FIND COMMUNITY on an exciting Big Ten campus.

Everything that our students need is located in the Law College building, from open-door faculty offices to student-run journals and study groups. Our culture is friendly and inclusive, and you’ll form lifelong connections with other future Spartan lawyers.

Our 12,000+ grads practice across the country, working on solutions to today’s most pressing challenges. They thrive under pressure, bringing business acumen to legal fields, fighting crime, and protecting innovators. Spartan lawyers do demanding – and important – work every day.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF to excel.

It’s no secret: law school isn’t easy. From the classroom to externships, our diverse, ambitious students rise to the challenge. Along the way, they learn how to be leaders in the legal profession and in their communities.

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FIND YOUR NICHE and explore the law.

No matter what you’re passionate about, you’ll have opportunities to discover the legal work that inspires you. We teach around 170 different elective courses every year, from classic Socratic lectures to discussion-driven seminars. Our students also explore interdisciplinary coursework in MSU’s many graduate programs.

MSU Law’s academic programs allow you to build expertise in a particular area of legal practice. These programs foster close, supportive communities of like-minded students and expert faculty members.

Don’t wait until graduation to MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We’re inspired by the powerful social justice work performed by our clinic students. After your first year at MSU Law, you’ll have access to countless opportunities to do meaningful work in our many clinics.

Our clinics connect students with immigrants, children, low-income renters, exploited animals, prisoners, and student journalists who need help. Students work alongside dedicated faculty mentors to resolve important legal issues – and change lives.

Experience EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT.

With law-specific academic success programming, a network of student wellness resources, and dedicated career services professionals, MSU Law commits to helping our students navigate the challenges of legal education and emerge as confident professionals.

Faculty members play a key role in shaping the student experience. You’ll be inspired by our passionate faculty as their standout scholarship motivates you to explore career avenues that you hadn’t previously considered.

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Our students also share one of the nation’s largest, greenest campuses with 50,000+ fellow Spartans. You’ll be able to learn alongside them through classes in highly-ranked graduate programs, and you’ll come together to cheer on MSU’s powerhouse basketball and football teams.
From the rigorous classroom setting to challenging co-curricular activities, a Spartan legal education teaches students how to thrive in a demanding field. MSU Law graduates leave law school with a unique set of analytical tools that enables them to stand out in traditional legal careers – and beyond:

- Maintain professionalism under pressure
- Consider all sides of an issue
- Frame persuasive arguments
- Conduct top-notch research
- Collaborate with a team
- Negotiate solutions to complex problems
- Communicate with clarity and concision

A Spartan law degree is flexible. It can take you to the courtroom, the boardroom, the classroom, or the halls of government.

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- Communicate with clarity and concision

My MSU Law education was invaluable from both a professional readiness and personal development standpoint. I was consistently challenged to such a high standard at MSU Law that I found it easy to transition into professional life right after graduation.

— DAVID RADER, ’16

LOCATED FOR LEADERSHIP

MSU Law is located minutes from Michigan’s Capitol, enabling students to easily participate in state government as interns, externs, and volunteers throughout law school. Our students and graduates serve their communities by advocating for change on both sides of the aisle.

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

This program provides a select cohort of incoming students with opportunities to engage with state leadership. From networking with high-profile alumni to undertaking competitive legislative internships, participants benefit from unique access to Michigan’s leaders.

We know that navigating the demands of a legal education is a powerful experience – that’s why so many legally trained individuals end up in leadership positions, not only in the legal profession, but in business and government as well.

— LAWRENCE PONOROFF
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
MSU Law graduates make an impact all over the country. The Class of 2018 took the bar exam in 29 states.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF:
DC Semester

GET A START IN THE NATION’S CAPITAL.

MSU Law students can gain hands-on experience by working as externs for federal agencies in Washington, DC. From doing policy work at the Department of Defense to researching enforcement mechanisms at the Environmental Protection Agency, Spartan law students take on serious responsibilities.

A DC semester provides a powerful supplement to coursework. There’s nothing like experiencing the political process at the center of American government. Students work closely with policymakers, elected officials, and regulators to participate in the creation and enforcement of federal policy.

2Ls and 3Ls can work as externs for federal agencies between 24 and 34 hours per week, leaving plenty of time to take courses, sightsee, and experience life in the nation’s capital.

Previous DC work sites include:
- Commission on Civil Rights
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Justice
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Equal Opportunity Employment Commission
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- United States Coast Guard

Not interested in DC? Our students can spend a customized semester exploring the legal market wherever they plan to practice while still remaining on track for graduation.

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY

Spartan lawyers combine their legal skills with a passion for public service. The result? Standout careers in the federal government tackling today’s pressing problems.

PROTECTS CONSUMERS

I’m involved in major regulatory decisions that impact a large portion of the economy.

DARREN FERNÁNDEZ, ’14
Attorney, Federal Communications Commission

COMBATS DRUG ABUSE

My agency actively improves lives through groundbreaking research.

NDIDI OKEAGU, ’14
Contract Specialist, National Institutes of Health

ADVOCATES FOR VETERANS

The nation’s veterans serve their country, and I get to serve them when they come home.

MARTIN PETERS, ’09
Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs

MAKE GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS

The DC semester builds a bridge between studying and practicing law. It’s an impressive resume-builder, and students leverage their on-the-job experiences into employment opportunities.

The DC program was crucial to me in finding employment after graduation. Due to MSU Law’s connections at the Environmental Protection Agency, I was able to clerk for the Criminal Enforcement Division. There, I established relationships with practitioners in and outside of government, and that networking led to a full-time position.

— DANIEL SHERWOOD, ’17
JD students must complete 88 credits to graduate, and most full-time students complete law school in three years. While the first year curriculum is prescribed, 2Ls and 3Ls are free to select most of their own classes for the next two years, providing ample opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects or to concentrate on a specific area of the law.

FIND YOUR NICHE and Explore the Law

SPEND TIME WITH THE BASICS
We’ve calibrated the required first year courses to reflect the enduring fundamentals of legal theory and the realities of today’s legal practice. You’ll spend a year immersed in the principles of the law, setting the stage for success in law school.

BE CURIOUS
Once the first year is over, you’ll be free to choose courses that inspire you. MSU Law offers around 170 different electives every year.

Not sure what kind of law you’re planning to practice? You’ll explore topics that you’ve never encountered before, opening up exciting career avenues. Your coursework will also provide a springboard for hands-on learning experiences.

CHOOSE YOUR PATH
If you already know your niche, you’ll have opportunities to pick classes that align with your ambitions by immersing yourself in a curricular focus area. Each focus area represents a grouping of course offerings, faculty expertise, and co-curricular options.

WORK WITH EXPERTS
Our faculty members are leaders in their fields, and our courses represent the impressive range of their interests. You’ll have the opportunity to work closely with them in small classes.

BROADEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE
Students with a 3.0 or above can take six credits of coursework at MSU’s prestigious graduate schools. Our students benefit from classes in Public Policy, Labor Relations, Social Work, Urban Planning, the world-class Eli Broad College of Business, and many more.

CHOOSE COURSES THAT REFLECT YOUR LEARNING STYLE:
- Classic Socratic lectures
- Small seminars where students lead the discussion
- Hands-on skills courses taught by practitioners
- Performance-based litigation courses
- Research classes that culminate in publication-ready papers

FOCUS AREAS:
- Business and Commercial Law
- Children and Family Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Environmental Law, Animal Law, and Conservation Law
- Indigenous Law and Policy
- Intellectual Property and Information Communications Law
- International and Human Rights Law
- Legal Profession Innovation
- Litigation and Lawyering Skills
- Public Policy
- Social Justice Law
- Tax and Estate Planning Law

FIRST YEAR COURSES:
- Advocacy
- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State
- Contracts
- Contracts: Advanced Topics and Skills
- Criminal Law
- Foundations of Law
- Property
- Research, Writing, and Analysis
- Torts

GLOBAL FOOD LAW
Experienced professionals in the food industry bring their backgrounds in regulatory affairs, compliance, quality assurance, food safety, nutrition, labeling, and more into a unique online learning environment.

AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM
Attorneys from all over the world come to MSU Law to learn about the fundamentals of the American legal system. They take many courses alongside JD students, contributing valuable global perspectives.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Lawyers and non-lawyers seeking specialized knowledge in IP, Information, and Communications can earn an LLM or MJ degree by taking courses from leading experts in those fields.

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES
The customizable MLS degree provides career-critical legal knowledge to professionals in a wide range of fields, particularly those who work as leaders in state government and industry.
SPEND TWO FULL YEARS LEARNING HOW TO STAND OUT IN THE COURTROOM.

Trial Practice Institute (TPI) students conduct full civil and criminal trials in front of real judges, sharpening their skills with personal feedback. Graduates go on to excel as trial attorneys: prosecutors, public defenders, criminal defense attorneys, and civil litigators.

Admission to TPI is competitive and highly selective. Around 30 students are chosen each year through a rigorous application and interview process. Practicing lawyers and judges teach students how to present expert witness testimony, engage jurors with performance skills, and understand scientific evidence. They’re exposed to the basics of computer forensics, accident reconstruction, and forensic pathology.

TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE ADVANTAGES

1. **Refine your speaking skills.** Oral advocacy is a critical trial component, and TPI will put you in front of audiences for two years.

2. **Create a professional portfolio.** You’ll build strong legal writing samples – from briefs to written appeals – to impress prospective employers.

3. **Lead the curve in tech training.** Training in the high-tech TPI courtroom will prepare you to hit the ground running in legal practice.

4. **Develop faculty mentors.** Student-faculty engagement extends outside of the classroom, as professors share insights on their careers.

5. **Build a classroom community.** TPI cohorts spend two years working on the same projects, sharing ideas in class, and striving for similar career goals.

There are many law school programs out there that teach the basics of pretrial and trial advocacy, but what sets the TPI program apart is its rigorous pace and the chance to learn from sitting judges and actively practicing attorneys. The program mimics real-world demands and standards of practicing law.

— DEVON SCHULZ, ’16
Assistant Prosecutor, General Trials Division
Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office
Detroit, MI
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS LAW
Protect the next big idea.

MSU Law trains intellectual property attorneys to enable innovation. Lawyers play a pivotal role in ensuring that creators benefit from their ideas. MSU Law’s comprehensive Intellectual Property, Information, and Communications Law (IPIC) program prepares our grads to shape the information economy. Our IPIC faculty leads the field in intellectual property law, bringing their scholarship and experience into the classroom.

Students also benefit from our links to MSU’s groundbreaking brand-protection hub, the Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection. Michigan State University’s position as a global leader in the sciences connects our students with up-to-the-minute developments in engineering, computer science, agriculture, and communications – as well as efforts to protect MSU’s own innovations.

CUTTING-EDGE COURSES
Aside from the foundational courses, like Copyright Law and Patent Law, we offer hard-to-find courses in emerging areas. Our classes include intimate seminars, a new hands-on clinic, workshops, and an exciting study abroad program.

Antitrust Law
Biotechnology Law Seminar
Copyright Law
E-Discovery
Great Lakes First Amendment Law Clinic
Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
Intellectual Property Survey
International Intellectual Property Law
Licensing Intellectual Property
Patent Application Preparation
Patent Law
Patent Litigation
Quantitative Analysis for Lawyers
Research, Writing, and Analysis: Intellectual Property
Sports Law
Trademark Law

Croatia Intellectual Property Study Abroad Program:
Topics in Comparative Copyright
Topics in Cyber Law from an International Perspective
Topics in European Private Law and Intellectual Property Law
The Indigenous Law and Policy Center (ILPC) at MSU Law is one of only a few programs that trains lawyers to work on behalf of indigenous people and tribes. As independent nations, tribes form their own governments and adjudicate their own legal cases. With over 500 federally-recognized American Indian tribes, there’s a critical need for this specialized knowledge.

The ILPC faculty are leading thinkers on Indian law issues, connecting students with leading lawyers, scholars, and policymakers. Alumni work for tribes nationwide, major law firms, non-profits, and the federal government.

The most rewarding aspect of my firm’s work is being directly involved with tribal leaders who are trying to improve opportunities in their communities, or defend their rights. I also work as a tribal judge, serving my own tribe.

— BRYAN NEWLAND, ’07

We put students in the thick of things by assigning them real-world projects with real-world consequences. Our students write, research, and publish materials no one else has ever considered. We prepare them to contribute to the field right out of law school.

— MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER
Professor of Law
Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center

Environmental law coursework connects students with the increasingly complex world of environmental legal issues. Students explore the role of agencies, courts, and citizen groups in the implementation of environmental and conservation law. They also examine the challenges associated with enforcement.

I help students think about the relationship between regulatory instruments and policy goals, and to consider the inevitable trade-offs among regulatory choices.

— NOGA MORAG-LEVINE
Professor of Law
Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State
Environmental Law, and Regulating Environmental Risk

There’s objective evidence of a growing awareness in the general public of animal issues, which supports and lends credibility to their expanding representation in the legal system.

— DAVID FAVRE

The leading resource for animal law scholars, practitioners, and the media, the Center provides a comprehensive online library of materials for both lawyers and non-lawyers. Offering expert explanations of 60+ animal law topics, over 1,200 full text cases, and historical perspectives on social attitudes toward animals, it’s a critical resource in a rapidly changing environment.

— DAVID FAVRE
Sometimes you need to think outside the law.

Our students can enhance the value of their JDs with interdisciplinary expertise by earning another graduate degree concurrently. Dual degrees allow a predetermined number of credits from each program to count as electives in the other.

Recent custom degree programs include:
- JD-MS in Fisheries and Wildlife
- JD-MA in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education
- JD-MA in Labor Relations
- JD-MPP in Public Policy
- JD-MSW in Social Work
- JD-MA in Urban and Regional Planning

US-CANADIAN DUAL JD PROGRAM

Practice law on both sides of the border by earning law degrees in two countries in four years. Dual US-Canadian JD degree recipients prepare to represent clients on either side of the world’s largest bilateral trade relationship.

East Lansing is located about a 90-minute drive from the Canadian border, making it easy to transition (and visit) between the two countries. Program participants live and study for two years in each country while preparing to practice law in both the US and Canada. Grads can take the bar exam in the US as well as the Canadian Barrister’s Exam.

Canadian students benefit from the resources and networking power of MSU’s Canadian Studies Center (the oldest institute of its kind in the US), and by participating in the student-run Canadian Legal Association.

JD-MBA PROGRAM

The legal employment market is crowded. Stand out.

MSU Law students can position themselves for leadership by completing a Master’s of Business Administration (MBA) at MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business.

Combining an MSU Law JD with an MBA from MSU’s nationally-ranked Eli Broad College of Business will prepare you for the unique opportunities available in corporate legal settings. Students learn from leading experts and JD-MBA students also build standout networks with Spartan alumni from both schools, which is a major asset in a post-graduation job search.

Whether you plan to represent clients in a courtroom or spend your career in the boardroom, the skills you earn as a JD-MBA will be valued in a wide range of roles.

- Corporate counselors
- Financial advisors
- Sales executives
- Investment analysts
- Consultants

WHERE CAN A JD-MBA TAKE YOU?

JOSEPH DOMENICO, ’16
Senior Consultant
Chicago, IL

DANIEL ELLIOTT, ’16
Proposal Manager
Detroit, MI

PAUL ROBERTSON, ’16
Relationship Manager
Orlando, FL

JED MCINTOSH, ’17
Business Development Manager
Chicago, IL

SHEILA LAMAR, ’18
Human Resources Advisor
Houston, TX

EXXON MOBIL

MSU’s full-time MBA program ranks in the top 15 for US public universities.

Businessweek | Economist | Financial Times
Forbes | US News & World Report

ERNST & YOUNG
HONIGMAN LAW
WELLS FARGO
INNOVEL SOLUTIONS
NEW ENGEN
MSU Law students get an early start using the law to help others. Clinics represent underserved communities: elderly renters on the brink of eviction, unaccompanied immigrant children, domestic violence survivors, prisoners whose civil rights have been violated, and Indian families struggling to stay together.

Along the way, students also experience what it’s like to be a lawyer. They have full ownership over their cases. Students receive intensive support from faculty members, who often serve as personal mentors and allies in the post-graduation job search. Working in the clinic creates a close-knit community of students with a passion for representing clients.

PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE in a wide range of clinics:

- ANIMAL WELFARE
- CHANCE AT CHILDHOOD
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- FIRST AMENDMENT
- HOUSING LAW
- IMMIGRATION LAW
- INDIAN LAW
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
- LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER

The real-life, practical training, and interpersonal skills that develop as a result of dealing with real clients with real problems – when it’s not your grade on the line, it’s their lives on the line – that was what really made me into a lawyer who cares about clients. It’s not about the bottom line or some billing rate. It gave me the drive to go out and represent people instead of corporations.

— ANDREW W. DUNLAP ’11
Partner, Josephson Dunlap, LLP
Houston, TX

Today, Dunlap is a partner in his own firm, representing employees across the US whose wages are being wrongfully withheld from them by multi-national companies.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

The Tax Clinic extends learning beyond the classroom while benefiting the community. Students provide free legal services to low-income taxpayers – including veterans, elderly and disabled people, and non-native English speakers – who are in controversy with the Internal Revenue Service. Students work through the intricacies of substantive tax law and IRS procedures, while cultivating a strong sense of responsibility to serve the needs of others.

While we evaluate students on their understanding and application of tax law and IRS procedures, we also coach students on professionalism: case organization and management, communication, public speaking, and writing. We have impromptu discussions throughout the day about cases as clients’ circumstances change, but we also discuss job stress, ethics, and career development.

— JOSHUA WEASE
Associate Clinical Professor of Law
Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
Immigration law integrates elements from a wide range of legal disciplines. With national leaders in the field teaching core courses and working one-on-one with students in the Immigration Law Clinic, MSU Law prepares students to represent their clients with skill and empathy.

Courses that supplement the Immigration Law Clinic experience include:

- Administrative Law
- Child Advocacy
- Client Counseling and Interviewing
- Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State
- Criminal Procedure
- Domestic Violence
- Employment Law
- Family Law: Marriage and Divorce
- Family Law: Child, Family and the State
- Federal Jurisdiction
- Immigration Consequences of Crime
- Immigration Law
- International Human Rights
- Refugee and Asylum Law

Our cases are compelling: children who are facing deportation from the United States, victims of domestic violence, and refugees with disabilities confronting barriers to naturalization, among others. Our students commit themselves to challenging legal work, and they make a difference in the lives of their clients.

— DAVID THRONSON
Professor of Law

The Immigration Law Clinic has represented clients from more than 80 countries.

CHANGE LIVES.
Immigration Law Clinic students advocate for vulnerable immigrants. Students and faculty work together to find creative solutions for clients who are often at life-altering crossroads. They stand beside their clients in immigration courts, administrative agencies, family courts, and federal courts of appeal.

I come from a background where so many people live in fear and don't have a voice in their treatment. I know how it feels to be treated like an unequal in employment, education, or housing. The law can bring hope and address the all-too-common pains experienced by the less powerful.

— SKADDEN FELLOW: MONICA ANDRADE, '17

Monica Andrade is now a US citizen, a law school graduate, and an elite public interest fellow. The highly-selective Skadden Fellowship Program, which has been described as “a legal Peace Corps,” provides funding for recent law graduates who plan to devote their professional lives to providing legal services to the disadvantaged.

Andrade works with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan in Flint, advocating for immigrant families harmed by the toxic water crisis. Her project includes direct outreach to immigrants, strategic litigation, and using media to highlight the problems faced by the immigrant community.

Andrade described her work as a student in MSU Law’s Immigration Law Clinic as “the most compelling part of my education.” Working alongside faculty, she navigated clients through a bewildering web of immigration laws and regulations.

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For Gabrielle O’Connor, ‘16, her clinic journey led her to a hometown career in service-focused advocacy. O’Connor earned her bachelor’s degree in political science, but she wanted to do more than write policy. She wanted to have a direct impact on people, a goal that led her to law school.

One of the highlights of her MSU Law experience was working in the First Amendment Clinic. As part of the clinic, O’Connor taught Detroit-area high school students about the First Amendment and their rights. During her teaching, students began asking about what rights they had when interacting with police and law enforcement.

O’Connor recognized the students’ need for a thoughtful, informed conversation on this highly-charged topic.

She collaborated with clinical faculty to organize a program they called “Black Lives Matter Day” at Cass Tech High School. Nearly 800 high school students listened to panels, completed workshops educating them about their constitutional rights, and participated in police encounter role-play scenarios.

“A lot of kids don’t understand that they have certain rights when interacting with police officers. They think it’s just, ‘I see you and you have to show me everything. You have to do everything,’” said O’Connor. “These kids have to realize that they have rights and they have the ability to say ‘no’ – if they do say ‘yes,’ they need to understand what they’re saying ‘yes’ to.”

Today, O’Connor represents women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. She helps her clients with everything from divorce cases and custody agreements to defamation lawsuits.

Clients rely on their lawyers for expertise – and support. O’Connor said that there are times in her practice when she can’t help her client, but it’s critical to do everything that she can.

What motivates me is that people are in need of help and this is a service I can provide to them. Even if I can’t get them a legal victory, they need to know somebody is in their corner. They need to know that somebody is going up to bat for them.

— GABRIELLE O’CONNOR, ’16

“I never go to bed at night wondering if I’m making a difference.”
Experience exceptional STUDENT SUPPORT

The whole MSU Law community is dedicated to student success, and we take an active approach. From helping new students navigate the 1L year to preparing them to pass the bar, we’re dedicated to fostering an engaged, accomplished, and happy student body.

FACULTY CONNECTIONS

Interacting with our dedicated, accomplished faculty members is at the heart of the MSU Law experience. MSU Law professors have studied and practiced law worldwide, and they share unique insights with their students, bringing the law to life for a new generation of lawyers.

Faculty members will help you find your niche in law through classroom engagement, one-on-one learning opportunities, and lifelong mentorships. Faculty members co-author papers with their students, create personalized experiences through directed study courses, coach trial competition teams, and offer research opportunities on cutting-edge legal scholarship.

Throughout law school, you’ll connect with professors who will become your mentors – they’ll celebrate your successes and invest in your future.
Many law students are fully engaged in the political issues of the day, and so they come to law school keen to study constitutional law. When I taught Constitutional Law I, I often saw that enthusiasm turn to disappointment. They were interested in constitutional rights, which are covered in Constitutional Law II; Constitutional Law I is the “structure” course, concentrating on less showy issues, like justiciability, the commerce clause, federalism, and the separation of powers.

In recent years, though, constitutional structure has gotten more newsworthy. Suddenly, laypeople had strong opinions about things like the proper bounds of presidential and judicial power.

What I tried to teach my students in Constitutional Law I, and what I strive to find in my scholarship, are real answers instead of arguments made for partisan advantage. Achieving this goal requires examining questions before they are in the news; for example:

The plaintiffs in Gary B. v. Snyder decided to argue that what’s happening in the Detroit schools fell so far below any unacceptable level of education that it violates the federal Constitution. If someone is functionally illiterate—unable to read at grade level—then how can we expect them to meaningfully engage in the rest of their explicit constitutional rights? How can we expect them to meaningfully participate in our government and exercise the right to vote and the right to free speech if their ability to obtain information and evaluate that information is so limited because the public schools that they attended did not even give them an opportunity to become literate?

Vice Dean Bowman has co-authored leading textbooks in the field of education law and is extensively published on education law issues, including public schools in fiscal crisis, students’ free speech rights, racial/ethnic equality in education, and religion in public schools.
CAREER SERVICES OFFICE
The Career Services Office (CSO) is a team of legal career experts that works with students through every stage of the career-building process. They coach students on exploring law careers, developing polished application materials, and networking with prospective employers. The CSO’s lunches, workshops, and panel discussions offer opportunities to develop career-critical skills.

Recent programs include:
- Business Analytics Basics
- Connecting with Lawyers
- Dressing for Interviews
- Leadership for Lawyers
- Launch Your Career: Social Media
- Mock Interview Program
- Navigating Law School: Insights from 3Ls
- Professional Etiquette Dinner
- Self-Promotion for Women
- Speed Networking
- Utilizing LinkedIn

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY SERVICES OFFICE
The Diversity and Equity Services Office has an inclusive mission: to make sure that all students experience a welcoming, supportive environment. That mission extends from the classroom to the Academic Success Program to cultural events to developing personal relationships with students of all backgrounds.

Director Mary Ann Ferguson, ’02, has led Diversity and Equity Services at MSU Law since the office was founded. She works closely with the student body to provide:
- Holistic student advising
- Inclusive diversity programming
- Support for multicultural student groups
- Peer leadership development

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) is the hub of student-centric resources at MSU Law. From welcoming new 1Ls during Immersion Week to planning Commencement each year, the OSE team helps MSU Law students thrive throughout law school.

In addition to academic advising, the OSE helps students by:
- Developing academic programming
- Offering personal counseling
- Supporting 35+ student organizations
- Connecting students with MSU’s wellness resources

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM
The Academic Success Program (ASP) builds academic and personal skills that will see you through an intense three years. Students can meet with ASP Director Goldie Pritchard for private coaching sessions. These meetings help to foster wellness and build a studying strategy – including techniques and schedules – customized for different courses and professors.

The ASP also offers:
- One-on-one consultations
- Group workshops on:
  - Reading for class
  - Briefing a case
  - Note-taking
  - Final exam preparation
- Labs built around specific professors’ testing styles
- Simulated practice exams

LEGAL WRITING SUPPORT
One of the first challenges that new 1Ls face is learning how to write for legal audiences. Writing Skills Specialist Jeremy Francis’ primary focus is on helping students to transition from an undergrad writing environment to writing for legal audiences.

Professor Francis hosts an annual first-year series on writing mechanics, small group workshops, and one-on-one paper reviews.

After my first semester, I knew I needed some extra help to outline, structure, and write my exam questions clearly. The ASP was fantastic and taught me the skills I needed to succeed.

— MARK JENSEN, ’15
Associate, Bettenberg, Maguire & Associates LLC
Denver, CO
STUDENT-RUN JOURNALS

Journal of Animal & Natural Resource Law was the second legal journal on animal law established in North America and remains one of just three dedicated to this topic.

Michigan State International Law Review publishes thought-provoking articles and organizes topical symposia on provocative issues from around the globe.

Michigan State Law Review receives 2,000 annual submissions from legal scholars and brings exciting thought-leaders to campus for two yearly symposia.

COMPETITION TEAMS

MSU Law was ranked one of the top 20 moot court programs of the last decade by PreLaw Magazine, as well as one of last year’s strongest programs. Our students work closely with faculty mentors to hone their skills, showcasing their intellect, preparation, and teamwork at competitions all over the nation.

FIND COMMUNITY On A Big Ten Campus

As an MSU Law student, everything you need is located in the Law College building. From classrooms to clinics to faculty offices, our own library, and an on-site coffee shop, students experience the building as a home away from home. It’s where you’ll form close, lifelong relationships with your famously outgoing Spartan classmates.

Students can channel their passions through countless co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Our 35+ student organizations include active political groups, a musical theatre revue, social justice societies, and interest-specific clubs.

The atmosphere of MSU Law is one of its best qualities. Law school is inherently competitive, but I always experienced camaraderie and comfort within this community. The friendly environment made the transition into law school easier.

CLAIRE CORSEY ’16
Assistant Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender
Cambridge, MD

MSU Law’s moot court program is ranked 17th in the country.
GETTING INVOLVED:
Student Organizations at MSU Law

MSU Law helps students create new organizations to reflect their passions, so the roster of student groups continually changes to reflect the interests of our student body. Students come together as political activists, as members of various cultural groups, and as future practitioners in specific legal fields. Some of our current groups are:

- American Constitution Society
- Anti-Trafficking Legal Advocacy Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
- Association of Chinese Law
- Black Law Student Association
- Board of Advocates
- Business and Securities Law Institute
- Canadian Legal Association
- Christian Legal Society
- Criminal Defense Association
- Environmental and Agriculture Law Society
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- Jewish Law Student Association
- Latino Law Society
- Middle Eastern Law Student Association
- Mindfulness Society
- MSU Law Ice Hockey Club
- MSU Law Musical Theatre Revue
- Native American Law Students Association
- Phi Delta Phi
- Public Interest Law Society
- St. Thomas More Society
- Student Bar Association
- The Federalist Society
- Triangle Bar
- Women’s Law Caucus

To future Spartan lawyers, Saad offers this advice: No matter the struggle, keep moving forward; keep taking on challenges; keep breaking the boundaries because you’re going to make it and you’re going to succeed—and when that success occurs, it’s going to feel ten times greater.

— BATTOOL SAAD, ’16

LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Octavio Duran, ’11, first put his talents to the test in the moot courtroom at MSU Law. In law school, he was involved in the Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute and the Moot Court Trial and Advocacy Board. Duran credits these organizations for teaching him essential elements of trial practice.

“My experience in both groups enabled me to succeed in negotiations, depositions, motion arguments in front of a judge, and so on,” he said. “These groups launched me ahead of many of my competitors who didn’t have this rigorous and elite training.”

Duran also served as the 2011 class president, vice president of the Public Interest Law Society, and the liaison for the Hispanic Law Society as well as Phi Alpha Delta. He recommends that students get involved in events and organizations to create lasting connections with peers, and also to develop professional, resume-building skills.

“You will not only make lifelong friends and colleagues, but you will also place yourself in a much better position to find employment after graduation,” he said. “With this involvement, you will have plenty to discuss during your interviews and will likely beat out those students who merely went to class and received good grades.”

GAIN DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

During her time at MSU Law, Batool Saad, ’16, was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Women’s Law Caucus, and she was also president of the Middle Eastern Law Student Association.

“I took initiative to be a part of multiple groups because I thought interacting with people and gaining different experiences from other perspectives would assist me later on in my career,” said Saad.

When her law school journey came to an end, she sought out positions where she could “aid those who need it the most.” Her job search led her to volunteer at an Elder Law clinic in Redford, Michigan, where she worked with low-income clients to draft their estate planning documents. She has also offered pro bono services through Lakeshore Legal Aid. Saad emphasized how important it is to her that people have the ability to speak to an attorney without a hefty bill at the end of the day.

Today, as a staff attorney at UAW Legal Services Plan, she helps union workers from General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler with their estate planning.
Every fall, 75,000 fans fill the stadium to cheer for the Spartan football team. But football season isn’t just about watching the games – it’s an experience. The streets are closed to traffic as thousands of students, alumni, and sports fans tailgate on campus. Bodies are painted, the MSU Fight Song plays, and the smell of barbeque fills the air. Official MSU Law football events bring Spartan lawyers and law students together.

MSU’s legendary basketball program makes regular appearances in the NCAA Final Four. When March Madness sweeps the campus, MSU students and fans will be drawing up their brackets and cheering on the team from bars all over East Lansing.

You've seen Spartan teams pull off spectacular last-second victories. From the joy of the win to the heartbreak of defeat, millions of loyal fans come along for the ride.

THE EAST LANSING EXPERIENCE

East Lansing is a classic college town, with year-round cultural events and a diverse population. When you need a study break, check out the local retail shops, art galleries, and international restaurants. East Lansing has a reasonable cost-of-living, a user-friendly mass transit system (free to students!), and all the character of a Midwestern college town.

The community offers safe, affordable housing: on-campus graduate student dorms, local pet-friendly apartments, downtown lofts, and houses in quiet family neighborhoods.

EAST LANSING FACTS:

48,600 RESIDENTS  |  24 PARKS
14 MILES OF BIKE LANES
24 COFFEE SHOPS  |  41 BARS  |  135 RESTAURANTS
900+ BUSINESSES

East Lansing hosts an array of cultural events and street fairs, including the annual Art Festival, the East Lansing Film Festival, the Great Lakes Folk Festival, the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, and a free outdoor summer concert series.
Michigan State University owes its environment to its student population of over 50,000. The campus brings together people from all over the world into a diverse, energetic community.

It’s easy to stay busy at MSU; we’re home to almost 100 miles of walking paths, our own dairy store with 32 custom ice cream flavors, 20,000 bicycle parking spaces, and a canoe rental facility. Every day, thousands of Spartans bike, walk, and jog to class, enjoying the changing seasons on one of the nation’s largest, greenest campuses.

MSU Law students also enjoy the academic benefits of our connection with Michigan State University. They can select any six credits of graduate-level MSU coursework, building specialized knowledge by studying under experts in many fields.

Michigan State University has cultivated a strong global presence for over sixty years, and is recognized worldwide as a leading research institution. Our campus partners include top scholars from around the world, and their far-reaching work changes lives for the better in communities from mid-Michigan to Rwanda.

**MSU Facts:**

- 50,000+ students including 11,000 graduate students
- 200+ programs of study
- 325 international partnerships in 80 countries
- 552,000 living MSU alumni
- 7,260 international students from 133 countries
- 275 study abroad programs in 60 countries
- 800 active student organizations
- 12,500 faculty and staff
JOIN

THE

SPARTAN NATION

LAW