A SPARTAN LEGAL EDUCATION WILL:

PREPARE YOU FOR EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES
It’s no secret: legal careers aren’t easy. From the bar exam to the post-graduation job search, we equip hardworking, ambitious students to rise to the challenge. Along the way, they learn how to be leaders in the legal profession and in their communities.

Our 12,500+ grads fight crime, advocate for social justice, bring business acumen to legal fields, and protect innovators across the country.

ALLOW YOU TO EXPLORE THE LAW
No matter what you’re passionate about, you’ll have opportunities to find legal work that inspires you. We offer nearly 140 different elective courses every year, and our students explore interdisciplinary coursework in MSU’s other graduate programs.

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

ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
The MSU Law community is continually inspired by the meaningful public service performed by our students. You’ll have the opportunity to promote social justice in our many clinics, resolving important legal issues – and changing lives.

Our clinics provide desperately-needed services to underserved clients, including immigrants, Native families, low-income renters, prisoners with civil rights grievances, and young journalists.

PROVIDE YOU WITH DEDICATED STUDENT SUPPORT
With an array of law-specific support programming and a network of student wellness resources, our faculty and staff members commit to helping students navigate the demands of a legal education and emerge as confident professionals.

Faculty members play a key role in shaping the student experience. Their standout scholarship and mentorship will motivate you to explore careers that you hadn’t previously considered.

OFFER YOU COMMUNITY ON A BIG TEN CAMPUS
Students find everything they need in the Law College building: faculty offices, student journals, clinics, and study groups. Our culture is welcoming and inclusive, and you’ll form lifelong friendships with other future Spartan lawyers.

You’ll also share one of the nation’s largest, greenest campuses with 50,000+ students. They’ll be your classmates in highly-ranked graduate programs, and your fellow fans as you cheer together for MSU’s powerhouse athletic teams.
PREPARE YOU FOR EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES

MSU Law prepares future lawyers to thrive in a demanding profession. Our rigorous academic program, challenging co-curricular offerings, and abundant support resources will equip you to excel not just as a law student, but as a member of the legal profession.

From passing the bar exam to landing your all-important first law job, what you learn here will position you for a lifetime of career opportunities.

Spartan lawyers develop a powerful set of analytical tools that enable them to stand out in traditional legal careers – and beyond.

BY THE TIME YOU GRADUATE, YOU’LL BE READY TO:

Stay professional under pressure
Frame persuasive arguments
Conduct top-notch research
Collaborate with a team
Negotiate solutions to complex problems
Communicate with clarity and concision

Learning to think like a lawyer – and navigating the demands of a legal education – is a powerful experience, which is why law has always served as a gateway to impressive leadership careers. Through exposure to leaders in all aspects of law, politics, and business, we make abundantly clear to our students the many ways in which they can use their legal education to make a difference in society.

— LAWRENCE PONOROFF
Dean and Professor of Law

LOCATED FOR LEADERSHIP

MSU Law is situated just 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 use their legal educations to serve their communities, advocating for causes that they’re passionate about on both sides of the aisle.

2018-19 MLI speakers included:

- Dennis Archer, ’70, former two-term Mayor of Detroit and former Michigan Supreme Court Justice
- Elizabeth Clement, ’02, Michigan Supreme Court Justice
- Erin Diaz, ’15, Former Skadden Fellow
- Katherine Spicer, ’10, Senior Associate at Squire Patton Boggs
- Lawrence Oliver, ’91, Chief Counsel of Investigations at Boeing
- R. Amani Smathers, ’13, Legal Solutions Architect
- Tom Izzo, Coach for MSU men’s basketball

A FLEXIBLE DEGREE

Our 12,500+ graduates stand out in the courtroom, the boardroom, the classroom, and in the halls of government.

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Each year, a select cohort of incoming students is offered a unique set of opportunities through participation in the Michigan Leadership Initiative (MLI). From conversing with a curated group of high-profile alumni to receiving personalized career counseling, MLI students prepare to become tomorrow’s state and community leaders.
SPARTAN CAREER OUTCOMES

Do you have a passion for representing disadvantaged communities? Do you dream of drafting an airtight contract? Always planned to do private practice in a big city? No matter what kind of law interests you, we have alumni who have paved the way.

An MSU Law degree is versatile – it opens doors to a wide array of satisfying, lifelong careers in law and other industries. Our recent grads take their Spartan skills to all types of locations and practice areas.

80% OF LAST YEAR’S GRADS WORK IN LAW-RELATED JOBS.

2018 GRADS: JOBS BY SECTOR

- 54% LAW FIRMS
- 16% GOVERNMENT
- 10% BUSINESS
- 9% PUBLIC INTEREST
- 9% CLERKSHIP
- 2% ACADEMIA

2018 GRADS: TOP EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

- Michigan
- Illinois
- Texas
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Indiana
- Ohio

MSU LAW ALUMNI LAUNCH EXCITING CAREERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE CLASS OF ’18 IS WORKING IN 31 STATES AND CANADA.

Caitlin Brown '18
Associate Attorney at R. Connor & Associates, P.C.
Chicago, IL
BAR EXAM OUTCOMES
You’ll take high-stakes tests throughout law school, but the biggest exam of all awaits you at the end: the bar examination. MSU Law’s strategically designed curriculum and abundant support resources prepare our graduates for success on bar exams across the country.

THE CLASS OF ’19 SAT FOR BAR EXAMS IN 24 STATES.

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How Many of Our Graduates Pass Their Bar Exams?

Michigan: 84%  (17% higher than state average)
Illinois: 90%  (10.18% higher than state average)
California: 70%  (3.81% higher than state average)

Average National Bar Passage Rate: 88.85%*

* Bar passage rates are reported for the following years: Michigan 2018; Illinois 2017; California 2017; and nationally 2015.

The Academic Success Program (ASP) partners with students throughout law school to help them to be successful law students — and successful lawyers. ASP programming builds academic and personal skills (like resilience, time management, and coping with stress) that will see you through an intense three years.

Students can meet privately with ASP Director Goldie Pritchard to discuss everything from navigating the academic challenges of law school to structuring exam essays to taking high-impact notes in class to selecting courses that will prepare you for the bar. These meetings help students to build a study approach — including techniques and schedules — to suit different topics and professors.

Get a head start on bar prep. MSU Law offers a semester-long bar skills course to third-year law students. Participants practice analyzing and answering the types of multiple choice and essay questions that the bar exam will cover. In addition, ASP offers workshops and individual consultations to answer questions about the bar application process, exploring commercial bar prep programs, and developing a study timeline.

Spotlight on the ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

Success on bar exams starts early by building a foundation of core legal knowledge in your first year. The first year (1L) is rigorous because you’ll need a strong understanding of these concepts so that you can understand specialized legal topics as a 2L and 3L — and so that you can be ready to prepare for the bar.

By the time you’ve completed your first year, you’ll be exposed to many of the legal topics that are commonly tested on bar exams throughout the country:

- Contracts
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Civil Procedure
- Property
- Torts
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.

**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.

**FALL SEMESTER: 14 CREDITS**
- Civil Procedure (4 credits)
- Contracts (4 credits)
- Foundations of Law (non-credit)
- Research, Writing, and Analysis (RWA) (2 credits)
- Torts I (4 credits)

**SPRING SEMESTER: 15 CREDITS**
- Advanced Topics and Skills (2 credits)
- Advocacy (2 credits)
- Criminal Law (3 credits)
- Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State (4 credits)
- Property (4 credits)

First year students don’t have to worry about selecting their own courses, but you still have the opportunity to customize your first semester to reflect your interests. We offer three optional specialized RWA courses, focused on Criminal Law, Intellectual Property Law, and Social Justice. Students can request to be enrolled in these sections, though space is limited.

**BE CURIOUS**

Once the first year is over, you’ll be free to choose courses that inspire you. MSU Law offers approximately 140 different electives every year. You’ll explore topics that you’ve never encountered before, opening up exciting career avenues.

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

**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

**BROADEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Students with a 3.0 or above can take six credits of coursework at MSU’s other 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.

**Spotlight on IMMERSION WEEK: FOUNDATIONS OF LAW** (non-credit)

Because students come to MSU Law from all academic backgrounds, our students start law school with a mandatory one-week course designed to get our engineers, political science majors, mathematicians, and musicians on the same page. Foundations of Law covers the basic principles of the American legal system and concludes with a final exam.

**ALLOW YOU TO EXPLORE THE LAW**

Choose courses that reflect your learning style:
- 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
DUAL DEGREES
SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO THINK OUTSIDE THE LAW.

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

JD-MBA PROGRAM
Stand out in a crowded market.

Combining an MSU Law JD with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from MSU’s nationally-ranked Eli Broad College of Business will prepare you for the unique opportunities available in corporate legal settings. JD-MBA students learn from leading experts and build standout networks with Spartan alumni from both schools.

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

US-CANADIAN DUAL JD PROGRAM
Practice law on both sides of the border by earning law degrees in two countries in four years.

East Lansing is located about a 90-minute drive from the Canadian border, making it easy to transition between the two countries. Program participants study for two years in each country while preparing to practice law in both the US and Canada. Graduates 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.

NON-JD PROGRAMS ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE.

Not everyone who needs to understand the law wants to practice. Adding legal knowledge to your resume can enhance your career opportunities in many fields. MSU Law offers a range of programs for both lawyers and non-lawyers.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:
Prepare to Innovate

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. Michigan State University’s position as a global leader in the sciences connects our students with up-to-the-minute research development.

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES:
Bring the Law into Your Workplace

The customizable MLS degree provides career-critical legal knowledge to professionals in a wide range of fields, particularly those who work in state government and industry. This degree for non-lawyers includes a set of core legal courses and allows students to choose courses that further their professional goals. Students can complete the program in 1 to 3 years.

What Non-JD Program is Right for You?

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David Rader took his unique perspective and legal skills to the nation’s capital.

**COMPLEX PARTNERSHIPS**

David Rader’s dual passions for corporate law and national security led him to a career that his pre-law-school self never could have imagined.

Rader didn’t expect that his career would lead to the nation’s capital, but his first job after law school was at the Pentagon, and he soon transitioned into investment banking. Today, his career is “challenging but fulfilling,” and that is just how he likes it. As a manager in Transaction Advisory Services at EY, he deals with both foreign direct investors and the national security/defense industrial base. He works closely with senior government officials on highly sensitive national security matters.

Rader acknowledges that it can be difficult to establish and maintain high-quality public-private partnerships. It is seldom a trust issue, but rather a mission issue, he said. Both institutions have very different goals and agendas; however, there is also a huge amount of overlap of interest between the two. It is very important to have leaders who understand how each world works, are willing to find synergies, and leave egos behind to solve our nation’s complex problems.

**BUILDING AN IDENTITY**

Rader sees the role of networking in finding personal career success in the DC area. DC is an ecosystem that largely runs on networks and professional relationships, Rader said. I maintain strong MSU Law contacts in DC. It’s amazing how many people are just one or two degrees of separation away. Being an integral part of the Spartan network is a great way to build relationships in an otherwise very busy city.

Most importantly, Rader recommends building a professional identity as someone trustworthy. The most attractive thing in the working world is someone who is personable or gregarious, but also has a strong technical skill or skills, Rader said. Focus on developing both throughout law school - find symmetry between academics and professional development. Tipping the scale too strongly in either direction while neglecting the other will set you back.

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES**

Rader’s passion for national service doesn’t stop when the clock strikes 5:00. He recently received the George C. Marshall Fellowship through the Heritage Foundation. In this new venture, Rader will be part of a program that provides “exceptional young professionals with the opportunity to appreciate the development of grand strategy and the practice of strategic leadership.”

Rader is modest about the honor. Like many things in life, and especially DC, the fellowship nomination process is based off your network – and your relevant work experience, Rader said.

This unique program strives to offer a comprehensive overview of national defense and foreign policy, rather than focusing on one particular area of national policy. In addition to the high-level, expert-led discussions, Rader and his cohort will have exclusive access to national historic sites.
CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

YOU’RE NOT PLANNING TO JUST STUDY LAW – YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW.

Between academic demands and co-curricular activities, it’s easy for law students to let career planning fall to the bottom of their priority lists, but it shouldn’t. The Career Services Office (CSO) motivates students to be proactive and tenacious in the pursuit of their legal careers.

Whether you plan to practice in corporate, non-profit, or law firm settings, three years of dynamic programming and personal coaching will empower you to start your legal career. The CSO connects students with the hands-on opportunities to build the skills that employers want, and will help you tailor your interests and strengths to the professional world.

The experienced professionals on the CSO team supply the expertise and resources that lead to successful job searches – you’ll provide the passion and initiative.

Nothing inspires me more than working one-on-one with students to help them discover exciting, rewarding legal careers. From finding the perfect summer work experience to earning a post-graduation job offer, the Career Services team will be there for every career milestone for the next three years – and beyond.

— MARIA STEIN
Assistant Dean for Career Development

Spotlight on INTERVIEWING

When you get an interview for your dream job, you should be ready to ace it. The CSO team will work with you to build your skills and confidence in a safe, supportive environment. They’ll customize the process to reflect your career goals, and offer constructive feedback based on your performance.

Once you’ve polished your presentation, you’ll be prepared to succeed at on-campus interviews (OCIs). Every year, CSO brings hiring managers from dozens of leading law firms to campus, where they interview (and make job offers to) MSU Law students for both summer positions and post-graduation jobs.

I thought I was very good at interviews – until I went to a CSO mock interview! When I went to my next interviews, I didn’t fall into common pitfalls or say the things that most students say.

— DORIAN GEORGE, ’13
Associate, Behar, Gutt & Glazer P.A.
Miami, FL

NATIONWIDE OPPORTUNITIES

Planning to practice outside of Michigan? You’re in good company. Around 50% of our grads choose to practice law in other states. From their virtual employment sessions for cities across the country to building relationships with national legal employers, the CSO will help you start your career in your dream location. The CSO knows how to leverage MSU Law’s network of 12,500+ alumni into exceptional opportunities for our students.

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WITH OVER HALF A MILLION MSU ALUMNI LIVING AND WORKING ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU’LL FIND THE SPARTAN NETWORK WHEREVER YOU GO.

— ADRIENNE ANDERSON, ’16
Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County
Portland, OR

WITH OVER HALF A MILLION MSU ALUMNI LIVING AND WORKING ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU’LL FIND THE SPARTAN NETWORK WHEREVER YOU GO.
RIGOROUS TRAINING
As an assistant US attorney in the Major Crimes Unit for the Eastern District of Michigan, Devon Schulz, '16, credits the Geoffrey N. Fieger Trial Practice Institute (TPI) at MSU Law for preparing her for her career.

There are many law school programs out there that teach the basics of pretrial and trial advocacy, but what sets the Fieger TPI program apart is its rigorous pace and the chance to learn from sitting judges and actively practicing attorneys, said Schulz. The program mimics the real world pace and standards of the practice of law, while teaching you these fundamentals through practical assignments and full length trials.

Being in court and on the record every single day has continued to emphasize how much the Fieger Trial Practice Institute prepared me for my career and what an incredible opportunity the program is, Schulz added.

During her time at MSU Law, Schulz also enjoyed the Trial Advocacy Board, which she says helped to sharpen her skills while competing in national competitions.

The friendships I made and maintained were the highlight of my time on the Board, said Schulz. It felt like a family within MSU Law, and pursuing your passion is even better when you are surrounded by people you respect and enjoy.

SERVING THE PUBLIC
Previously, Schulz worked as an assistant prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, where she routinely tried capital and noncapital felony cases, interacted with and interviewed both victims and law enforcement, and prepared cases for prosecution. She joined the US Attorney’s Office in 2018, and her unit is responsible for prosecuting a wide variety of offenses, including firearms trafficking and unlawful possession, bank robbery, counterfeiting, postal violations, federal crimes against children, some types of fraud, and lower level drug trafficking crimes.

Reflecting on her career, Schulz noted that the legal field is ultimately a “field of service,” and that students should think about where they want to focus their efforts.

Spend some time and seriously reflect on who, or what, it is that you want to devote your service to, said Schulz. That passion absolutely will reflect itself in your work product, and you will be the best advocate and the best lawyer you can be when you have a clear idea of why you chose to be a part of this profession.
OUR COURTROOM IS
YOUR CLASSROOM:
THE GEOFFREY N. FIEGER
TRIAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE

The Geoffrey N. Fieger Trial Practice Institute (TPI) is a highly-selective program designed to turn aspiring trial attorneys into confident courtroom pros. Every class of 30 students is chosen through a competitive application and interview process at the end of their 1L year. They’ll spend the next two years conducting full civil and criminal trials in front of real judges, sharpening their skills with rigorous personal feedback. Fieger TPI students are exposed to the basics of DNA analysis, computer forensics, accident reconstruction, and forensic pathology. Experienced lawyers and high-profile judges teach eight exclusive courses in our state-of-the-art courtroom, and offer valuable insights into what it means to pursue a career in advocacy. Students learn how to:

- Build a compelling narrative around a case
- Understand scientific evidence
- Present expert witness testimony
- Engage jurors with performance skills

My experiences in the Fieger TPI hit every facet of the emotional spectrum. The exhilaration of impeaching an opposing witness on an integral piece of the case. The disappointment of realizing you misread an issue in a brief you’ve been working on for weeks. The happiness of giving a flawless opening statement. The frustration of realizing you forgot how to respond to an objection right in the middle of your well-rehearsed direct. You experience it all. But more importantly, you can learn from those successes and failures and they enable you to become better prepared to be a litigator.

— JACOB ECCLESTON, ’19 CLASS PRESIDENT
Associate Attorney, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, P.C.
Portage, MI

FIEGER TPI GRADUATES GO ON TO EXCEL AS PROSECUTORS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS, CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, AND CIVIL LITIGATORS.
WHAT DEFINES A SPARTAN LAWYER?

INNOVATION

A passion for solutions led Justin Evans, ’19, to acquire his third degree – a Juris Doctor from MSU College of Law. Evans first studied chemistry, inspired by the work he was doing in a cancer research lab at the time of his undergraduate program. When he received his bachelor’s degree, he realized he understood the science of medicine, but he had much to learn about its effects on the human body.

He pursued a master’s degree in cancer biology at Vanderbilt University and it was there, surrounded by medical professionals and researchers developing new pharmaceutical drugs, Evans realized the legal barriers that prevented drugs from reaching the people who need them.

I realized if everyone’s making drugs, I can at least help them get it to market from the legal side, he said. I found my intersection of science and law.

BUILDING A NICHE

At MSU Law, he built upon his science background, adding a wealth of legal knowledge applicable to his pre-existing skills. Evans discovered his niche in the world of science, law, and technology, and he invested his time and scholarship in order to establish himself as a key player.

Evans published a number of articles and research during law school. It all began after he struggled in his first-year Reading, Writing & Advocacy course. Since law is all about writing and speaking, I realized that I needed to improve my writing, he said. I started off with blogging about topics I was learning in class, and applying them to my area of interest.

To other law students considering writing and publishing work, Evans recommends writing about what is interesting to them in the legal landscape. Not only do you learn the law better, but you also start becoming more engrained in the area that you’re interested in.

OLD PROBLEMS, NEW SOLUTIONS

Evans’ involvement in legal tech programs and student organizations at MSU Law, as well his own personal savvy for social media networking and self-promotion, opened opportunities for him to attend conferences and symposiums where he continued to build those relationships initiated in the digital space. It’s very interesting to go into a room and people already know who you are, because the conversation is different. You go right into what you’re interested in talking about, Evans explained. I noticed that from my 1L to 3L year, the conversation just became more fluid.

As a recent graduate, he’s looking ahead to the bar exam and a new position at Goldberg Segalla in New York City as an intellectual property litigation associate. He’s got the support of MSU Law faculty like Professor Bruce Bean – who taught Evans’ favorite class, Business Enterprises.

Jay is a real standout and an all-around brilliant guy – a hard science background, amazing previous work experience, and a great writer. He’s also an expert on the leading technologies that will shape the practice of law in the coming decades, Professor Bean said about his former student. His amazing collection of sports coats is also an inspiration to us all.

Justin Evans used his legal education to develop new solutions to old problems.

JUSTIN EVANS, ’19
NEW YORK, NY
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.

THE CENTER FOR LAW, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Previous efforts to increase access to legal services have poured resources into existing systems. But that approach has not worked. More recently, the focus has shifted to technology.

The law students, practitioners, and academics at the Center for Law, Technology, and Innovation develop ways to bring the law to everyone. The Center consists of three complementary arms focused on tool-building, education, and conducting research.

The Legal RnD Lab finds new ways to increase access to justice by advancing legal technology. Its mission is to improve efficiency across the legal industry by developing tomorrow’s high-quality legal service delivery methods.

The Innovation Hub teaches students the substantive law and the practice skills necessary to advise clients in a technology-driven economy, providing critical knowledge and opportunities to be tech-savvy counselors and litigators.

The Emerging Technology Research Node pursues interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration that advances the fields of emerging technology and legal study for both academic partners and practitioners.

MSU LAW'S IPIC CURRICULUM RECEIVED AN "A" GRADE FROM PRELAW MAGAZINE, RANKING US AMONG THE NATION'S STRONGEST IP PROGRAMS. (SPRING 2019)

I actually loved law school, but when I got into practice, figuring out how to do all of this stuff was way more fun. That’s what I like doing in my classes: showing students how to bridge the theory to the practical.

IPIC grads are in demand. It’s intellectually stimulating work with an impressive return on investment. Our graduates work at leading global IP firms and as in-house counsel for some of the world’s most iconic brands.

— ADAM CANDEUB
Professor of Law | Director, Intellectual Property, Information, and Communications Program

Professor Reyes began her career as a commercial litigator, but quickly transitioned into working on transactional issues relating to electronic financial services, with an emphasis on cryptocurrency. A former Fulbright Scholar, her research focuses on the intersection of blockchain technology and the law.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING
Artificial Intelligence and Law
Automated Vehicles and the Law
Delivering Legal Services
Information Privacy and Security Law
Entrepreneurial Lawyering
E-Discovery
Evolutionary Analysis and Law
Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
Special Topics in Management: Blockchain Technology Transactions Skills

MSU LAW WAS RANKED ONE OF THE “BEST SCHOOLS FOR LEGAL TECHNOLOGY” BY PRELAW MAGAZINE. (FALL 2018)
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

A passionate environmental justice advocate, Jeremy Orr, ’16, leads with the community in mind. He started his career as a community organizer, working with Michigan residents on various social justice issues. After joining an initiative to clean up a contaminated site in a low-to-moderate income community of color in Kalamazoo, where he and others addressed the Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, he realized that organizing for change is one way to have an impact, but directly going to the source as a lawyer is another.

Orr recognized that no impacted community members were making decisions, and that perspective was missing from the process, prompting his decision to position himself in that space by getting a legal degree. Prioritizing people in environmental decision-making in Michigan is going to be critical for our success as a state, said Orr.

PREPARING WITH PURPOSE

At MSU Law, he jumped right into the curriculum. With years of work experience under his belt and a targeted set of interests to guide him, he knew what he wanted to do and what would help him to succeed in doing it. I didn’t need to figure out what I was interested in because I knew. I knew coming into law school that once I had the opportunity to do electives that they would be environmental law, administrative law, and constitutional law classes – things that would prepare me for a career in environmental law, he explained.

TAKING CHANCES, CULTIVATING CHANGE

Today, Orr’s a staff attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national and international advocate for environmental protection. It’s always been a dream to work at a place like the NRDC, where you can see the impact that they’ve had on policy, he said. You can see the influence they had in bringing about the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act and so many other environmental regulations over the last 50 years.

The current political climate surrounding environmental advocacy is charged, which presents both a challenge and a great opportunity for public discussion and growth. For me, when the opportunity (at the NRDC) came up it was a no-brainer. It’s a space that allows me to be an advocate as an attorney but still be involved in communities, he said. And more than that, still being early in my career, I’m able to grow and get the support, resources, and mentorships from folks who have been doing this for 30-40 years.

His team at the NRDC is called the Safe Water Initiative, where the focus is ensuring safe drinking water for all, specifically securing access for frontline communities in Michigan. Orr was appointed to the Environmental Rules Committee in 2019 by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The committee oversees all laws and rules that come through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. He hopes to advance the process of replacing all lead service lines in the state with a focus on the most vulnerable communities who are hardest hit.
**Indian Law Clinic**

The Indian Law Clinic has two overarching projects: to support and promote tribal self-governance and to assist tribes in Indian Child Welfare Act litigation. Clinic students write appellate briefs, complete research memos, write articles, and advocate for policy changes with both federal and state governments.

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
President and Chairman, Bay Mills Indian Community

**Indigenous Law and Policy Center**

The Indigenous Law and Policy Center (ILPC) at MSU Law is one of only a few programs that train 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 lawyers, scholars, and policymakers. Alumni work nationwide for tribes, major law firms, non-profits, and the federal government.

I don’t know any Indian people who haven’t had somebody in their family adopted out, usually illegally, by a state agency or religious organization. It’s something that is really near and dear to our hearts here. You can’t have a serious conversation about the Indian Child Welfare Act without including someone from MSU Law.

— Matthew L.M. Fletcher
Professor of Law
Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center

**Animal Welfare Clinic**

Clinic students push the boundaries of legal protection for exotic animals. From creating a public relations strategy to drafting model legislation, clinic students design creative strategies to further the welfare of animals that are exploited in captivity. Clinical activities focus on areas in which the law is lacking or critically under-enforced.

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
Professor of Law

**Environmental Law**

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

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— Noga Morag-Levine
Professor of Law
Pursuing a Goal

A native Michigander, Garcia discovered her passion for the law early. Her parents arrived in the US from Mexico in the 1980s and were undocumented for several years. The fear and uncertainty that they experienced inspired her to pursue a career in immigration law, which led her to Michigan State University College of Law. As a law student, Garcia demonstrated her passion for becoming a strong immigration attorney, by interning at Migrant Legal Aid and the Michigan Immigrants Right Center. She served as the president of the Latino Law Students Association, and engaged with issues that affected her community.

Garcia also sought professional guidance from Professor David Thronson and Clinical Professor Veronica Thronson, who directs the MSU Law Clinic. Both are nationally recognized as leaders in immigration law. The Thronsons mentored her, helping her to develop a career plan, select relevant courses, and apply for internships.

Committed to Service

Garcia’s work representing non-citizen clients in MSU Law’s Immigration Law Clinic was a highlight of her time in law school. She worked closely with a client seeking asylum from gang-based violence in Central America. For a second year law student, it was an intense experience.

It was hard. It was emotional for me, admitted Garcia. It comes close to home – I’ve seen family go through the process, friends who were under DACA – so I’m close to it.

Clinic cases aren’t always straightforward wins. It can take months (or years) to see a case through to resolution. At this date, Garcia’s client is still incarcerated, and has been moved to a prison in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Garcia noted that he’s now a four hours’ drive away from his legal representation in the Immigration Law Clinic, and experiences ongoing prison bullying and isolation from other Spanish speakers. Though Garcia no longer works on his case, the impact that it’s had on her as a lawyer – and a person – will continue.

Ready to Advocate

When Garcia walked across the stage at Commencement, she didn’t just become a first-generation attorney; as the eldest child, she’s the first in her family to earn a college degree, and the first to graduate from high school.

Today, Garcia is working as an immigration attorney on a prestigious fellowship through the Immigrant Justice Corps, the nation’s first and only immigration law fellowship program. Twenty-seven graduates from law schools across the country were selected from hundreds of applicants. Garcia will spend the next two years as a Justice Fellow, representing unaccompanied children for the Catholic Charities of Central Florida in Orlando.

Her elite Justice Fellowship is the result of tireless personal effort, and her mentors at MSU Law are exceptionally proud of her.

You don’t see students like Brenda every day, said Professor Veronica Thronson. Brenda has a deeply rooted sense of kindness and compassion, and those qualities will lead her to excel in this fellowship – and become a strong immigration attorney.

Brenda Garcia, ’19
Orlando, FL
ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MSU Law students get an early start using the law to help others.

On any given day, our clinic students are standing up for their clients’ rights in court, investigating cases and developing complex strategies, mediating conflicts, preparing paperwork, and advocating for social change.

Just as importantly, students 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.

CLINIC STUDENTS:

- Represent clients in court
- Interview and counsel clients
- Investigate facts
- Research case law
- Negotiate with other parties
- Draft legal memoranda and briefs
- Assist with business transactions
- Work for legislative reform
- Perform community outreach

Students learn what it means to represent somebody through highly consequential cases. Clinic work gives students a chance to learn that as lawyers they can change people’s lives.

— VERONICA THRONSON
Clinical Professor of Law
MSU Law Clinic Director

Students and staff in the Civil Rights Clinic assist incarcerated individuals whose civil rights have been violated in the prison system. Their cases include suppression of free speech, denial of religious accommodation, and instances of cruel and unusual punishment. Clinic victories range from ensuring that prisoners can adhere to their religious dietary requirements to meeting critical dental care needs to requiring safe drinking water in Flint jails.

The Civil Rights Clinic offers students a rare opportunity: to try cases in federal court. They apply their academic learning to hands-on trial advocacy, undertaking jury selection, opening and closing statements, and – probably the most fun part of litigation - cross-examining defendants and their witnesses.

I worked on a case where a man came to prison with an injury and the prison doctors refused to treat him for years. He suffered from extreme pain for a long time and it was rewarding to be able to help someone who had nowhere else to go for help.

— SHARRON SANDERS, ’15
Crime Victims Legal Assistance Project Attorney
Lakeshore Legal Aid
Detroit, MI

Encourage you to make a difference.

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.

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
OUR FACULTY ARE KNOWN FOR:
Discussing the constitutional law that governs the presidency
Engaging the public in rulemaking within federal agencies
Applying money transmissions laws to cryptocurrencies
Developing legislation to protect captive exotic animals
Discovering patterns of racial bias in death row exonerations
Advocating for parental rights in nontraditional families

GET INSPIRED BY EXPERTS
Interested in education law, constitutional law, animal law, contracts, law and religion, or Indian law? Our faculty wrote the textbooks on those topics, among others.

Taking a specialized class from a leading academic in his or her field is a powerful experience. From providing insightful media commentary on challenging issues to offering personal career coaching, our experts share their infectious passion and deep knowledge.

I have tremendous respect for my students. They’re smart, they’re determined, they’re passionate, and they inspire me to do my best work. Every time I stand in front of my class, I’m reminded that it’s a great privilege to be there.

— PHILIP PUCILLO
Professor of Law in Residence
Four-time recipient of the Student Bar Association’s Excellence in Teaching Award

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.

PROVIDE YOU WITH DEDICATED STUDENT SUPPORT
The whole MSU Law community is committed 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 work to foster an engaged, accomplished, and happy student body.
DIVERSITY AND EQUITY SERVICES OFFICE: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Everyone in the law college family contributes to our diverse environment, and the Diversity and Equity Services Office (DESO) has an inclusive mission: to provide programming and one-on-one support to ensure that all students have a positive law school experience.

That mission extends from the classroom to the Academic Success Program to cultural events to developing personal relationships with students of all backgrounds. All students find law school challenging at times, and the DESO offers critical support services – and a listening ear.

The DESO provides:
- Holistic student advising and support
- Inclusive diversity programming
- Support for multicultural student groups
- Peer leadership development
- Legal profession diversity initiatives
- Title IX compliance and inclusion expertise

The DESO is led by Director (and MSU Law alumna) Mary Ann Ferguson, ‘02, who founded the office in 2006. She works closely with the Multicultural Executive Council, a group of MSU Law’s most active student organizations, to promote collaboration and inclusivity among student leaders.

A HISTORY OF ACCESS

MSU Law was founded as Detroit College of Law in 1891 with a truly exceptional admissions policy: “The College opens its doors to all classes, without regard to sex, color, or citizenship.” The first incoming class would include an African American man, a Japanese American man, and a woman.

Today, MSU Law honors its historic legacy by continuing in the tradition of our founders, providing a high-quality legal education to talented people of all backgrounds. Every day, we live by our shared commitment to facilitating a diverse, inclusive, and safe community.

ABIJAH TAYLOR, ’09
Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS: DEDICATED SUPPORT SERVICES

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is the hub of student-centric resources at MSU Law. From welcoming new 1Ls during Immersion Week to making sure that students are prepared to graduate each spring, the OSA team helps MSU Law students thrive throughout law school.

In addition to academic advising, the OSA:
- Develops academic programming
- Offers personal counseling
- Supports a wide range of student organizations
- Connects students with MSU’s wellness resources
- Helps students to build a supportive community

The OSA is led by alumnus Abijah Taylor, ’09, Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs. He encourages students to balance the rigors of study with outside interests, and to mitigate the stress of law school by investing in human connections: with faculty members, with family and friends, and with each other.

MARY ANN FERGUSON, ’02
Director for Diversity and Equity Services Office

ABIJAH TAYLOR, ’09
Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs
STUDENT-RUN JOURNALS

Journal of Animal and 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.

OFFER YOU COMMUNITY ON A BIG TEN CAMPUS

As an MSU Law student, everything you need is located in one building: classrooms, clinics, 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 Spartan classmates.

Students can channel their passions through countless co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Our 30+ student organizations include active political groups, a musical theatre revue, social justice societies, and interest-specific clubs.

COMPETITION TEAMS

Our students work closely with faculty mentors to hone their skills, showcasing their intellect, preparation, and teamwork at competitions all over the nation.

We offer competition teams focused on:
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Trial and Arbitration
- Appellate Advocacy

MSU LAW’S MOOT COURT PROGRAM IS RANKED 25TH IN THE COUNTRY.

Being a member of the Moot Court Board not only provided me with incredible networking opportunities and working knowledge about various aspects of law, but it also challenged me immensely. Advocating to a panel of actual lawyers or judges was incredibly intimidating.

But I learned that if you really focus on preparing and you keep doing it, eventually you realize that the nerves are just part of the experience—and you find ways to use the nerves to your advantage. That’s a lesson that has stayed with me in practice.

— CRYSTAL BULTJE, ’15
Of Counsel Attorney, Pinsky Smith Fayette & Kennedy
Grand Rapids, MI

Crystal Bultje, ’15, and her teammates were the ABA’s National Advocacy Appellate Champions, triumphing over 202 teams from 118 law schools in the nation’s largest moot court competition. They maintained an undefeated record, earning accolades from US District Court judges and their competitors.
EAST LANSING: THE HEART OF CAMPUS

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 cuisine. East Lansing has a reasonable cost-of-living, a user-friendly mass transit system, and all the character of a Midwestern college town.

The community offers safe, affordable housing options: 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.

EXPLORE THE GREAT LAKES STATE

WORK AT THE CAPITAL

MSU is located just minutes from Michigan’s state capital, and our students experience the benefits of studying and living in close proximity to the seat of Michigan government. The State of Michigan’s nearly 47,000 employees see to the health, safety, governance, education, and business interests of Michigan’s citizens, and our students gain valuable experience as State of Michigan interns. Our location makes it convenient to undertake important policy work with the Michigan legislature and interact with the state judiciary during the school year.

PLAY OUT OF TOWN

East Lansing is centrally located within Michigan, making it easy for you to experience our beautiful state. Into beer, food, bands, or beaches? Drive under 90 minutes for:

- **ANN ARBOR** with its nationally-acclaimed food community
- **DETROIT** with its famed concert venues and sports teams
- **GRAND RAPIDS** with its brewery culture and vibrant art scene
- **LAKE MICHIGAN** with its pristine white-sand beaches and boating

Feeling a little more adventurous? Drive for under four hours to hang out in Chicago or head up north for a weekend in Traverse City’s wine country.
Michigan State University 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.

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS MSU 81ST AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES.

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
800 ACTIVE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

SPARTAN ATHLETICS

For 75,000 Spartan fans, 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.
JOIN THE SPARTAN NATION

YOUR APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ LSAT score

☐ Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report

☐ Completed application through LSAC

☐ Personal statement

☐ Diversity statement (optional)

☐ Resume

☐ At least two letters of recommendation; must be sent to LSAC

☐ Any necessary addenda (for instance, a character and fitness addendum)

☐ $60 application fee

THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE’S BEST ADVICE: APPLY EARLY!

SCHOLARSHIP AND ADMISSIONS DECISIONS ARE MADE ON A ROLLING BASIS, SO APPLYING EARLY IN THE CYCLE PROVIDES YOU WITH YOUR STRONGEST CHANCES OF BEING ACCEPTED AND EARNING SCHOLARSHIP AID.

Questions? We’re Here to Help.
admiss@law.msu.edu | (517) 432-0222

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

Law College Building | 648 N. Shaw Lane, Room 300 | East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1300