Wayne Law: Serving Students and Community

Community Enrichment & Scholarly Engagement
Building relationships within the community and advancing legal knowledge to the benefit of our students, Detroit and beyond

Diversity, Inclusion, Access
Creating programs of legal and interdisciplinary study and new approaches to the delivery of essential legal services founded in the need and desire to expand pathways and impacts for a diverse and engaged community

Career & Workforce Development
Preparing undergraduate, professional, and JD students for a new legal and professional landscape through innovative, practical experiences
Developing programs to engage both JD and non-JD students in real world legal and policy problems
USNWR Ranking: Wayne Law

Wayne Law
Providing Unparalleled Value to Students and the State

- #56 in the country for Best Law School (+44 since 2017)
- #17 Part-Time Programs
- #49 Post-Graduation Employment
- #4 Among public law schools and #14 in the country for best ratio of debt to starting salary
- 80% Students remain in Michigan after graduating
Strategic Growth...
...with Mission-Based Impact

- Position graduates for workforce needs
- Fulfill community needs through service-oriented programming
- Recruit underserved and diverse students
- Expand access through increased collaboration between schools & colleges

1,500 Students enrolled annually by 2027

- Master of Studies in Law (MSL)
- Master of Laws (LL.M.)
- Minor in Law (MIL)
- Bachelors of Art in Law (BA Law)
Serving Regional Employers and Employees: Masters of Studies in Law (MSL)

Programming and Academic Growth for non-attorneys
- Launched Human Resources in Winter 2021 and Health Law in Fall 2023 for professionals with major regional employers
- 2-year part-time online program
- Attracting career enhancers (56%) and changers (44%)

Existing Industries Represented Include
- Automotive
- Education
- Law Enforcement
- Legal
- Manufacturing
- Military

Serving a Diverse Student Population
- Underrepresented Minorities: 41%
- Women: 79%
- Retention Rate: 89%

Growth Plans Based on Workforce needs
- Compliance and Risk Management
- Cybersecurity Risk and Strategy
- General MSL
- Graduate Certificates in Human Resources & Health Law

- Launched Winter 2021
- Current Students: 70
- Anticipate 250+ students by 2027
Collaboration and professional growth for undergraduate students: Minor in Law (MIL)

Interdisciplinary program for undergraduate students serving Wayne State’s unique student population and community and economic needs and the only program of its kind in the Midwest

Collaboration between Law School and WSU undergraduate schools and colleges of liberal arts & sciences; fine, performing and communications arts; business; and social work in which undergraduate students study with law professors to gain knowledge that will help advance them in their fields

Underrepresented minorities: 30%

Adding College of Engineering, School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, and School of Nursing as partners next year based on workforce-related demands in STEM and Health Care fields

• Launched Winter 2020
• Current Students: 373
• Anticipate 800 students by 2027
Providing Access and Improving Social Mobility: Bachelor of Arts in Law (B.A. Law)

New undergraduate law degree in partnership with College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Only program of its kind in the Midwest and one of only six in the country

- Major differentiator for the State of Michigan
- Develops critical thinking, communication skills, and foundational understanding of law that prepares students for a wide variety of careers and increases employability across multiple fields
- A leg up and risk-free preview to those considering law school
- Simultaneously serves existing Michigan residents and attracts out-of-state students who will stay and contribute to growth of Michigan economy

Enormous potential to provide access to traditionally underserved student populations and improve social mobility.

- Launched Fall 2023
- Current students: 115
- Anticipate 430+ students by 2027
Advancing Legal Education, Social Justice and Community Engagement

A new facility means Wayne State can change the future of legal education and the workforce while living out its mission and vision to have a diverse student body that meaningfully engages in its urban community.

- Appeal and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic
- Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic
- Business and Community Law Clinic
- Community Advocacy Clinic
- Disability Law Clinic
- Immigration Appellate Advocacy Clinic
- Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic

The new Wayne Law will have enhanced ability to house community-facing programs that bring Detroiter and other residents to the area each day. The ground floor will include a community justice hub, providing a public corridor for community action and legal assistance through initiatives like a unique legal navigators program.
The Community Justice Hub

Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights
A center for civil rights teaching, research and action, the center fuels the next generation of civil rights through initiatives like the Detroit Equity Action Lab.

Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy
Named for former U.S. Senator Carl Levin, the center educates future attorneys, business leaders, legislators, and K-12 students on the role of public oversight and how to use oversight as an instrument of change.

Law Clinics
Innovative law clinics and related programs that provide direct legal services to those in need.

Warrior Housing Corps
A community of students addressing severe housing issues facing the city and residents that will provide direct services to tenants.

Center for Access to Justice
A new center aimed at addressing the access-to-justice gap through a combination of law reform, advocacy, integration with and training of non-lawyer professionals, and technology.

Law Library
A world-class library open to the community.
Working for Detroit, Michigan, and Beyond

Initiatives with Impact
• Warrior Housing Corps
• Legal Navigators
• Interdisciplinary Holistic Defense
• ABA Policing Practices Fellowship
• Expungement Fair
• Community Homelessness Interprofessional Program
• Pop-Up Clinics

Creating Legal Pathways
• High School Visits
• AP Day
• STEM Day
• C2 Pipeline Summer Camp
• Wayne Law Warrior Housing Corps Learning Community
• High School Law Club/Mock Trial
• DJK Pre-Law Summer Institute
A New Landscape for Wayne Law’s Next Century

Existing Constraints
• Fixed-seating classrooms in a traditional lecture setting
• Lack of access to natural light
• No space for study or collaboration
• Insufficient capacity for the anticipated 1,500 daily visitors to the law complex
• Considerable deferred maintenance leading to repeated, severe, and prolonged disruptions of student learning

Building for the Future
• Flexible classrooms allowing flexible pedagogical approaches and class sizes
• Collaboration and study spaces fostering coordination and networking among students, faculty, and staff
• Event, gathering, and meeting spaces for researchers, businesses, and the community
• Technology-based learning infrastructure for agility, growth, and reach
• Removal of all accessibility and life safety deficiencies
• Ample access to daylight and green space
• Industry-leading energy-efficient infrastructure; decreased operating expenses
• Designed to meet LEED Gold certification or higher
Thank You

law.wayne.edu