



MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

TOMORROW'S LAWYERS AND LEADERS

This fall, MSU Law welcomed the first cohort of students to the newly-established Michigan Leadership Initiative (MLI). This selective program honors our graduates' distinguished contributions to government, industry, and the judiciary in Michigan by preparing the next generation of state leaders. We provide MLI students with one-on-one career coaching, guaranteed

summer work placements, and exceptional access to prestigious alumni.

Once a month, MLI students participate in a conversation between Dean Ponoroff and high-profile graduates, learning from their career journeys. These unique discussions provide tomorrow's Spartan lawyers with the hard-earned wisdom of their predecessors.

FALL 2018 FEATURED ALUMNI

ELIZABETH CLEMENT, '02, shared her path from private law firm owner to the state judiciary during her MLI visit before her November election to the Michigan Supreme Court.

LAWRENCE OLIVER, '91, started out as an industrial engineer, worked at GM throughout law school, and eventually earned a position as Chief Counsel of Investigations at The Boeing Company.

R. AMANI SMATHERS, '13, came to MSU Law as a Kings Scholar with an interest in intellectual property, only to find herself pursuing a career as a legal technologist at the forefront of a growing field.



“The future of law practice is not fewer lawyers. It is lawyers doing different things.”

— R. AMANI SMATHERS, '13
Legal Solutions Architect, Davis Wright Tremaine - De Novo | Lansing, MI

TRAILBLAZERS: THE MLI STUDENTS

The 19 members of the 2021 MLI cohort hail from 11 different undergraduate schools, and have master's degrees from Michigan State, the University of Southern California, and from universities in England and Australia.

Their work prior to starting law school includes:

- A police officer with the Dallas, Texas Police Department
- A wildlife videographer in South Africa
- A regional program director with Operation Smile for the Middle East
- A human resource specialist with Continental Automotive in Frankfurt, Germany
- A conductor for the Adrian and Blissfield Railroad