who's giving you advice on who you should talk to, on where you should apply, it really does go way further than you ever could on your own towards getting the opportunities you want."

Blessing Agyare ’28

"The Career Center has been so amazing...just helping me to practice mock interviews and all those things. And I think especially for us—our class had it a little bit different because the recruiting timeline has come earlier. So we were not only applying for 1L positions, but also 2L positions as well. It was kind of hard, but I think that the Career Center is really supportive. The biggest thing for me, I think, is networking is really important and it'll get you opportunities that like you could not get by yourself, especially with U of I alumni."



Hear more about Liam and Blessing's experiences on the Illinois Lawcast at ***rss.com/podcasts/illinois-lawcast/***

Preparing for Practice

Externships

Through the Legal Externship Program, students can volunteer their time to perform legal work for pre-approved sponsors (judges, government agencies, and non-profits) and obtain course credit. Externships are composed of the field placement (work experience) and coursework. This arrangement provides students with a substantial experience similar to a lawyer engaged in legal practice. The opportunity to work with practicing attorneys outside of the classroom environment helps students connect what they are learning with their future careers.

Clerkships

Each year, a portion of our graduates land the most coveted of positions coming out of law school: judicial clerkships. Clerks are selected to work with an entire court or an individual judge. The clerk assists the judge with legal research, analysis of the law, and drafting of legal memoranda, including judicial opinions. Judicial clerkships are highly prestigious and highly competitive appointments and provide many clerks with a competitive edge in post-clerkship employment in both the public and private sectors.

Sarah Shamsi ’25

Extern for Department of Law, City of Chicago



"I think this is one of the best experiences I've ever had, and I truly, truly mean that. The city's summer law clerk program was really eye-opening and informative. They took us on a bunch of different excursions just to show us how the city works, what other departments there are, how it all fits, how different lawyers are involved there, but also just to show us how such a big city functions."

Cree Medley ’25

Illinois Appellate Court, First District



"I was inspired to pursue a clerkship because of the opportunity it provides to learn about a variety of legal areas and receive mentorship from a judge. The connections I made at Illinois Law—especially through the Black Law Student Association (BLSA)—were crucial for helping me identify clerkship opportunities and connect with judicial clerks who were a source of support and guidance when applying to various clerkship opportunities. Illinois also provided me with opportunities like Moot Court that helped strengthen my writing and research skills, which have been crucial in my role as a judicial clerk."

Jurist in Residence

Inaugurated in 2025, the Jurist in Residence program brings a member of the judicial branch to campus to teach a class, work with faculty, and be a resource to students. In 2026, we were fortunate to welcome Judge Candace Jackson-Akiwumi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. One of only two law schools in the state to formalize the program, we pursued this initiative to deepen connections to the bench, inspire students to pursue judicial clerkships, and provide opportunities to learn from leading legal minds. While in residence, Judge Jackson-Akiwumi met with student groups, sat on a careers panel, taught a class, and collaborated with faculty. We look forward to hosting many more state and federal judges in the future of this program as we continue to expose our students to the cutting edge of legal issues and developments.







COMMUNITY



Champaign-Urbana is a "micro-urban" community unlike other Midwestern cities. With a vibrant arts and culture scene, diverse population, multidisciplinary research and technology enterprises, highly rated restaurants, and affordable cost of living, it is an ideal place to live, study, and work.

We embrace not only where we are, but who we are—a diverse population of students, faculty, staff, and alumni that make Illinois Law such a dynamic and energizing place to find yourself.

Our Students

At Illinois, you can pursue your interests and create lasting relationships among our smart, driven, and passionate student body. Complementing the breadth of courses and practical training is an array of opportunities for active engagement outside the classroom.

College-sponsored student trips

Bona Fide ILLINI



Iyana Alleyne ’25

“Illinois is kind of the perfect place to be. I had never been to the Midwest or lived in the Midwest—I’m from a super small island—but I still found a way to make this place home. And it's very easy to do that because there are things for everyone, both at the law school and in Urbana-Champaign more broadly.”

30+
Student Organizations

100+
Lectures and events per year



Genaro Mauricio '26

"At Illinois, you meet attorneys who are practicing in different fields and you get a better understanding of their day-to-day lives, the work that they do, and what they see as the benefit of that work. There are people, professors, and events at Illinois that will inevitably shape the direction you're meant to go."



Jessica Bury '26

"I feel like being here at the College of Law, it's very hard to have bad weeks because there's always going to be something in place to help support you. Illinois has really built my confidence in the path that I'm taking, because there's been a lot of options and, in picking them, I've been able to really clearly cultivate my future in that way."

Our Alumni Network

Illinois Law alumni are everywhere important things are happening. You can find Illini at leading international law firms; founding cutting-edge boutiques; serving as CEOs, CFOs, and in-house counsel at Fortune 500 companies; in public service as federal and state judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. Our alumni are not only accomplished, but also incredibly loyal and willing to mentor, teach, hire, and support our students.



Natali Thomas, '14
Partner, Walker Allen LLP



Amy Timm, '13
Deputy General Counsel, Chicago Cubs



Amber Porter, '14
Section Chief, DEA



Lazaro Aguiar, '21
Attorney, Husch Blackwell



DeMario Carswell, '11
Senior Associate, Goodwin Procter LLP



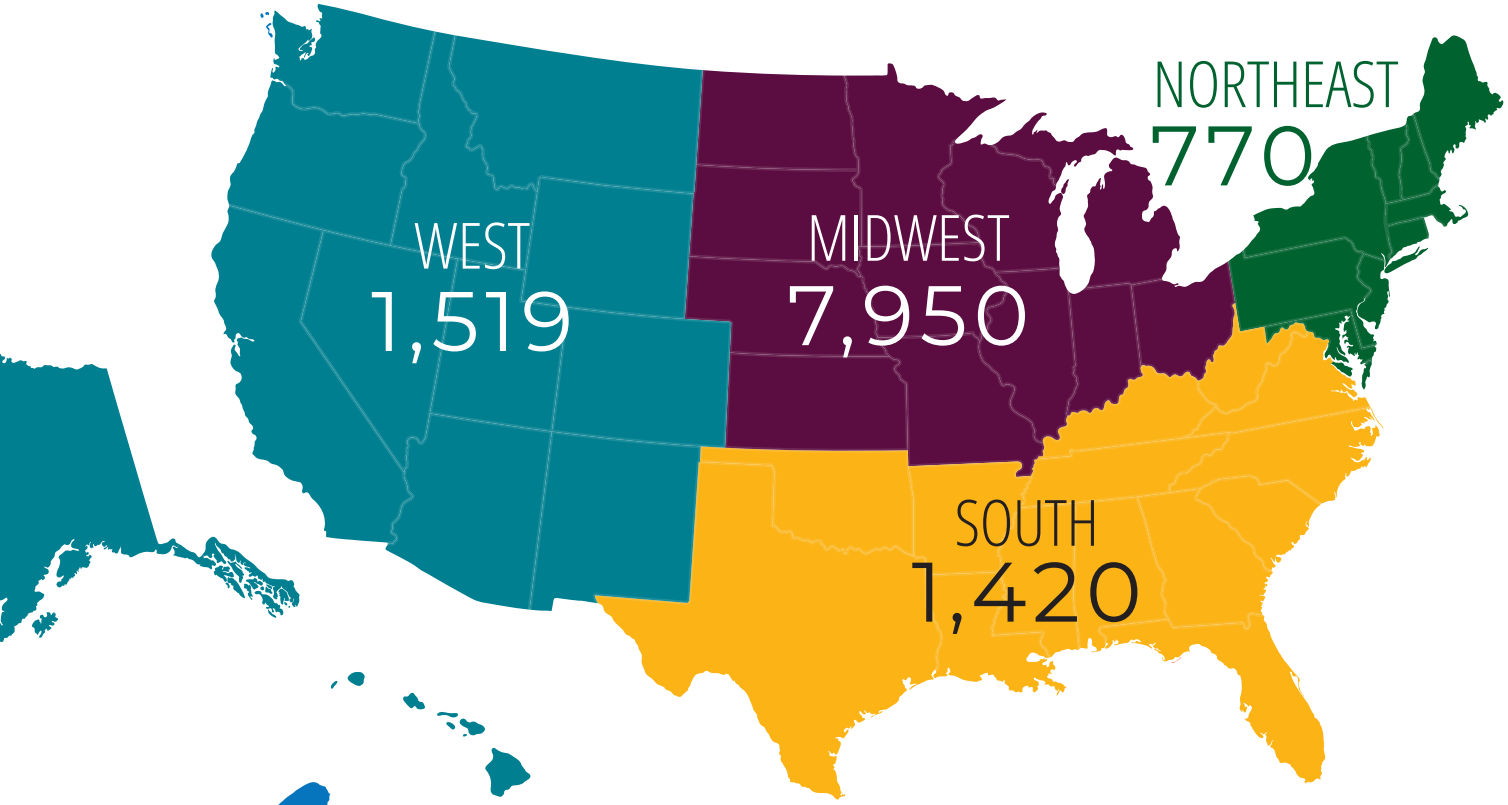
Rayna Gokli, '09
District Court Judge, 17th Judicial District, Colorado



Dania Duncan Moreno LLM '07
Partner, Bell Nunnally



Michael Rowles, '92
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Live Nation Entertainment, Inc.



11,659+ US Alumni

"Nearly every position that I have held has been through an Illinois Law connection. Additionally, when I moved from Illinois to South Carolina, I was able to connect with a classmate here who provided invaluable insight about the local firms which allowed me to confidently join Walker Allen LLP as a Partner. Illinois Law provides an excellent legal education and the network to cultivate your career."

Natali Thomas *Partner, Walker Allen LLP*



The Campus

Campus is more than just a place to learn, it's everything you want and need at your fingertips. You can break a sweat a few steps from the Law Building at the Activities & Recreation Center or stroll through the 160 acres of natural beauty in the UI Arboretum. Take in a world-class performance at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts or see an elite athlete compete on one of the University's 21 varsity teams. Find amazing sushi or a new sweatshirt (or both) on Green Street.





Take a break
At the Law Building

When you need a caffeine boost to help you study or just a place to sit and relax with a nice drink, **Sinclaire's Coffee in the Law Building** is just right. Offering fair trade-certified coffee and tea, as well as a variety of pastries and snacks, Sinclaire's is a great place to work, catch up with friends, or just pass the time between classes.

More
Student Favorites

Madelyn Foster

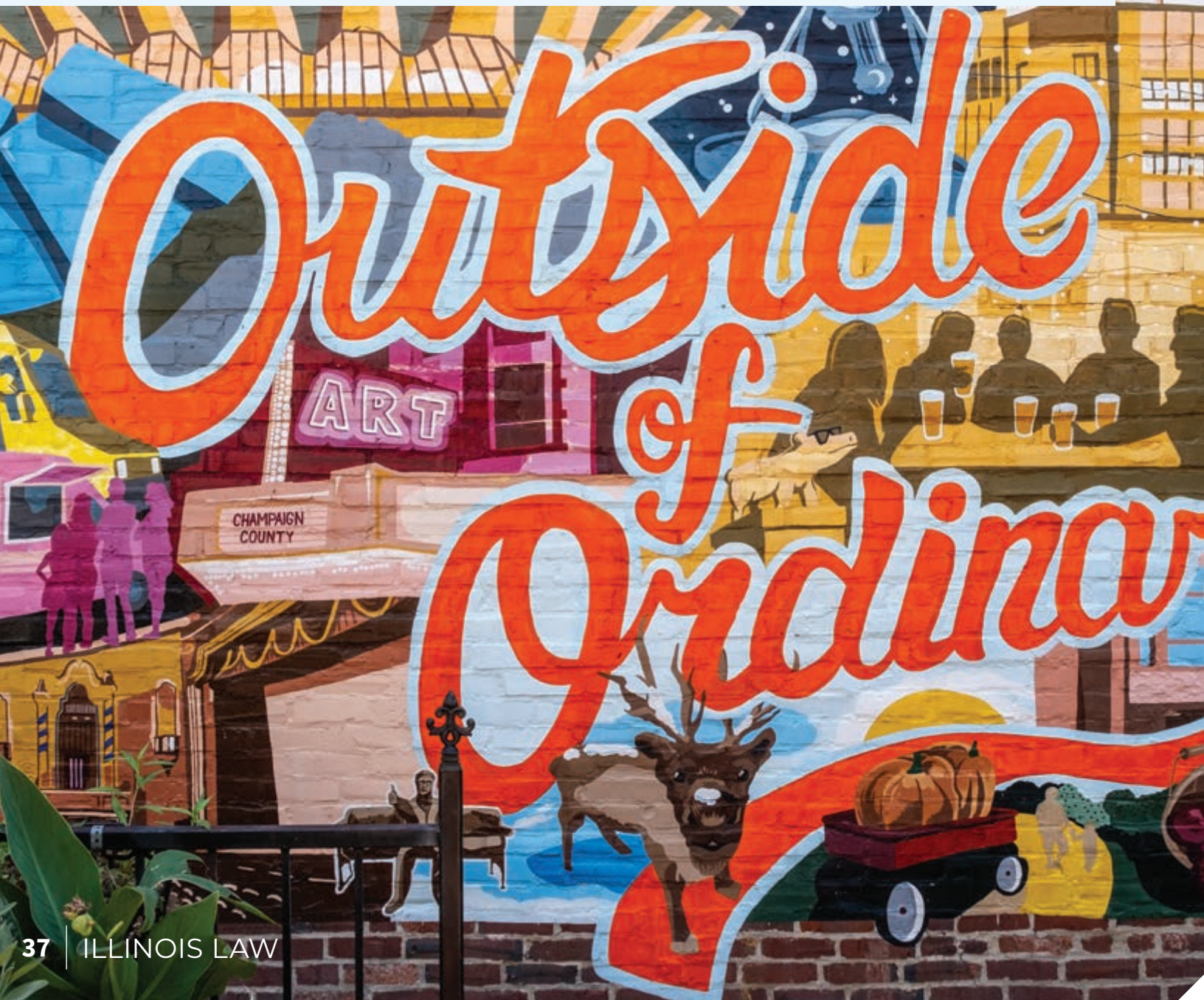
"Hit the Quad. Truly nothing better. Take some friends and a football, some snacks and a book, or just sit and enjoy the weather!"

Sarah Shamsi

"Caffe Paradiso is a great place if you like studying in a coffee shop! They have a wonderful variety of coffees and some great seasonal drinks."

Champaign-Urbana

Our micro-urban community offers a little bit of everything. Over 1,200 acres of parks and five forest preserves mean you're never far from nature; boutiques in every neighborhood means you can shop local to decorate, entertain, and style; more than a dozen venues hosting artists means you can catch live music every day; and countless restaurants, breweries, and food trucks means you can eat a different cuisine for every meal. If that's not enough, being located at the crossroads of three interstates means you're only a short drive from Chicago, Indianapolis, and St. Louis, putting Champaign-Urbana at the center of everything.





Community Highlights

Greatest Food Town
Midwest Living

#13
U.S. College town
Best College Reviews

Perfect score on LGBTQ Policies and Services
Municipality Equality Index

#6
College Towns for Students on a Budget
The New York Times

2026 Best Places to Live in the U.S.
Livability

#17
percent of workforce engaged in knowledge, professional and creative occupations
Heartland Forward



JOIN US

Tuition and Aid

Law school is a significant investment in your professional future. As a public law school on a land-grant university campus, the College of Law is committed to educational accessibility, affordability, and strong return on investment. With a frozen tuition rate and unconditional scholarships, incoming students can be confident in knowing the cost of their legal education.

- All admitted students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships.
- Our Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) offers partial loan forgiveness and enables graduates to pursue public interest careers.
- Federal loans are available through the University of Illinois.

Cost of Attendance

(Expenses for Academic Year 2026-2027)

	Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition	$36,500	$46,500
Fees*	$5,793	$5,793
Room and Board	$16,512	$16,512
Books and Supplies	$1,800	$1,800
Other Expenses	$2,750	$3,090
TOTAL	**$63,355**	**$73,695**

***Fees include $2,250 student insurance fee, for which you can submit a waiver by providing proof of a comparable plan.**

Apply

Free application; *no fee waiver required!*

Admissions Timeline

September 1	Applications for the following fall are accepted.
January	Applicants seeking admission for the following fall are encouraged to take the LSAT no later than this month.
March 15	Preferred deadline for applicants. Applications will be accepted after this date, however decisions will be released as we are able.
April 2	Admitted Student Open House (in person)
April 16	Admitted Student Open House (virtual)
April 19	First Deposit Due
May 24	Second Deposit Due

Application Requirements

The College of Law will only accept applications submitted through the LSAC Electronic Application. Applications must include:

- Complete academic history
- Law school admission test (LSAT, GRE, or JD-Next)
- Resume
- Letters of recommendation (two are required, will accept up to four)
- Personal statement

Illinois will accept a JD-Next admissions test score. Prospective law students may opt to participate in JD-Next and use their score to apply to law schools, as an alternative to the LSAT. Participants complete an eight-week online contracts course that culminates in a law school-style exam.

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction.

Learn more and apply:
law.illinois.edu/apply

Class of 2029 Profile

*As of the first day of class

192 Matriculants

24 Average Age

49% MALE

46% FEMALE

5% UNDISCLOSED

19% First Generation Students

43% Illinois Residents

25 States & DC, 9 Countries Represented

Median LSAT **168**

25th 164 75th 170

Median GPA **3.85**

25th 3.55 75th 3.94

107 Institutions Represented

68% Bring Work Experience

50 Majors

93% PASSAGE RATE

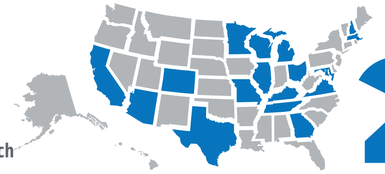
for July 2025 Illinois Bar (first-time takers)

80%

Over 80% of our student body receives a scholarship from the College of Law

95% EMPLOYMENT RATE

Full-time, Long-term employment for which a JD was required or preferred. (Class of 2025)



23%

23% of those employed from the Class of 2025 accepted positions outside of Illinois in 16 states, D.C., and 3 countries. After Illinois, the largest employment states were California and Missouri.

70% LAW FIRMS

15% GOVT/PUBLIC INTEREST

8.2% JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

3.4% BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

3.4% EDUCATION

Illinois Law at a Glance

500 Total JD Enrollment

38% Minority

6.2:1 Student Faculty

8 Joint Degree Programs

135+ Offered Courses

10 Clinics, field placements, and other live client courses



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2026 – 2027