

EXPERIENCE

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100+

REASONS YOU BELONG



1 COMMU



N

Michigan has long been known as a different kind of law school, where high-achieving students treat each other with kindness. That might mean small gestures, as when one student made surprise cookie deliveries to random classmates and others organized a Nutrition Nook with healthy snacks and quick meals for students to grab while studying. It also means that students are quick to band together, whether volunteering to share outlines when their peers miss class, coordinating airport pickups at odd hours, or selling outrageous numbers of home-baked cupcakes in support of Ukrainian children. Your classmates will have your back and will inspire you to do the same.

2 STUDENTS FIRST

From its assistant dean (an alumnus and former Big Law hiring partner) to its public interest director (an alumna who previously prosecuted civil rights cases for the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York) to its 14-strong staff, the Office of Career Planning is built to help students learn about and explore the enormous variety of opportunities available to Michigan Law students and then help them get there. Ten attorney-counselors with more than 90 years of combined legal practice experience (including attorney-counselors solely focused on public interest and clerkship advising), broad expertise, and loads of events and training mean we will help you find the path that fulfills you as a lawyer and a person.

3 GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

Our students come from every continent. We even got an Antarctic to enroll. (Well, sort of. She had worked there, at any rate.) And our graduating students get jobs on every continent, too. Even Antarctica. (Okay, technically he works in Washington, DC, but since his work took him to Antarctica, we're counting it.)

4 SERENITY. NOW!

Visit the serene landscapes of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Walk the wooded and riverside trails at Nichols Arboretum (more commonly known as The Arb). Or just stroll the many tree-lined streets. Breathe a little easier, think a lot more clearly.





⁵ CLINICS

Want to navigate emerging legal challenges related to AI (#90)? Free the wrongfully convicted (#21)? Work on international business deals (#30)? Assist veterans who face legal barriers to basic needs (#59)? With 17 clinics to choose among, you can do all that and more (#46)...we guarantee it. (Literally.) And you can do it earlier at Michigan Law because Michigan is one of the few states that allows second-year law students to represent clients in court. We even offer a special IL clinic where students work on cases in administrative courts. All in all, our clinics offer hands-on training that provides a distinct advantage when it comes time to shine in your first law job.



6

GLASS COMIC STRIPS

Because everybody should go to a law school where ambulance chasing is explicitly condemned in leaded glass. Or where the concept of “mayhem” is illustrated by what appears to be a clear-cut case of roughing a U-M kicker.

7

LIGHTS, CAMERA . . .

When we say you can go anywhere and do anything with a degree from Michigan Law, we mean it. Case in point: Kyle Fraser, '21, a Big Law associate and the winner of *Survivor 48*. Don't worry: Law school is not as physically rigorous as a competition in the jungle, and while the tagline “outwit, outplay, outlast” makes for compelling reality television, we assure you that there are no tribal councils here—you won't be voted off our “island.”

8

PLUS FACTOR

Roughly one-quarter of law students take at least one class outside the Law School under our policy that allows up to 12 credits of outside graduate work to apply toward one's JD. Some titles that grabbed our attention: Legal Issues in the Arts; Leading Inclusive Organizations; Race, Difference & Social Justice; Music Industry Workshop; Bargaining & Influence Skills; Ethics and Information Technology; Land Use Planning; and Venture Capital Finance. With 110 top 10 graduate programs housed in one of the world's leading research universities, your interdisciplinary curricular choices are unparalleled.



9 SLAUGHTERMELON

In classes taught by Professor Len Niehoff, '84, learning is an active process—and a messy one. In his Evidence course, he shows his students the power—and troublesome nature—of demonstrative exhibits by bringing a knife and a human-head-sized watermelon to class. He stabs the melon with the knife slowly and dramatically. One, two, three, four, five. Ouch.

Step into the Law School's iconic Reading Room and feel the weight of history settle around you—the grandeur of the physical space, with its arched ceilings and soaring windows, has inspired generations of our students with a reverence for the law.



A2 B2B

Bikes are everywhere in Ann Arbor; from the University's Diag in the heart of Central Campus to the dedicated bike lanes through downtown. But if you really want to ride, pedal on outta town and enjoy the 35-mile Border to Border Trail, which traverses all of Washtenaw County through a patchwork of parks.







12

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Part of what makes Ann Arbor a certifiably great place to live (#16) is the beauty and recreational opportunities afforded by the Huron River. Rent a canoe, kayak, or tube for a leisurely paddle or float up to nearly six miles. Fancy some whitewater? Splash your way through the Argo Cascades, the perfect way to cool off after your run or bike ride on the Border to Border Trail (#11).

13 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

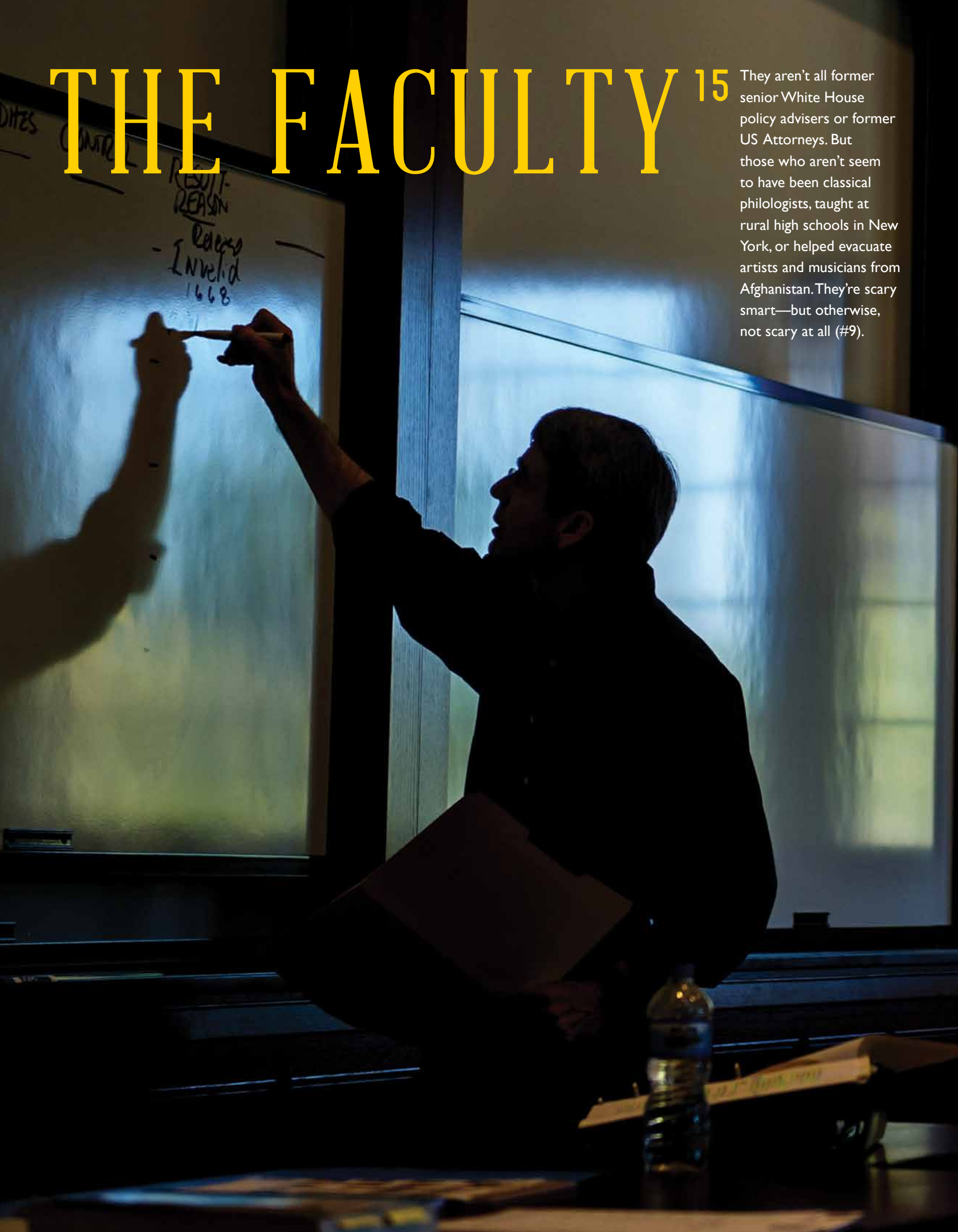
Two decades ago, we fought all the way to the Supreme Court to keep Michigan Law a diverse community. But we recognize that there is always work still to be done. Dig into racial justice problems and work toward solutions through the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative, a slew of pro bono activities, and the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*, or pursue interdisciplinary research through the Program in Race, Law, and History.

14

DEBT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Following the career of your choice shouldn't be all about the money. With Michigan Law's generous Debt Management Program, it isn't. We've been committed to supporting our public interest students and ameliorating their debt for many, many years—back to 1987, in fact. Recently revised to account for changes in the federal funding landscape, this multimillion-dollar program continues to provide generous support and to have our graduates' backs.

THE FACULTY¹⁵

A man in silhouette is standing in a dimly lit room, writing on a large whiteboard. He is holding a marker in his right hand and a folder or book in his left. The whiteboard has some handwritten text on it, including "RESULT-REASON" and "Invalid 1668". The room is dark, with light coming from a window or screen in the background, creating a strong silhouette effect. The overall mood is intellectual and focused.

They aren't all former senior White House policy advisers or former US Attorneys. But those who aren't seem to have been classical philologists, taught at rural high schools in New York, or helped evacuate artists and musicians from Afghanistan. They're scary smart—but otherwise, not scary at all (#9).



16 ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor is a tree-lined enclave full of cultural offerings that top those of many larger cities. Don't just take our word for it; in recent years, magazines and websites that rank such things consistently put Ann Arbor near the top of their lists, including Best Cities to Live in America, Most Innovative Cities in the US, Best Towns for Young Singles, America's Happiest Cities, Most Educated City in America, Best Cities for Families, and Best Midwest Food Town. The city's 123,000 residents enjoy 163 municipal parks and more than 1.45 million trees alongside world-class museums (#54) and music (#101) that you can enjoy with top-notch local coffee (#57) and craft beer (#18), making Ann Arbor an eminently livable city that is a great choice for your three-year home.

17 PROFS...THEY'RE PEOPLE, TOO!

Each year, the winners of the annual student-nominated awards for teaching excellence deliver Blue Jeans Lectures (a nod to the days when jackets and ties were de rigueur professorial attire). In these popular talks, they share life lessons ranging from overcoming impostor syndrome to learning to be empathetic.

18 BATTLE OF THE BREWS

Craft beer is a very serious business in Michigan, and locals love to debate which Mitten State brewery reigns supreme. (Bell's in Kalamazoo and Founders in Grand Rapids are now known nationally, but the state is riddled with quality craft breweries.) If you want to enjoy a drink downtown, Jolly Pumpkin specializes in sour beers, which you can sip on its rooftop. Many Ann Arborites mark their calendars for when Bill's Beer Garden opens for the season, but the Grotto's patio gives Bill's a run for its money. Conveniently, both watering holes are kitty corner from each other and a stone's throw from Grizzly Peak. Want more of a taproom feel? Check out Mothfire, HOMES, or the aptly-named-for-law-students newcomer, hearsay brewing.

19 FISKE FELLOWSHIPS

Bob Fiske, '55, decided a long time ago that public service and private practice weren't mutually exclusive. Fiske managed a distinguished career as senior counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell and US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, with a stint as independent counsel on the Whitewater investigation in the early 1990s. So naturally, the Michigan Law fellowships he founded in 2001 support public service. Fiske died in December 2025, but his legacy lives on: Each year, four graduates receive undergraduate and law-school student debt repayment assistance for three years, as well as a first-year stipend.

20

JDs IN THE D

When Detroit underwent the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history just over a decade ago, the emergency manager, the bankruptcy judge, and the mayor and one of his senior advisers were Michigan Law graduates. Today, myriad alumni are part of Detroit's extraordinary revival, as are our faculty and students. Our Zell Entrepreneurship (#46) and Community Enterprise clinics work hand in hand with Detroit businesses and startups. In addition, students offer workshops to Detroit small business owners on legal issues such as commercial leasing and starting and running a small business. You don't have to go far from Ann Arbor to find big-city challenges—and successes.

EXPERIENCE THE HARD WORK OF FREEING THE INNOCENT

21

Most innocence projects use DNA to drive the exoneration of people convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Well, what can we say? We prefer to do things the hard way. When Michigan Law's Innocence Clinic launched in 2009, its founders deliberately sought cases without cut-and-dried DNA evidence exonerating those they sought to help. They looked for innocent people whose convictions were undergirded by dubious or outdated science, or by tenuous witness identifications, or by recanted testimony. Since then they've successfully won relief in 49 cases, including for Jeff Titus, who was featured on the true crime docuseries *Killer in Question* and the *Undisclosed* podcast, and George Calicut (pictured below). Calicut's legal team included Ruben Piñuelas, '26 (pictured next to Calicut), who is also an exoneree; before studying at Michigan Law, Piñuelas successfully argued his own appeal while in solitary confinement in California. Altogether, those freed by the Michigan Innocence Clinic served approximately 743 years behind bars for crimes they didn't commit. Our clinic's time is well spent serving those who shouldn't be serving time.



22 TAXING MATTERS

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Here, you can study both: Take a seminar called Life, Death, Love, and the Law, then pick the brains of the world's foremost tax law experts, like Professor Kyle Logue (who also was associate reporter for the landmark *Restatement of the Law of Liability Insurance*), Professor Reuven Avi-Yonah (author of *International Tax as International Law* and *Global Perspectives on Income Taxation Law*), Professor Ed Fox (an expert on the tax implications of marriage), and Professor James Hines Jr. (a founder of academic research into corporate-focused tax havens).





23 THE LAW QUAD

Fling a Frisbee or fire a football out on the grass of this patch of pastoral peace at the heart of the University, surrounded by the buildings of what is generally acknowledged to be the most beautiful law school in the country.



24 DESIGN YOUR LIFE

Spend a semester with Professors Bridgette Carr, '02, and Vivek Sankaran, '01, using problem-solving skills to define the life you want after law school. In *Designing a Fulfilling Life in the Law*, you'll learn how to use design-thinking skills to tackle the vexing question of how to craft the life and vocation you seek. You'll reflect on your values about work and life, brainstorm possibilities for future paths, prototype ways to engage with your interests outside of your career, and develop a vision for your future.



25 GAME ON!

If you need a break from legal research, hit up an entirely different sort of library than the Reading Room: Through U-M's Computer and Video Game Archive, delve into an extensive collection of video games, consoles, and more, from the 1970s to today. Want to do some gaming IRL? Take a break in the game room across the hall from the Lower Commons (#35) while enjoying billiards, foosball, and board games.



26 ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET

27

EXTERNSHIPS

See the world—and the law—with new eyes. Earn a full semester's worth of credits by doing an externship during the winter term with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the World Intellectual Property Organization, or more than 20 other intergovernmental or nongovernmental organizations in Geneva. Chocolate and fine watches not your thing? Similar opportunities are available in South Africa, in India, and at London's AIRE Centre, a nonprofit specializing in helping marginalized people under European law. You also can arrange your own externship, domestically or abroad. Recent placements range from Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York to the Environmental Defence Society in Auckland, New Zealand.

It's a 20-minute walk from the Law School to Kerrytown, a brick-streeted pocket of Ann Arbor that's home to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. The gathering place for more than 130 local businesses, the producer-only market operates year-round to offer native plants, artisanal yogurt, cheese and baked goods, fresh-picked vegetables, slow-roasted coffee beans, fermented sauerkraut and Sriracha, cut flowers, hardwood cutting boards and planters, premier fruits and nuts, maple syrup, and so much more.



28

YOUR COMMUNITY

WANTS

YOU TO SUCCEED

To whomever gets this room next,

Hello! If you're a 1L who just chose this room for some reason, ignore this—you know the deal. If you're an incoming 1L, welcome! This will be the best, most challenging academic experience of your life. Here are some things I wish I'd known.

- 1) Maintain perspective — you're at Michigan Law School, everything is going to be okay.
- 2) Take time for yourself — studying is inefficient if your mind isn't rested enough to process information.
- 3) Don't screw over other people to get ahead; connections are just as important, if not more, than grades.
- 4) Don't underestimate the value in commiseration.
- 5) Go to office hours! Some of my best moments of lightbulb-esque understanding were from office hours.
- 6) Be confident in yourself; you belong here. Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

I hope this is marginally helpful and/or comforting. Embrace your time here, learn to accept uncertainty, and learn lots. In the end, you be glad you did.

All the best,
A rising 2L who loved this room & loves this place. —JCI

A few years ago, our cleaning crew found a handwritten note in the desk of a room in the Lawyers Club. It was encouragement and advice from the graduating occupant of the room to whoever would occupy it next. Two of our favorites: "Don't screw over other people to get ahead; connections are just as important, if not more important, than grades" and "Maintain perspective. You're at Michigan Law. Everything is going to be okay."



29

EMPIRICAL EXPERTISE

Looking for faculty who are driven by data and good with numbers? Look no further than Professors JJ. Prescott, Ed Fox, Roseanna Sommers, Jim Hines, Vic Khanna, Margo Schlanger, and Adam Pritchard. Their latest groundbreaking research ranges from the effects of taxation on marriage to making the case for expunging criminal records.

30

CORPORATE CLOUT

With more than 60 courses, our corporate and finance law offerings are comprehensive, and we will help you hone your skills in classes such as Enterprise Organization, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Startup Law and Business. Classroom learning is complemented by transactional practice in our Zell Entrepreneurship (#46), Community Enterprise, and International Transactions clinics, where you can represent businesses large and small, close to home and abroad.

31

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

The Law School's Pro Bono Pledge is a voluntary program that encourages all students to donate 50 hours of free legal work during their three years here. In each of the past four years, an average of 200 students have participated, generating more than 7,000 hours of free legal work annually that benefits people who need the legal help but otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. That's a lot of pro bono publico.

32

LUNCH TALKS

Knowledge, with a savory twist. Lunch talks may be one of the most underrated aspects of a Michigan Law education. Whether you want to hear from a prominent judge, an environmental law advocate, a hiring partner, or any number of widely known experts in other areas of the law, lunch talks are the way to do it. (Oh, and those lunches? There's almost always something to eat for free from A2's many amazing eateries, like #61 and #91.)

M FOR ALL

33

We revel in the thought of powerhouse professors Barb McQuade, '91, (left) and Eve Brensike Primus, '01, squaring off in the courtroom, but here at Michigan Law they work together to teach students the full range of criminal law practice, from prosecution to defense. Professor Brensike Primus, a former public defender, created MDefenders to support students who are interested in doing public defender work. Student-facilitated talks focus on race in the criminal justice system, how to handle crushing caseloads, advocacy training, and more. For students who hope to become prosecutors or government litigators, Professor McQuade, the former US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, is here to offer her wise counsel and support.



34 THERE'S EVEN A CLOISTER

You don't have to be a monk to get an inkling of what it feels like to live in a monastery. Well, minus the vows of silence and the hair shirts. Our Law Quad is universally acclaimed as one of the most beautiful law campuses in the world, but students who live in the Lawyers Club have a different phrase for it. They call it their backyard (#23).





M
LAW

WELCOME



35

AIKENS COMMONS

Well, this is no place for Midwestern modesty. When Michigan Law decided to bring a little of the outdoors inside several years ago, it aimed to turn a disused courtyard into the crossroads of the Law School. The Commons is simply magnificent, from its dramatic, arched glass roof to its sculpted, tree-like supporting beams. Students and faculty stop in for a cup of coffee or a quick breakfast sammie at the Kirkland & Ellis Café—try the bagel, egg, and cheese!—while passing between the equally magnificent Reading Room (#10) and the classrooms in Hutchins Hall. Walk downstairs and crack a book in the Lower Commons (fondly known as LoCo)—which, while quieter, will still most likely house at least a handful of friends and classmates at any given moment. Or pop into the elegant, glassed-in media room to watch the football team's latest battle or your favorite reality show. Whether you're looking to bump into someone for a chat or to cram for class, we have just what you need.



37

OUTLAWS

We're not talking Billy the Kid. Michigan Law's LGBTQ+ student group turned 45 recently and shows no signs of slowing down. Group members plan educational programs, host social events, and organize unique pro bono opportunities. And don't miss the annual Kevin E. Kennedy Fellowship Gala (a.k.a. "Gayla"), where students reconnect with alumni members and come together in support of the OUTlaws' Public Service Fellowship. Gayla joins Alt Prom, once described by OUTlaws organizers as "an inclusive dance party celebrating our organization, the Law School, and America." Hats off for helping to keep Michigan Law a welcoming place for everyone.

36 WELLNESS MATTERS

We take that seriously. Mental health concerns are pervasive in the legal profession, and maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle is important. We've joined the American Bar Association's Well-Being Pledge and Campaign, and we offer wellness programming throughout the academic year that ranges from panel discussions to drop-in resource fairs to social gatherings. We also have an embedded professional psychologist who offers individual counseling for a wide range of personal and interpersonal concerns as well as for problem-solving and referral to other campus organizations.





38 JD VS. MBA

Make no mistake, we are big fans of dual degrees (#103). But we also love it when the degrees duel. Over the years, a heated intramural sports rivalry has developed with graduate students in U-M's Ross School of Business. You might not be elite enough to win a natty (#83) or need help inking your NIL deal (#46), but you can still feel the thrill of victory on our team. Or cheer raucously from the stands. We always love raucous cheering from the stands.

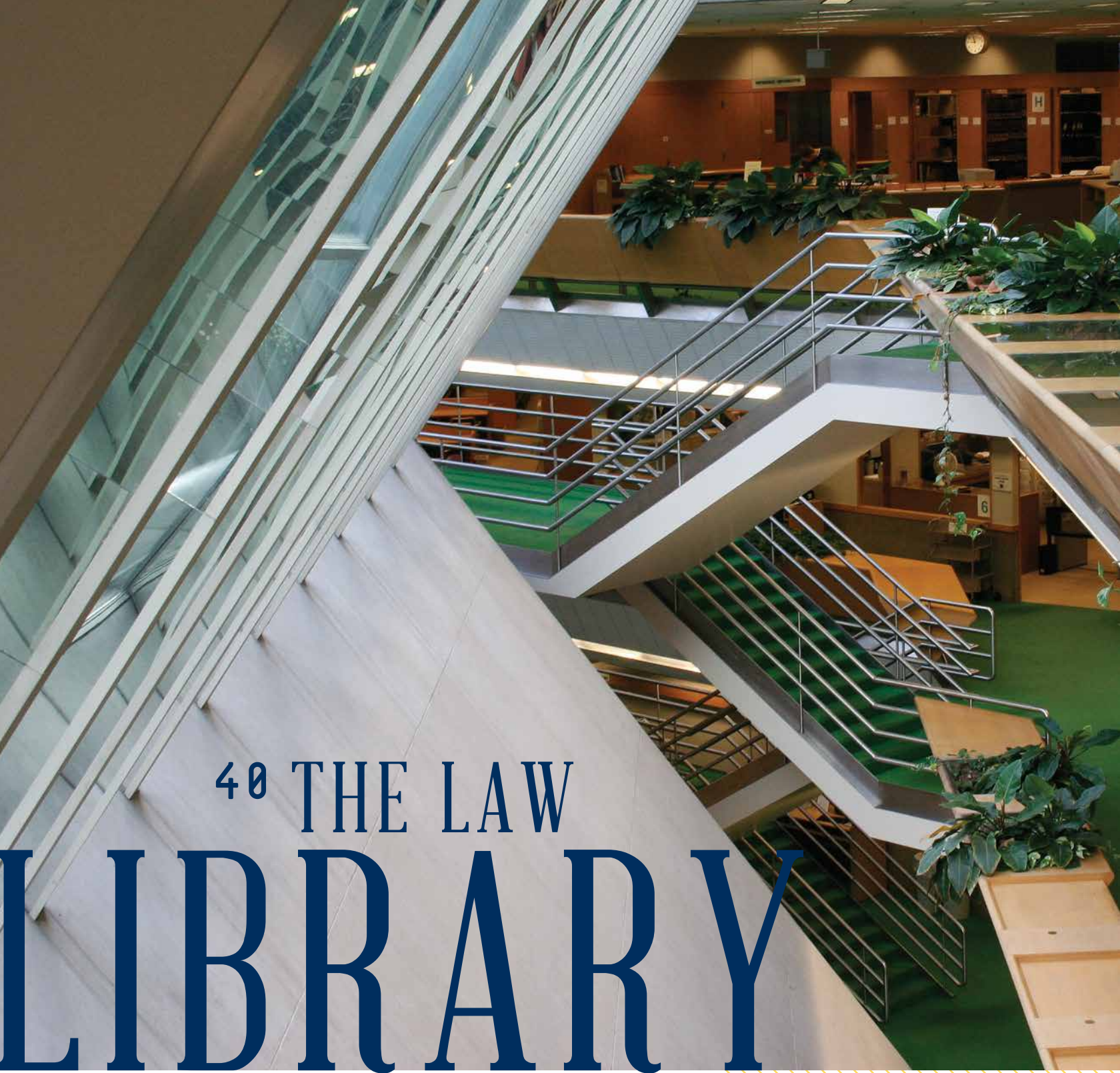
MAIZE+BLUE=

39

Michigan has been an environmental law leader since the 1960s, when a groundbreaking Michigan Law professor, Joseph L. Sax, helped create the field. Today, our Environmental and Energy Law Program (EELP) is one of the most extensive in the country. Its faculty have served in the US Department of Energy, the US Department of Justice, the Office of the US Trade Representative, and the Environmental Protection Agency. They have testified before Congress, and their research and scholarship have been cited in numerous US Supreme Court opinions. Beyond the special career panels, lectures, conferences, and symposia hosted by the EELP and the *Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law*, there's also a busy Environmental Law Society. Its members will happily act as guides on your pathway to becoming an environmental lawyer—or, alternatively, they'll act as literal guides as they help you enjoy the spectacular beauty of the Great Lakes State on one of their camping, hiking, or sledding trips.



GREEN



40 THE LAW LIBRARY

You haven't seen this much green carpet since the last time you went to the Big House (#75). But trust us, the overall effect is pastoral—or as pastoral as can be expected in one of the world's greatest collections of legal research materials. And thanks to the natural light and all that green, you hardly even know that you're underground, in one of the most architecturally innovative libraries ever.



41

THE WRITE KIND OF RIGHTING

Where does the legal writing stop and the actual writing begin? We argue that there's no difference. Good legal writing is good writing, and we'll help you master this crucial skill with the help of targeted coursework—notably our Legal Practice Program, which boasts eight full-time professors with an average of more than eight years of experience as lawyers and 18 years as professors. They ensure that one of the first things 1Ls learn in law school is how to analyze, research, and especially write about legal matters. As a 2L and 3L, you can take a variety of upper-level writing skills courses, learning how to apply advanced rhetorical techniques in legal settings varying from legislatures to judicial chambers to high-stakes negotiations. There's also Professor Patrick Barry's Good with Words courses, where this lawyer with a PhD in English will guide you through finding your voice as a writer on topics ranging from telling your own story to advocating for systemic change. You may not be Faulkner when you walk out of Michigan Law, but on the other hand, you won't be Faulkner.

42

LUIS C. DEBACA, '93

Your study of human rights law will be led by faculty who have been at the forefront of this important work. Professor Luis C. deBaca, '93, is one such heavy hitter. He is credited with developing the global standard for investigating human trafficking cases and is one of the most decorated federal prosecutors in US history. He received the Attorney General's John Marshall Award from Attorney General Janet Reno and the Distinguished Service Award from Attorney General John Ashcroft.

43

BUTCH CARPENTER SCHOLARSHIP

Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter was well known to U-M before he enrolled in law school here. After an injury prevented this football captain from becoming a professional athlete, the Flint, Michigan, native decided on a law career in order to give back to his community. He died suddenly in 1978, before completing his legal studies. The Butch Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to three promising 1L members of the Black Law Students Association.



44 THE NINE

Michigan Law's ties to the US Supreme Court are varied and deep. Six justices have visited the Law School since 2009, finding time to give a talk, participate in a panel discussion with faculty, or sit for a Q&A with law students. But that's just on the surface. Michigan Law professors argue routinely before the court, and their work is frequently cited in the court's decisions and dissents. Seventeen current faculty members spent a year at the Supreme Court themselves, clerking for one of the justices. (One, Professor Sam Erman, '07, clerked for two justices as well as Merrick Garland, who later became the US Attorney General.) And many a Michigan Law student has followed in those footsteps—a Michigan Law graduate has clerked on the US Supreme Court 23 times in the last 20 years.

45 IL ORAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

Lawyers aim to present a client's case with a compelling argument while thinking fast on their feet, and we believe it's never too soon to take the plunge and give it a try. So each spring, we give ILs an opportunity to hone their oral appellate advocacy skills in a supportive environment. While ILs compete, upperclass students serve as judges in the early rounds, and professors and practicing attorneys participate in the later rounds. The competition also includes networking and skills-training events, including advocacy advice from some of the best law firms and public interest organizations in the country.

46

HELP OTHERS MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS

Private entrepreneurial investor Sam Zell, '66, knew a good investment when he saw one. So he seeded the Zell Entrepreneurship Clinic at his alma mater to train law students to think not just like lawyers but also like entrepreneurs. Through the clinic, students feed off a University-wide entrepreneurial ethos by representing student startups from across the campus and also enter—and frequently win—entrepreneurship idea competitions on their own. Their newest work involves helping U-M student-athletes from across all sports navigate the nascent landscape of name, image, and likeness (NIL).

GETTING HITCHED

47

We frequently boast that here, you'll like the people you go to law school with. But sometimes, certain classmates *really* like the people they go to law school with. Chalk it up to the beauty of the Law Quad, the close-knit social community, or the care that the Admissions Office puts into crafting a class of interesting, collegial people: Michigan Law has been the birthplace of many long-term romantic relationships over the years. Administrators and faculty have even been known to officiate the weddings. NB: Alumni couples are not contractually obligated to use maize and blue as their wedding colors.

48 DOWN ON MAIN STREET

Take a short walk west from the Law School and find out what Ann Arborites knew long before *Travel + Leisure* named this collection of excellent restaurants and funky shops among America's best. It's an ideal spot for people-watching from an outdoor café along the street's broad sidewalks, catching a show at The Ark (the seminal acoustic and folk music venue that's been around in various Ann Arbor locations since 1965), and grabbing a meal at one of several restaurants, including Echelon, Black Pearl, and Vinology, to mention just a few.



49 EMPLOYERS LOVE RECRUITING HERE



And why wouldn't they, when they're doing so from a swanky club high above the field at Michigan Stadium, a.k.a. "the Big House," which is the nation's largest football stadium (#75)? Honestly, though, recruiters have always looked forward to coming to Michigan Law—even before we started holding events at the fabulous Jack Roth Stadium Club. As one hiring partner from a prominent firm put it: "We want people who we're going to enjoy spending time with when we're working long hours together on an important matter. That's what we get from Michigan Law graduates, and that's why we love recruiting in Ann Arbor."

50 T.J. HOOPER AND THE LEARNED HANDS

Never have a pair of barges lost in a storm been indirectly responsible for so much entertainment. The origins of the Law School's house band—built from a rotating cast of law students and encompassing, well, whatever instruments they happen to play—are lost to the mists of antiquity, but we still know exactly where it got its name. We cite *The T.J. Hooper*, 60 F.2d 737: The T.J. Hooper was a tugboat towing two coal barges through a storm. The barges went down; the coal was lost; the barge owners sued. The estimable Judge Learned Hand signed the appellate decision. Presto. Best. Band name. Ever.

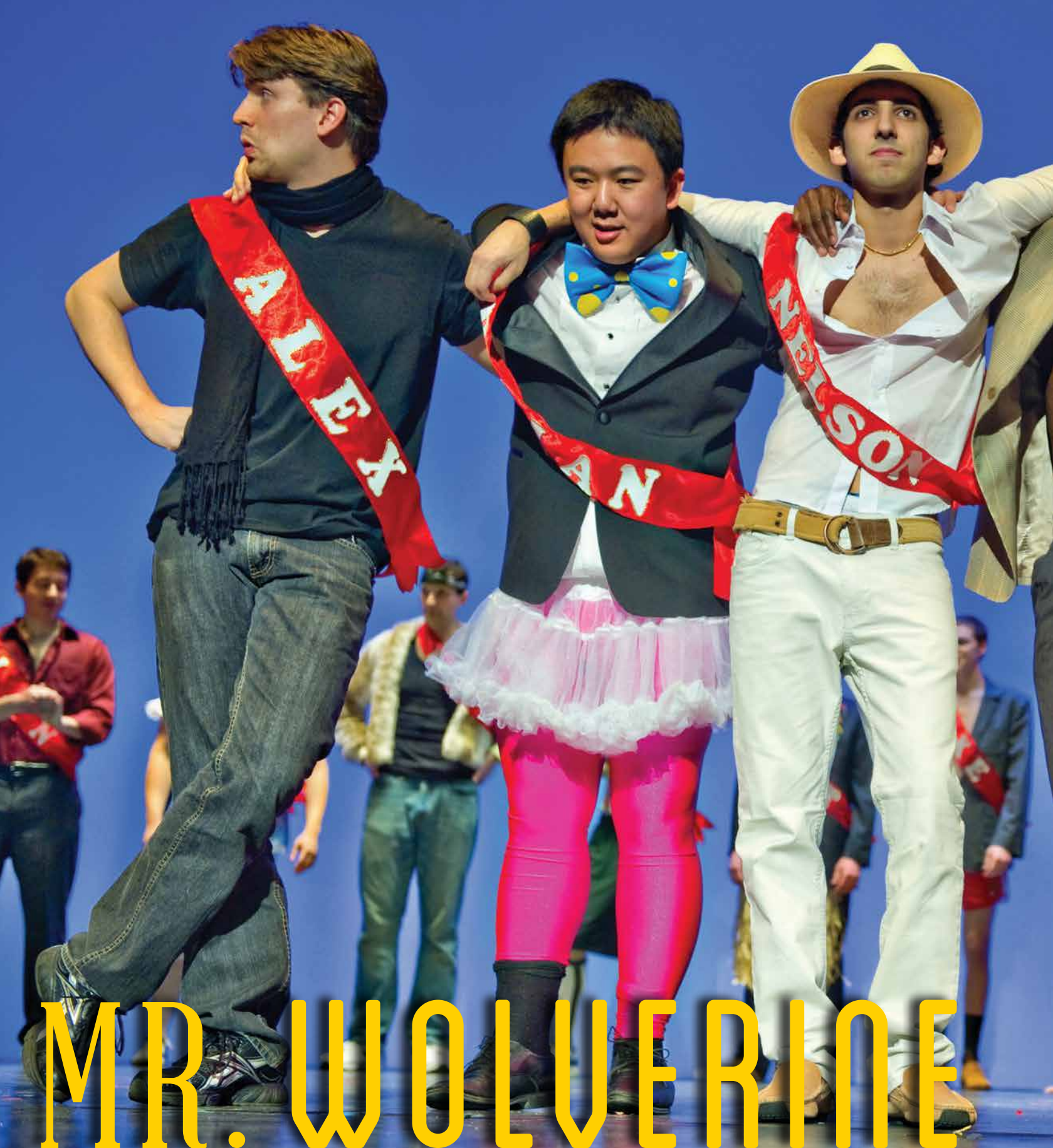


51 MOOT COURTROOM

If there's anything cooler than a miniature, wood-paneled courtroom—complete with judge's bench, jury box, and gallery—it's a miniature, wood-paneled courtroom with an enormous television screen that rises out of the furniture through the magic of robotics. If that's not enough, there's sufficient additional computing power to launch and land a space rocket, all designed to help students review and improve their courtroom performances.

52 GIVING A HOOT

Michigan Law's organization of OWLS—Older, Wiser Law Students—supports students who enter Michigan Law with a few more miles on their personal odometers. Here you'll find fellow students and often their partners and children: people who understand the extra responsibilities that come with attending school with more experience under your belt. The OWLS host happy hours and specialized career advising sessions, as well as barbecues and pumpkin carving on the Quad for your kids. Swoop on in and join them.



MR. WOLVERINE

53 Our ironic male-beauty contest (or should that be “ironic-male beauty contest”?) includes faculty mockery, law students with bare torsos (some six-packs, some half-barrels), and a chance to ridicule several generations of patriarchal pageants. Organized two decades ago by the Latinx Law Students Association (#86), the contest raises funds for the Comunidad Fellowship for aspiring public interest students who have demonstrated an interest in working in Latinx communities.



54

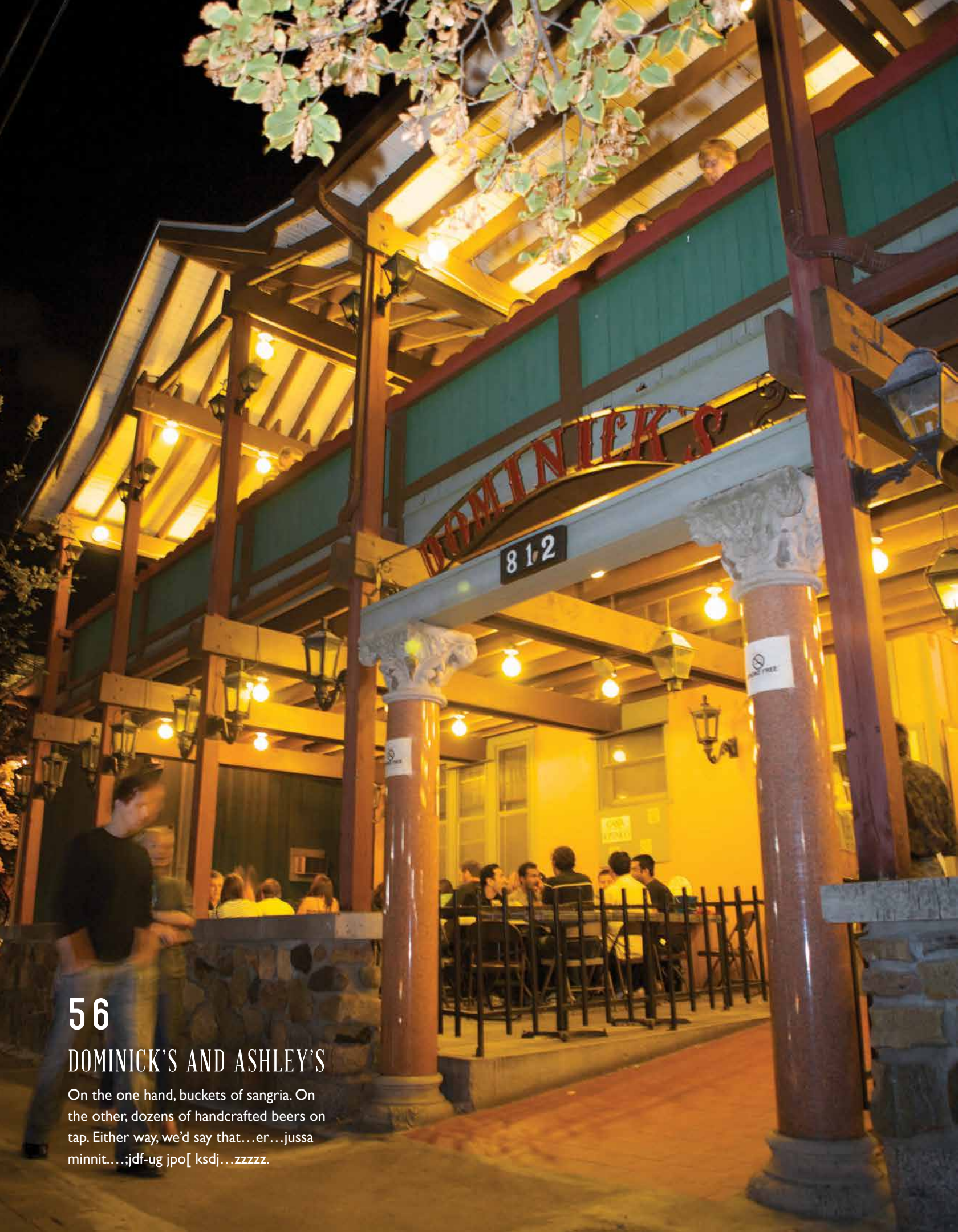
MUSEUM MANIA

From the Picassan to the Paleolithic, get your fill of art and history without venturing more than a few hundred yards from the Law Quad. The University of Michigan Museum of Art, directly across the street, houses Monet, Whistler, Gris, Oldenburg, and Haring. The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, a half block away, boasts Roman and Greek sculptures and pottery, as well as a beautifully ornate Egyptian mummy coffin. Or for mastodons and a planetarium, stroll a few blocks to the Museum of Natural History. Best museum not currently open to the public? It's got to be Ann Arbor's Museum of Failed Products, containing thousands of consumer products that never took off, housed together as a research facility and cautionary tale for marketing industry insiders. It includes gems like Clairol's Touch of Yogurt shampoo and Pepsi's A.M. Breakfast Cola.

55

CLERKSHIPS

Want to clerk for a state court, a federal district court or court of appeals, or even the US Supreme Court (#44)? Or how about a prominent international court, including the International Court of Justice? Michigan Law has produced more than 100 clerks a year for more than a decade, and the Class of 2024 ranked seventh in the number of federal clerkships secured, according to the American Bar Association. They had a knowledgeable and enthusiastic team in their corner: In addition to the Office of Career Planning's full-time clerkship adviser, our faculty clerkship advisers are committed to helping you land the clerkship of your dreams. Beyond those with formal advising roles, our numerous other faculty who have clerked as well as our extensive network of alumni are eager to share their experiences and help you through the application process.

A photograph of the exterior of a restaurant named Dominick's and Ashley's at night. The building features a prominent red sign with the name 'DOMINICK'S' in a curved font. Below the sign is a black address plaque with the number '812'. The entrance is framed by two large, ornate red columns with white capitals. The interior is warmly lit, and several people are visible sitting at outdoor tables. A man in a black shirt and jeans is walking in the foreground on the left. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting.

56

DOMINICK'S AND ASHLEY'S

On the one hand, buckets of sangria. On the other, dozens of handcrafted beers on tap. Either way, we'd say that...er...jussa minnit....;jdf-ug jpo[ksdj...zzzzz.

57

WAKE UP!

Suffering the after-effects of a visit to one of the establishments in #56, or just need to recharge? Ann Arbor's burgeoning local coffee scene means a quick reboot—often with locally roasted java—is only a few steps away. Bring your own mug to the Kirkland & Ellis Café in Aikens Commons (#35), and fill 'er up. Or venture out a few blocks and enjoy premium brews from local shops like Comet Coffee, Lab Cafe, and RoosRoast, whose Lobster Butter Love lives up to the rich expectations of its name (all without any lobsters or butter).

58

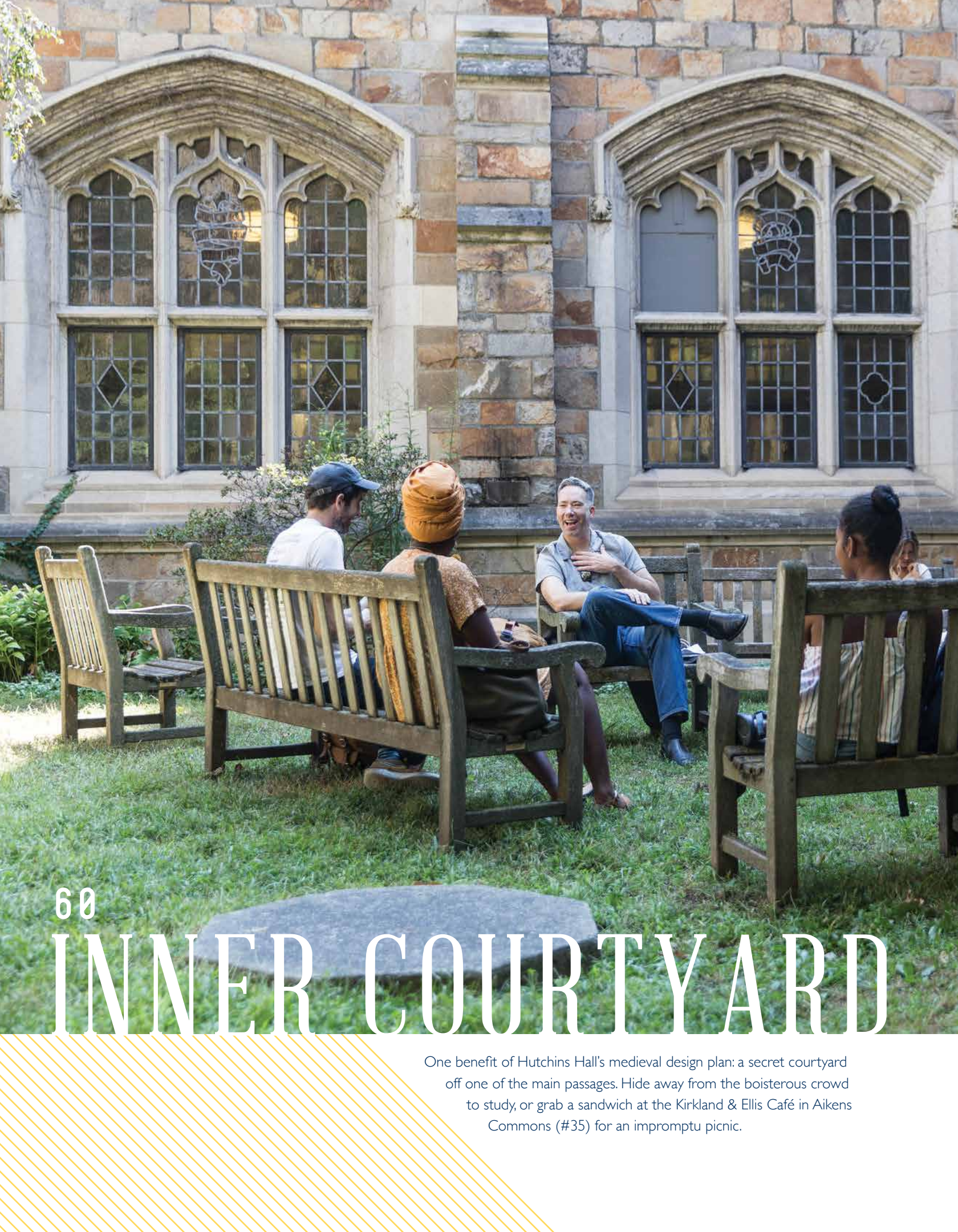
LIVING-ROOM LAW

Our always-popular in-home mini-seminars help small groups of students learn and think more deeply about subjects that may be a little off the traditional law school path. Even better, they help connect students and faculty because they're held right in the professors' homes. Recent seminars have included Lemonade: Race, Resilience, and Beyoncé; Criminal Justice Reform by Comedian Jon Oliver; and Mind Control in Dystopian Fiction. Our favorite? Reading Banned Books for Credit.



59 SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Did you serve in the armed forces? If so, thank you—and may we suggest that you'll want to check out our Michigan Law Veterans Society? It's a student group focused on veterans, their families, and people who want to support those who served. Whether you have a military background or not, you're able to work on behalf of veterans who need representation through our Veterans Legal Clinic.



60

INNER COURTYARD

One benefit of Hutchins Hall's medieval design plan: a secret courtyard off one of the main passages. Hide away from the boisterous crowd to study, or grab a sandwich at the Kirkland & Ellis Café in Aikens Commons (#35) for an impromptu picnic.



61

ZINGERMAN'S DELI

"The center of my gastro-deli universe." That's what one celebrity chef said about Zingerman's, a culinary destination that offers otherworldly pastrami, brisket, and corned beef sandwiches—not to mention a great selection of unconventional vegetarian options (try Lila & Izzie's Skokie Skidoo). The "Zingerman's industrial complex" also includes a creamery, candy manufactory, bakehouse, coffee shop, and Zingerman's Roadhouse, a sit-down restaurant with no fewer than six types of mac and cheese, including one with pimento and bacon and another with three-peppercorn goat cheese. You may now commence drooling.

62

SHEROES OF THE LAW

While all of our faculty are rock stars in their own right, Michigan Law's female faculty have debunked the myth of the "gentler sex" when it comes to media notoriety, intellectual firepower, and all-around bad-assery. Professor Karima Bennouna, '94, is at the forefront of a global movement to label the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women as gender apartheid (#68). Professor Susanne Baer, LL.M. '93, is a retired justice on Germany's Federal Constitutional Court. Professor Michelle Adams is one of the country's foremost experts on race discrimination and the author of *The Containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North*. Professor Barb McQuade, '91, (#33) is a frequent commentator on many media outlets, including MSNBC, and the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers. And a voice that might sound familiar on your Spotify is Professor Leah Litman, '10: She is a co-host and creator of *Strict Scrutiny*, a podcast about constitutional law (and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Lawless*).



63 INSTA-WORTHIEST

If you're a photographer at Michigan Law, well, let's put it this way: You're in a target-rich environment. Small wonder we have a picture-perfect Instagram account. Check it out [@umichlaw](#).





64 GROTESQUES

It seems a little unfair to call them grotesques when they're so darned cute. We guess you could call them gargoyles, but the architects wouldn't like it. So around here we call them Atlas figures, in part because they seem to be holding up the Quad's archways. Among the squashed-looking, individually carved stone figures are some University presidents, a frolicking tennis player, and a sturdy footballer. Check them out around the Law Quad.

65

MICHIGAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER

We acknowledge that the University of Michigan resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg—the Three Fire Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, as well as the Wyandot Nation. The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program is a state initiative that eliminates the tuition costs for eligible Native Americans in the state's public community colleges and universities, including the University of Michigan.

66

MAGNUM “OPIS”

The Organization of Public Interest Students: It's an encouraging sign when more than 300 students are part of a group dedicated to making Michigan Law grads better able to do good in the world.

CAMPBELL MOOT COURT

67

The reason “moot” rhymes with “woot.” Picture this venerable tradition, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2025: a taste of the challenges and exhilarations of courtroom practice with a panel of three federal judges presiding, an audience of attentive students and faculty, and classmates who have been preparing for the moment for months. It's the dictionary definition of “courtroom drama,” except the finalists tend to hug each other afterward. Guiding it all is the Hon. Joan Larsen, a federal appellate judge and former faculty member, who continues to serve as Campbell's faculty adviser.



GLOBAL ROOTS



68

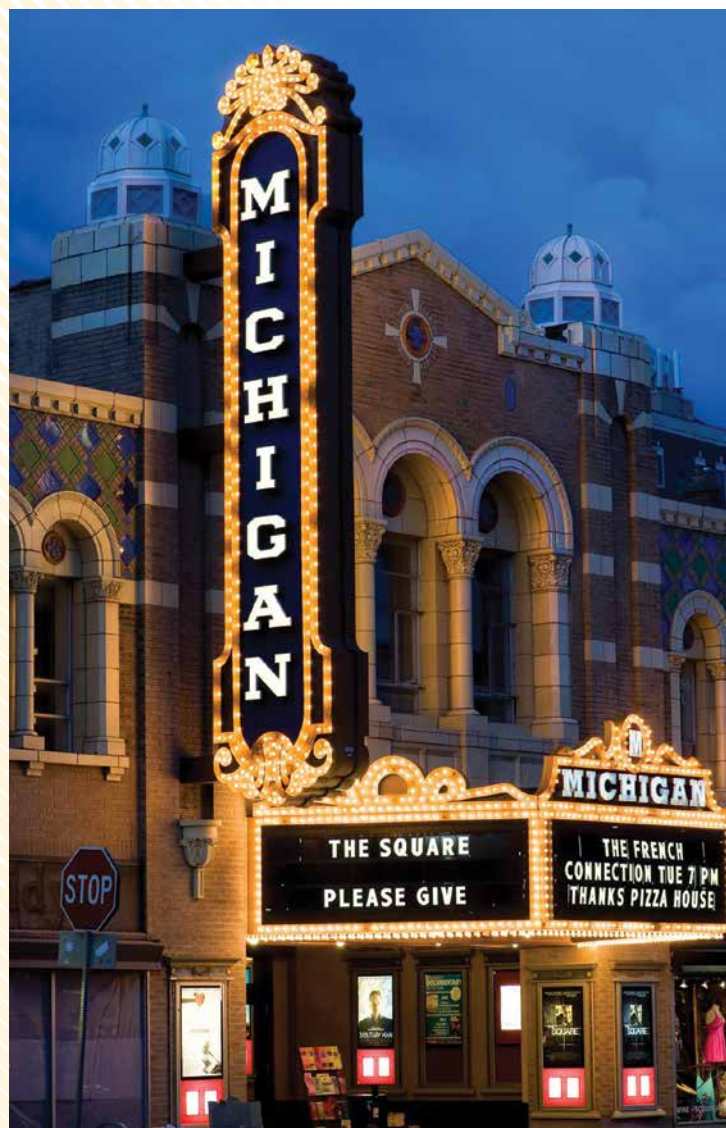
The 1837 statute that guided creation of the University of Michigan provided that the “Law Department” should include a professor of international law. Give us an inch, and we’ll take a mile—a mindset that helps explain why such a stellar collection of international scholars has gathered in the center of the North American continent. The momentum that began nearly two centuries ago continues today. Professor Daniel Halberstam is internationally recognized as an authority on the European Union. Professor Christine Chinkin is a leading expert in public international law and international human rights. Professor Reuven Avi-Yonah brings world-renowned expertise on international tax law. Professor Nicholas Howson is one of America’s foremost experts on Chinese law and Professor Vikramaditya Khanna is widely consulted on law in India. Professor Adam Pritchard advises on corporate law and South Korea. Professor Karima Bennouna, ’94 (pictured to the right of Malala Yousafzai in Nelson Mandela’s office), is a leading authority on human rights in Afghanistan and a vice president of the American Society of International Law. Serving alongside Bennouna as a vice president on that board is Professor Julian Arato. Professor Susan Page was the first US ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan and served as assistant secretary-general of the United Nations in Haiti. Professor Steven Ratner has served on UN-sponsored advisory panels on bringing the Khmer Rouge to justice in Cambodia, civil rights violations in Sri Lanka’s civil war, and, most recently, on human rights atrocities in Ethiopia. And so on. Complex times call for complex thinking, and Michigan Law’s international scholars share their expertise with students (and the rest of the world) every day.

M
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69

VAUDEVILLE AND DECO

Ann Arbor boasts two historic theaters within a block of each other. The Michigan Theater, which opened in 1928 as a movie palace and vaudeville venue, was restored to its original grandeur in the 1980s; it continues to be a popular concert venue, and moviegoers still enjoy tunes played on a Barton Theatre Pipe Organ that sinks into the floor, organist and all, as the show is set to begin. The State Theatre, built in 1942, shows both mainstream and indie films, seasoned with cult classics from its vaults for Saturday midnight showings. It received extensive renovations and an expansion, designed to reinforce its Art Deco roots, in 2016.



70

THE RIGHTS STUFF

THE S
PLEASE

When public school students face disciplinary actions, they and their families are often on their own. But thanks to the Student Rights Project—a pro bono project (#31) that is overseen by faculty adviser Debra Chopp—law and social work students are trained to advocate alongside community members for public school students in suspension and expulsion hearings. It's a great way to work on your interviewing, oral advocacy, and collaboration skills—not to mention helping vulnerable kids at a key moment in their development.



21 A BENEFICENT BASH



Since 1977, Michigan Law students have been supporting classmates who want to do public service work by holding the annual Student Funded Fellowships Auction (read: huge blowout where various deans debase themselves in a variety of ways) to raise money for public service scholarships. Your philanthropy can mean Zingerman's baking classes with Professors Prifogle and Litman, singing karaoke with Professors Pottow and Carroll, or riding rollercoasters at Cedar Point with Professors Lefort and Kornblatt. Doing good while having fun? That's the Michigan spirit.

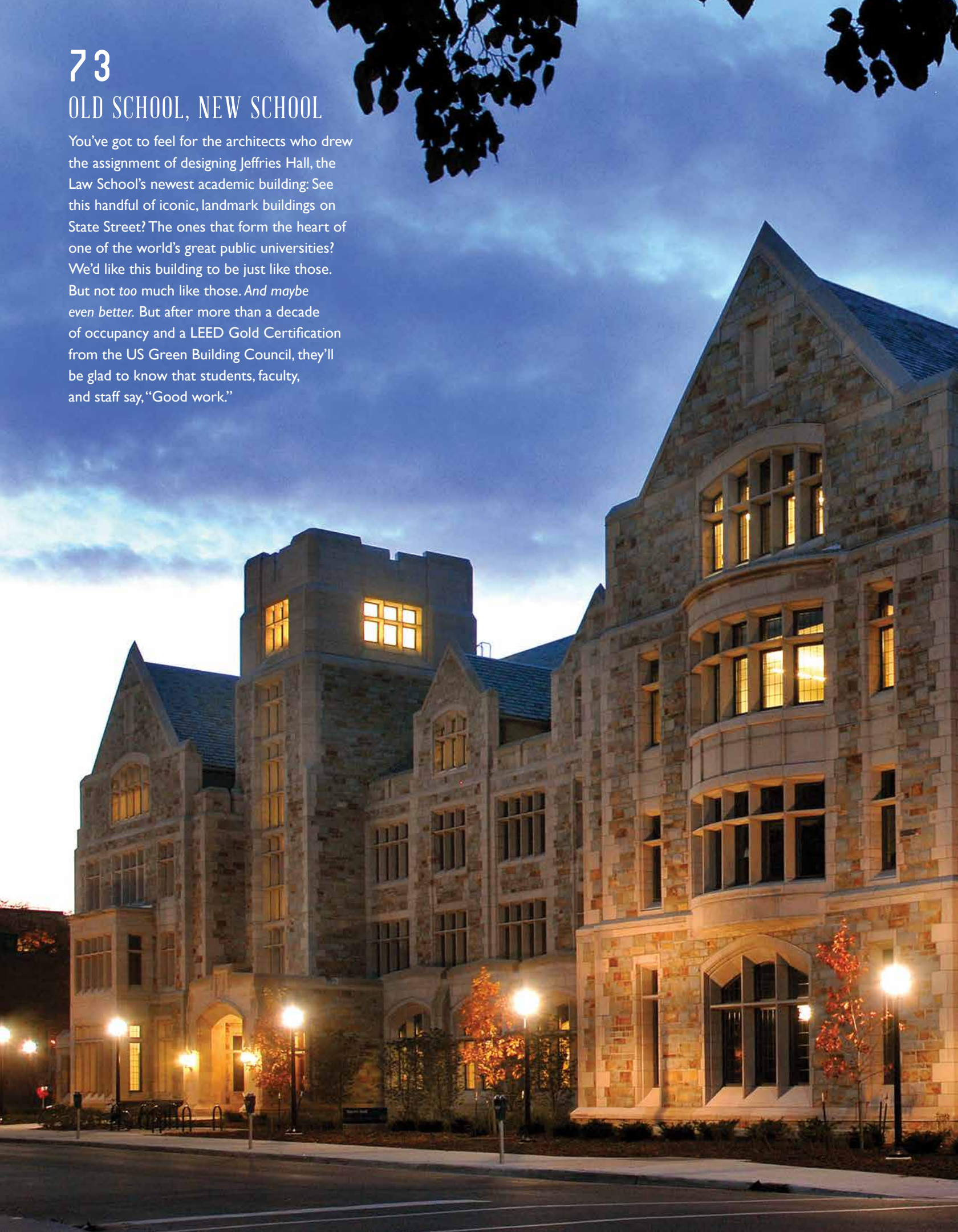


Former senior White House officials such as Valerie Jarrett, '81, and Broderick Johnson, '83. Titans of business, including Sam Zell, '66, and Chris Jeffries, '74. Cabinet secretaries, senators, federal judges, federal prosecutors, governors, mayors, state judges. Media figures such as Bob Woodruff, '87. Entrepreneurs, including Groupon founders Brad Keywell, '93, and Eric Lefkofsky, '93. Trailblazing general counsels like Michele Coleman Mayes, '74. They are some of the more than 23,000 alumni around the world connected by their time at Michigan Law. It's an exclusive club, but it's also a friendly and welcoming one (#1).

⁷² ALUMNI

OLD SCHOOL, NEW SCHOOL

You've got to feel for the architects who drew the assignment of designing Jeffries Hall, the Law School's newest academic building: See this handful of iconic, landmark buildings on State Street? The ones that form the heart of one of the world's great public universities? We'd like this building to be just like those. But not *too* much like those. *And maybe even better.* But after more than a decade of occupancy and a LEED Gold Certification from the US Green Building Council, they'll be glad to know that students, faculty, and staff say, "Good work."





74 STUDENT JOURNALS

With a total of eight student-led journals, students can take a deep dive into just about anything, from race and gender to technology to international law. The range of opportunity means that more than half of our student body participates on at least one journal.



75

FOOTBALL

A game at the Big House must be seen to be believed. Don't like football? The city's streets are deserted as soon as the first quarter starts—it's a great time for getting your errands done.



76

UNIVERSITY CRESTS

Whether you went to MIT, the North Wales Training College, or even (THE) Ohio State, look for your college seal among the 182 immortalized in stained glass inside the Reading Room.

77

SUN SALUTATION

Imagine 1,800 yogis of all abilities in tree pose gathered at the Big House (#75). This happens, too. Namaste.

PHID PHUN

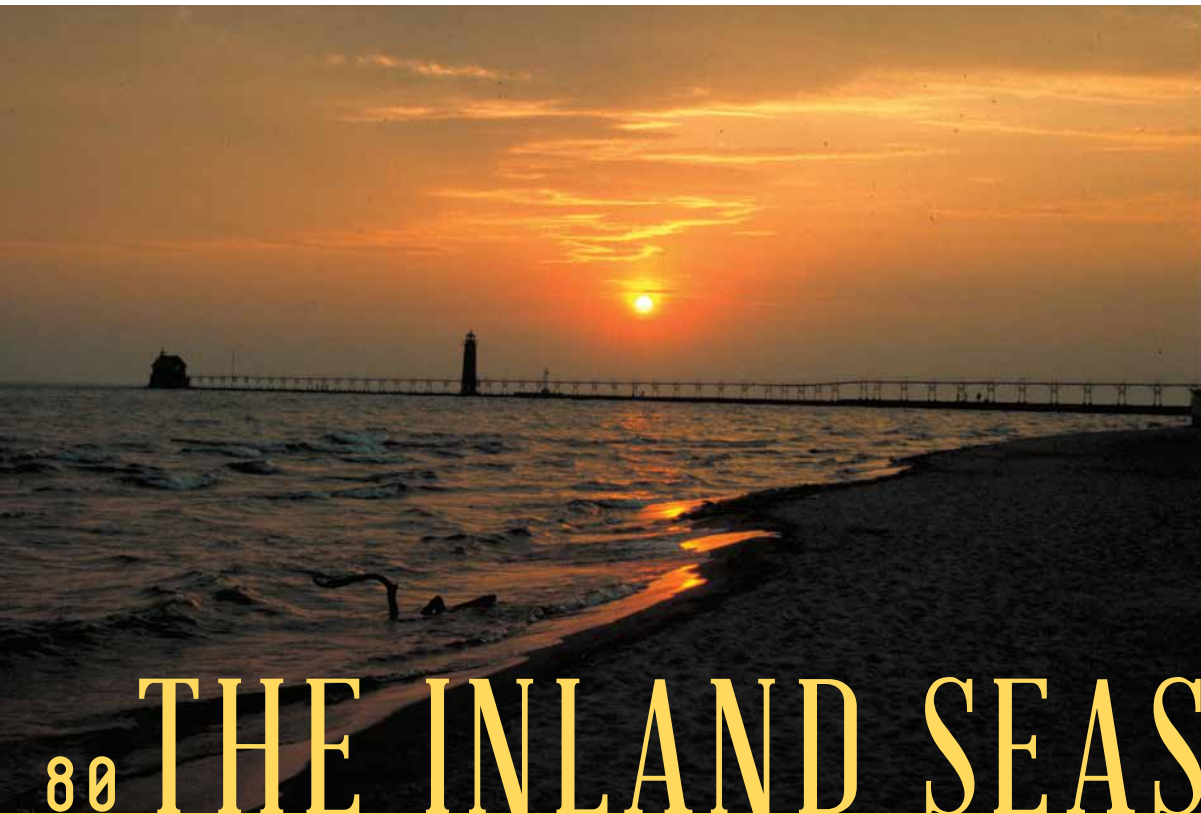
78

When it comes time to enter a howling Halloween costume contest, Phi Delta Phi—a.k.a. Phid, the 150-year-old, co-ed legal “fraternity”—runs the one you want. Similarly, if it’s time for an epic, themed Law School party, the 25 denizens of Phid House take their role as social enablers seriously. Why else would they host such shamelessly named gatherings as “We Didn’t Start the Phire” or “Animal Pharm”? Phortunately, we’re phine with that.

79

STUDY ‘ROUND THE WORLD— WITH A BATES OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP

Learn how the rest of the world does law with the help of a Bates Overseas Fellowship, one of several Michigan Law programs (#27) that can help you study just about anywhere on the planet. The fellowships help grads or students with two years of legal study to travel abroad to learn about legal or political institutions. Pursue internships with international or government agencies or NGOs, teach, or pursue an independent research project. Recent Bates Fellows have worked on copyright licensing issues in New Zealand, at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and for a human rights watch organization in Argentina.



80 THE INLAND SEAS

Here in Michigan, our sandy shores are kissed by four of the five Great Lakes, more than any other state or Canadian province—accounting for the fact that, next to Alaska, Michigan’s coastline is the longest of any state. But really, “lakes” is a misnomer. When the weather goes to work on these powerful inland seas, it’s easy to see why Michigan also has more lighthouses than any other state. And more shipwrecks than the Bermuda Triangle. With natural resources like this, no wonder we’re environmental law leaders (#39).



81

GREAT ESCAPES

Hey! Do you like the outdoors? We do, too (#4, #11, #12). You can enjoy hiking, biking, running, kayaking, bird-watching, and more because Michigan's tremendous wealth of natural resources really is unmatched. Seriously. Come see for yourself.



82

VAL-O-GRAMS

They're signed, sealed, delivered. They're yours. (And because they're also law students, they double-checked all those signatures.) Whether it's Stevie Wonder or Taylor Swift, the Law School's singing Headnotes have all the legal niceties covered for Valentine's Day—and several other concerts every year. If you hear singing in Hutchins Hall, chances are it's them. Although it may just be Professors Pottow and Carroll (#71).



83

CONQU'RING HEROES

There's a chant that goes, "It's great to be a Michigan Wolverine," and because Michigan prides itself on being an inclusive place, that cheer spans all our athletic endeavors. In 2026, the men's basketball team won the national championship on the heels of a record-breaking season. Gymnast Fred Richard followed up his Olympic bronze medal in 2024 with the 2026 NCAA all-around title. And BigTen conference champions included women's swimming and diving, men's ice hockey, men's gymnastics, and women's tennis. Oh, and if you're into niche sports, the football team has done alright these past few years, too. Leaders and best, indeed.

84

FROM A LONG WAY AWAY

Almost since the school's founding in 1859, Michigan Law has been a magnet for international students. Our first Japanese students graduated in 1878—several years before legal barriers to immigration from Asia were dropped. Since then, thousands of international students from every continent (#3) have graduated from Michigan Law, and many have gone on to distinguished careers both in the United States and in their home countries. Today, one of the most rewarding aspects of a Michigan Law education is the opportunity to study alongside JD and LLM students who come from, quite literally, all over the world.



85 MEDIEVAL MEALS. BUT IN A GOOD WAY.

We promised ourselves we wouldn't make Hogwarts comparisons. And yet here we are. Have lunch in the Lawyers Club Dining Room, and you'll see why we couldn't resist: It's just like the Great Hall, but with soft-serve. Well, except for the ghosts. There are no ghosts. As far as we know. There are owls, though (#52).

86 JUAN LUIS TIENDA

Law student Juan Tienda was a force in the legal and Latinx communities: He headed La Raza Law Students Association (now, Latinx Law Students Association), advocated for migrant workers, and volunteered with prison inmates. In 1976, before his final year of law school, a car accident ended his life. He is remembered through a scholarship in his name, which honors Latinx law students who demonstrate a commitment to working with underserved Latinx populations.

87

Our sense of community doesn't end when diplomas are in hand. It informs the way we view the world beyond the Quad. And, as a public institution, we have an obligation to do our part to make the world a better place. Each spring, our students—past, present, and future—convene in cities throughout the United States to engage in the tradition of service for which Michigan Law is known.

SERVICE DAY





88

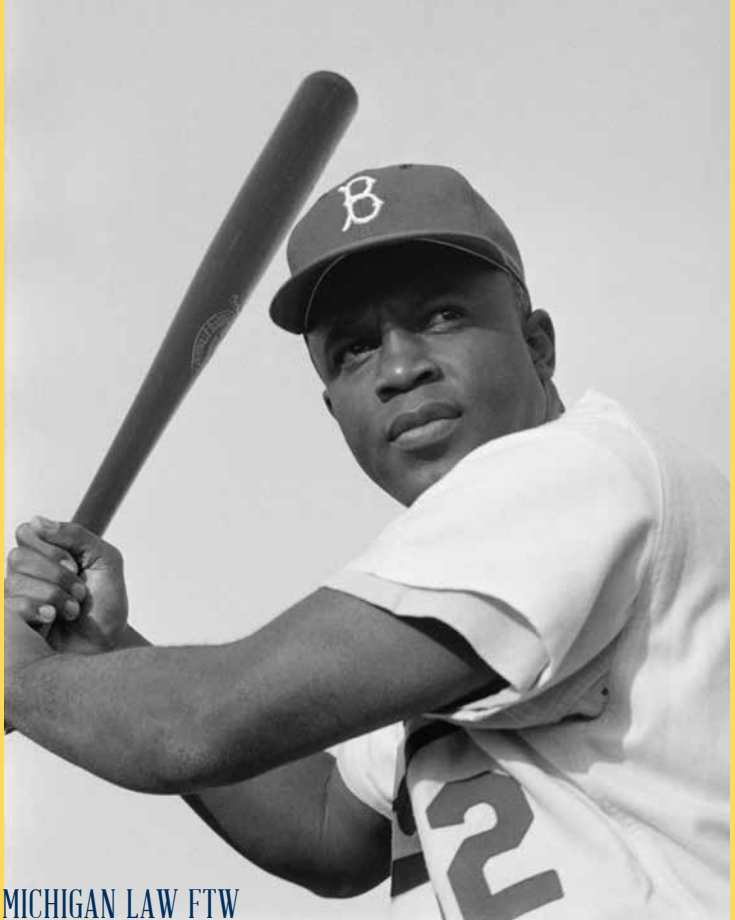
STUDY SPACES

If you like to study in a grand room with sound-absorbing cork floors, head to the Reading Room (#10). Need a space where you can collaborate with your classmates? Check out the lower level of Aikens Commons (#35). In search of a cozy spot during the winter? Take your books and laptop to the Lounge on the first floor of Jeffries Hall and snuggle up near the fireplace. No matter your studying style, we've got you covered.



THE FUTURE IS NOW

89



MICHIGAN LAW FTW

In August 1944, 2nd Lt. Jack R. Robinson—the future famed Brooklyn Dodger and first Black Major League Baseball player—faced a court-martial at Camp Hood, Texas, related to two charges of insubordination following an incident on a bus in which he refused to obey Jim Crow-era laws. Who, you ask, was the unheralded defense attorney who was instrumental in Jackie Robinson's acquittal? Capt. Robert H. Johnson, a Michigan Law graduate. Branch Rickey, Class of 1911, went on to hire Robinson for the Dodgers in 1947, thereby breaking the big-league color barrier: Michigan Law for the win.

90

As artificial intelligence continues to grow, thorny legal problems continue to emerge. Fortunately, the Law School's AI Law and Policy Clinic is positioned to help address them. In the clinic, student-attorneys represent courts, community-based organizations, legal service providers, and others as they harness AI to improve access to justice, streamline legal processes, and address systemic issues.

IS NOW

Here are just a few of the diverse dishes you can order at restaurants around Ann Arbor: chicken tikka masala at Cardamom. Dolsot bi bim bop from Rich J.C. Japanese-style sablefish from Pacific Rim. Hippie Hash (made with free-range hippies!) at the Fleetwood Diner. Zilzil wat at Blue Nile. Street-style tteokbokki from Miss Kim. Bò kho from Dalat. Falafel and vegetarian grape leaves at Jerusalem Garden. Gluten-free enchiladas calabaza from Seva. Charcuteria at Aventura. The Inspired Cuban from Frita Batidos. Spaetzle and knockwurst from Heidelberg. Just a half hour down I-94, experience Detroit's surging food scene, the most delicious ingredient in its revival (#20). Sure, you should form an opinion on whether American Coney Island or Lafayette Coney Island is better (to make it easy, they're next door to each other). But explore further to discover why *Time* magazine and *Conde Nast Traveler* have cited Detroit's restaurants as reasons why the city is a must-visit. From Corktown to Mexicantown to Greektown, come hungry and leave happy.

91 YUM





BAG THE BEACH

93 Maybe you want to travel to the Navajo Nation in Arizona and be among Dinébe'íiná Náhiłna be Agha'diit'ahi—the “attorneys who work for the economic revitalization of The People.” Perhaps your passion is fueled by advocating for LGBTQ+ equality in Belize, helping the wrongfully convicted in Chicago, or assisting survivors of crime. Legal Alternative Winter Breaks (LAW Breaks)—student-organized service learning opportunities that happen during the school's winter break—are a little different every year. They're no day at the beach, but then again, that's the whole point.

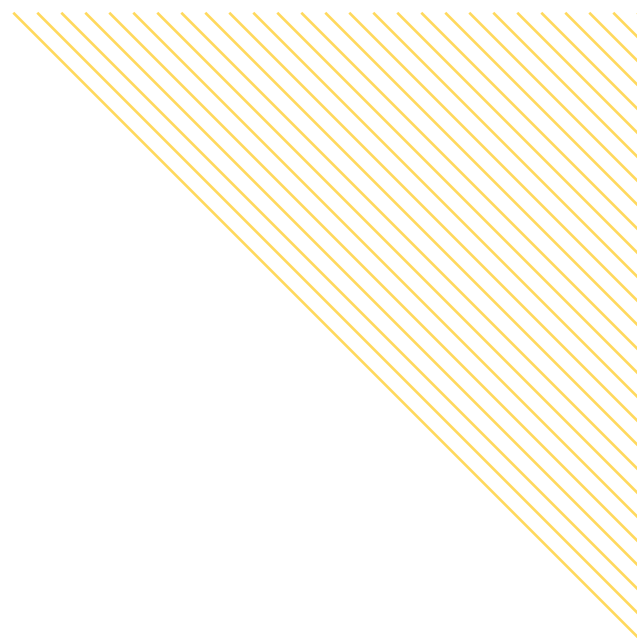
NEXT SPRING

92

STICKY FLOORS AND SHARKBOWLS

Rick's? Rick's.

Sure, it's inelegant, but for a taste of the true Big Ten undergrad experience, there's no place like it. Remember, as a law student at Rick's American Cafe, you're a tourist—not a resident. You WILL be allowed to leave. Seating? Nah. Your feet adhere to the floor anyway. And is that an aquarium in your hand, or are you enjoying a sharkbowl?





94

ICE ICE, BABY

Just a few blocks from the Law Quad, U-M's ice arena may be the best place on earth to see a college hockey game. Even if the only printable crowd chant seems to be "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!" which breaks out every time the Wolverines score on a hapless opposition goalie. Plus, Michigan Law's very own hockey team plays there, and free skating nights are offered for students.



95

THE POETRY OF PLACE

The dew is in the grass, a silver moon is rising, and golden light spills from arched stained glass to kiss majestic elms. Heaven, or an evening outside of the Law School's Reading Room (#10)?



96

We talk a lot about collegiality. That's because it's real. And you'll know it by how eager you are to return to Ann Arbor for your first milestone reunion five years after graduation—and keep returning every five years thereafter. Can't wait five years? Our alumni are known for having meetups at weddings (#47) and less formal affairs around the world, in addition to attending regional events hosted by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.



97

“DEFENDER OF THE DAMNED”

Famous in the early 20th century for taking on cases that appealed to his sense of justice, Clarence Darrow studied at Michigan Law before becoming a leading voice for civil liberties. Among his celebrated cases was the defense of John Scopes, the Tennessee teacher prosecuted in 1925 for teaching about the theory of evolution. Darrow also was among the first to be called a “labor lawyer,” and a legendary one at that, in part due to his high-profile defense of American Railway Union President Eugene V. Debs. And in a unique example of the power of the alumni network—and of stamina—he delivered a 12-hour-long closing argument that saved fellow Wolverine Richard Loeb and co-defendant Nathan Leopold from the death penalty after they were convicted of murder. Darrow proved through one career, you can do it all.

THE OLD SCHOOL THE





Spin...

There's something oddly satisfying in giving a shove to a 15-foot-tall metal cube that appears to be rooted in concrete, then watching the whole giant thing spin silently around. So it is with the sculpture most Wolverines call "the Cube" (formal name: "Endover"), located on a plaza outside the student union. It's so satisfying, in fact, that school legend says U-M's president gives it a push each day to make sure the University gets going in the morning.

99

...OR LET THIS THING TAKE YOU FOR A SPIN

Being near the hometown of the American auto industry means enjoying a front-row seat to the next automotive metamorphosis: automated and autonomous vehicles. For Michigan Law students, that means helping shape that metamorphosis through groundbreaking scholarship on the myriad legal ramifications of driverless vehicles. The University is home to Mcity—a simulated cityscape used for testing automated vehicles—and to the first driverless shuttle project in the United States focusing on user behavior research. The Law School is home to the *Journal of Law and Mobility*, as well as Professors Tifani Sadek, Dan Crane, Kyle Logue, and others at the forefront of legal thinking about those vehicles. And that puts our students in the driver's seat.

100

DOGS

Of all the wellness programming we offer (#36), the most popular might be the semiannual visits from therapy dogs during exam study days. We always make time to paws for that.



101

FOLK, HIP-HOP, AND CLASSICAL

Need some music to give your brain a break from memorizing the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure? At Ann Arbor's landmark music venue, The Ark, you can hear up-and-coming folk and roots artists (including, on occasion, a law student) as well as established singers. Hill Auditorium and the Michigan Theater draw a wide range of prominent acts, while the Blind Pig is a venue-bar that is home to rock, hip-hop, and electronic music. If you spend the summer in A2, enjoy the free Sonic Lunch concert series on the streets of downtown every Thursday, as well as the weeks-long Ann Arbor Summer Festival. And whether you're a Swiftie or part of the Beyhive, Team Kendrick or Team Drake, nearby Detroit is a stop for major tours. If you prefer the likes of Itzhak Perlman, Audra McDonald, and Wynton Marsalis, the University Musical Society highlights an array of music, dance, and theater, while the Kerrytown Concert House is an intimate venue that offers classical and experimental music.



102 YOU BELONG

Means and medians are all well and good, but you're not going to become BFFs with one of your classmates because of her LSAT score. So even though Michigan Law is an exceptionally selective place by any objective measure, you'll join a student body that is engaging and interesting in nonmeasurable ways, too. We've admitted a police officer and an FBI staff operations specialist; a White House speechwriter and a USAID program analyst; a minor league baseball player, a junior Olympic weightlifter, one of Twitch's top 100 video gamers, and a pro volleyball player in Finland; loads of musicians, including the brand manager for Jason Isbell; ranch hands, farmers, a sommelier, and a train dispatcher—and that's just one recent class. But if you think they were interesting people when they arrived, just wait until they've graduated.





103

MICHIGAN IS A PLACE THAT WILL SHAPE YOU AS A

LAWYER AND A PERSON.

Up until now, we've been trying to create a picture in your mind of what Michigan Law is like, but sometimes you just want a little data. Get your spreadsheets ready!

JOIN AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY OF UNIMAGINABLY TALENTED PEOPLE.

2026 INCOMING CLASS

(ESTIMATE AS OF JUNE 25)

APPLIED
9,100

ENROLLED
320

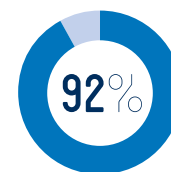
MEDIAN GPA
3.9

MEDIAN LSAT
172



49% WOMEN
50% MEN
1% NONBINARY

1 OR MORE YEARS OFF
AFTER UNDERGRAD

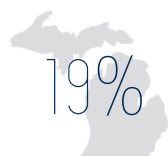


FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE GRADUATE

13%

LGBTQ+
25%

MICHIGAN RESIDENTS



STATES REPRESENTED



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



RACIAL COMPOSITION



ARAB AMERICAN/NORTH AFRICAN 7% • AFRICAN AMERICAN 9% • ASIAN AMERICAN 20%
NOT INDICATED 1% • LATINX 11% • NATIVE AMERICAN 2% • CAUCASIAN 59%

The above totals to more than 100 percent because of students who self-identify in multiple racial categories.

MULTIRACIAL

14%

Percentages of minoritized students include students who self-identify in more than one racial category.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE LAWYER'S LIFE.

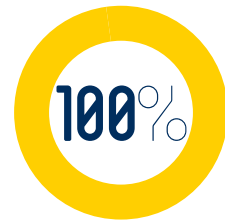
HANDS-ON LAWYERING

17 CLINICS

All Michigan Law students who want a clinic placement are guaranteed one.

- 1L Advocacy Clinic
- AI Law and Policy Clinic
- Child Welfare Appellate Clinic
- Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic
- Civil Rights Litigation Initiative
- Community Enterprise Clinic
- Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic
- Environmental Law and Sustainability Clinic
- Federal Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Human Trafficking and Immigration Clinic
- International Transactions Clinic
- Juvenile Justice Clinic
- Michigan Innocence Clinic
- Pediatric Advocacy Clinic
- Tax and Estate Planning Clinic
- Veterans Legal Clinic
- Zell Entrepreneurship Clinic

STUDENTS WHO GET THEIR FIRST OR SECOND CLINIC CHOICES



STUDENT LIFE



70+

STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS



8

STUDENT-RUN
JOURNALS

ABOUT **1/2** OF THE
1L CLASS LIVES IN THE LAWYERS CLUB



GAIN COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVES ON THE LAW.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY

DUAL DEGREES OFFERED

18+

- Business Administration
- Economics
- Environment and Sustainability
- Information
- International and Regional Studies (African; Islamic; Middle East and North African; South Asian; Chinese; Japanese; Russian, East European, and Eurasian; and Southeast Asian Studies)
- Public Health (MPH, MHSA)
- Public Policy
- Social Work
- Urban and Regional Planning
- World Politics

WE ALSO ALLOW YOU TO DESIGN YOUR OWN

Recent student-created dual degrees blended the study of law with graduate programs in American culture, education, geology, history, kinesiology, and philosophy.

110 TOP 10

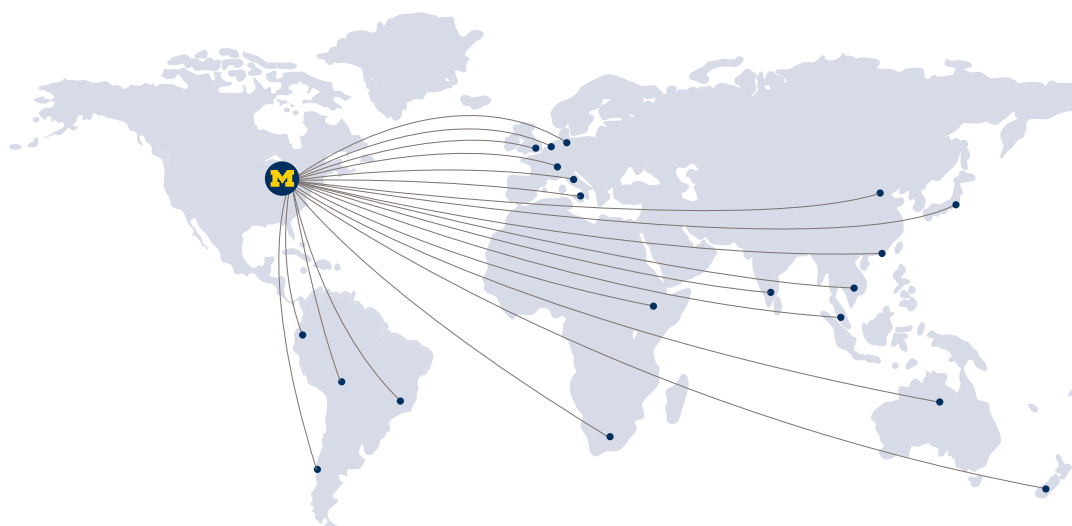


GRADUATE
PROGRAMS AT
THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN LAW STUDENTS WHO TAKE CLASSES
OUTSIDE THE LAW SCHOOL IN A GIVEN YEAR

20%

GLOBAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES



STUDY ABROAD

Amsterdam Law School
Bucerius Law School (Hamburg)
European University Institute (Florence)
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva)
KU Leuven (Belgium)
University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law
Waseda University Law School (Tokyo)



INTERNATIONAL EXTERNSHIPS/ INTERNSHIPS

AIRE Centre Internship (London)
Geneva Externship Program
Law and Development Program
(Cambodia, Namibia)
South Africa Externship Program

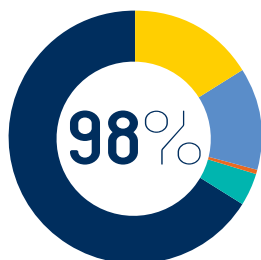
These lists represent Michigan Law's formal partnerships for study abroad and international externships. Many students pursue additional opportunities on an individual basis.

BE CAREER READY.

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

We will prepare you not just for your first job out of law school but for your entire career—and your global network of Michigan alumni and the resources of our Office of Career Planning always will be available to guide you, whatever your next step might be.

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES WHO WERE EMPLOYED OR CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION 10 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION



JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS **16%**

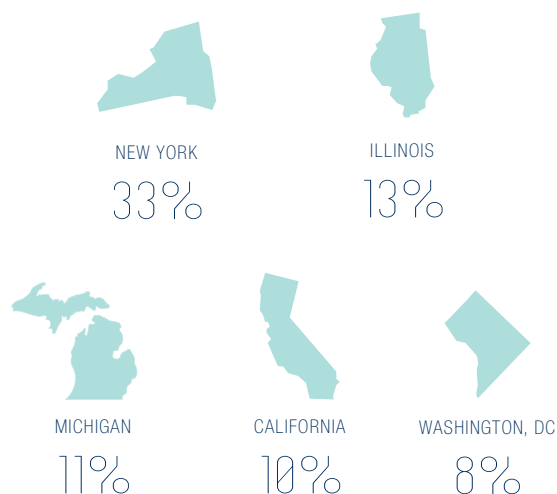
PUBLIC INTEREST **13%**

BUSINESS **<1%**

GOVERNMENT **4%**

LAW FIRMS **65%**

MOST POPULAR MARKETS (CLASS OF 2025)



ON-CAMPUS SUPPORT

10

ATTORNEY-COUNSELORS

who collectively have more than 90 years of diverse practice experience in the largest legal markets in the United States and overseas

129

CLERKSHIPS

secured annually
(2023–2025 average)

500+

FIRMS WERE REPRESENTED ON CAMPUS

during the Office of Career Planning's Meet the Employers and Big Law at the Big House programs in 2025.

100%

OF STUDENTS who participated in our organized interview programs in 2025 received an interview with their top-choice firm.

ALUMNI NETWORK

23,000+

MICHIGAN LAW ALUMNI
CONNECTIONS



COUNTRIES
WHERE MLAW ALUMNI
ARE LIVING

INDEX

ACADEMIC LIFE

2, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32,
33, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 58, 59, 62, 66, 67, 68, 70, 74,
79, 90, 93, 99, 103

ANN ARBOR AND MICHIGAN

4, 11, 12, 16, 18, 20, 26, 48, 54, 56, 57, 61, 69, 80, 81,
91, 92, 101

CAMPUS

6, 10, 23, 25, 34, 35, 40, 51, 57, 60, 63, 64, 73, 75, 76,
77, 83, 85, 88, 94, 95, 98, 99

LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

1, 3, 13, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43, 47, 49,
50, 52, 53, 59, 66, 71, 72, 78, 82, 84, 86, 87, 89, 93, 96,
97, 100, 102, 103

PEOPLE

7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 28, 29, 33, 41, 42, 43, 44,
46, 59, 62, 68, 70, 71, 72, 84, 86, 89, 97, 99, 102, 103

YOUR FUTURE

2, 14, 19, 24, 44, 47, 49, 55, 65, 72, 79, 87, 96, 103

APPLY



APPLICATION FEE

\$75



REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 28

EARLY DECISION DEADLINE

November 15



REQUIRED MATERIALS

Completed application form

Letter(s) of recommendation

(one required, three recommended)

Résumé

Personal statement

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

Up to two additional essays

(from among a variety of topics)



TIPS, GUIDANCE, AND FAQS

michigan.law.umich.edu/apply

A2Z Vlog (search youtube.com/umichlaw)

law.jd.admissions@umich.edu

734.764.0537



FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

michigan.law.umich.edu/apply



michigan.law.umich.edu



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2026–2027



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