

Drake Law Announcements

August 14, 2024

Faculty Transitions

We welcome two new full-time faculty this fall. [Professor Sayoko Blodgett-Ford](#), our inaugural Edmund Sease Faculty Research Scholar, will teach in the Intellectual Property area. She brings a distinguished background in IP, including at Tetris Online, Inc and Nintendo. She is a prominent expert in Artificial Intelligence. We also welcome [Professor Colleen Cullen](#) as the new director of our Criminal Defense Clinic. Professor Cullen previously taught in the University of Denver's Criminal Defense Clinic and handled a wide range of criminal matters at the public defender's office in Milwaukee. **Professor Andrew Jurs** has departed Drake to teach at the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific in Sacramento. **Professor Julie Smith** retired as director of the Legislative Practice Center. We welcome her successor, **Professor Sydney Gangestad**, who previously served as assistant director of the program.

Judge Mark Bennett announced in June his retirement from full-time teaching in December 2024. He will be taking a sabbatical research leave during the fall semester. His contributions to Drake Law have been tremendous. Our students have loved his classes in the crucial areas of racial equity and social change. His advice on advocacy from his years of experience on the bench have helped so many of our students also.

And as previously announced, **Professor Keith Miller** will be teaching during the fall semester and then retiring.

New Student Org Bulletin Boards

Student Orgs now have a new space to post flyers about upcoming events! Check out the hallway by Admissions in Cartwright. Student Orgs can use the blue bulletin boards to post information about events scheduled in the next two weeks. On the opposite side, find long-term information about campus resources. Be in-the-know!

Partner with Student Services for Wellness Events

Student Services wants to partner with your student organization to co-host a wellness event for your membership and 1Ls this fall! Exec boards will get an email from Ashley Madsen with more information. Watch your inbox or contact Ashley.R.Madsen@drake.edu for more information.

Constitution Day – September 19

[Professor Guy-Uriel E. Charles](#), Harvard Law School will be speaking at 3 p.m. in Room 213, Cartwright Hall. The title of his lecture is "Race and American Democracy". More information can be found on

the attached flyer. This event is free but you must register [here](#). Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Baum Chair of Ethics in the Professions Symposium Scheduled for Oct. 18

Professor Melissa Weresh, Herb and Karen Baum Chair of Ethics in the Professions, is pleased to announce the 2024 Baum Chair of Ethics in the Professions Symposium: Ethics in the Legal Profession. The symposium will be held on **Friday, Oct. 18, 2024**, from **9 a.m.- noon** in Cartwright Hall, room 213.

The symposium will feature two panel presentations. The first panel will address ethical issues associated with areas of the country with sparse attorney populations, also known as “rural deserts.” The second panel focuses on ethical issues associated with generative artificial intelligence in the practice of law.

Space is limited and registration is required. [Please click here to reserve your spot at the symposium.](#)

Press Releases from Drake Law

Throughout the year we will be sharing the press releases about Drake Law. We want to be sure you know what is happening here and how proud we are of the efforts of our students, faculty and staff.

Princeton Review names Drake Law School a Best Law School

The Princeton Review named Drake Law School to its 2024 list of the best law schools in the nation. This decision, based on reviews from current Drake Law students, rates Drake as a top school in several categories including overall academic experience, interesting & accessible professors, and career services. [Read more here.](#)

2024-2025 Student Organization Event Registration Survey – Updated!

Reminder that before a student organization hosts an event on or off campus, the primary contact of the event must fill out this [survey](#). This should be done at least three (3) business days before the event and/or prior to entering into a rental contract. If food is served, you will also need to get your order to Sodexo at least one week prior to the event to avoid late fees.

Law School Outlook Calendar

Events at the Law School are added to the [Law School Outlook calendar](#) so that students, faculty and staff can see what is happening at a glance. Please use the attached directions to access and bookmark the calendar. Entries are categorized by Academics, Admissions, Career Development Office, Faculty, Law School Events, Library and Student Organizations. If you want to add an event to the calendar, please contact [Lori Richman](#).

ITS Support - In Person and Walk-in

The lower level of Carnegie is open for support: classroom emergencies, student walk-in support, faculty & staff scheduled support will be given preference over faculty and staff walk-in support. ITS may ask you to wait while they help multiple customers at once. ITS recommends using the IT service portal at service.drake.edu/its or calling 515-271-3001.

Religious Observance Accommodations

If an academic deadline or exam conflicts with your religious observance, please contact Dean Battles before the conflict to arrange reasonable accommodations.

Contagious Illness Protocols

Students are to follow CDC protocols applicable to any instance in which a student is contagious with a viral or bacterial infection, such as influenza, strep, mononucleosis, or COVID-19. Although reporting is no longer required, infectious students cannot attend in-person classes and must contact their instructors to coordinate making up any missed material. Faculty may use their own discretion for how to treat absences due to illness.

[CDC Guidance for illness with fever, including influenza.](#)

Please visit Drake's [Contagious Illness Protocols](#) website to review this information. If a student, faculty, or staff member is interested in using a mask to reduce the spread of illness, masks can be found in the Gorsche Student Services Suite. For additional questions, contact Dean Battles.

Broadlawns Community Clinic at Drake

If a student is ill, they may receive care at the [Broadlawns Clinic at Drake](#). Broadlawns will work with insured and uninsured students needing care.

Drake Law Women Emergency Fund

Drake Law Women has an emergency fund for students in need through the course of the school year. Consideration for an award is based upon demonstrated financial need and the emergency. The emergency fund is open to all students. The application can be found under the "Emergency Fund" tab on the Drake Law Women TWEN page and the award process is completely anonymous. Questions? email kelsey.schott@drake.edu.