

GUIDEPOSTS TO LAW AS VOCATION

University of Dayton
School of Law

A LASTING TRADITION

The University of Dayton is a comprehensive, Catholic university, a diverse community, committed, in the Marianist tradition, to educating the whole person and to linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service. Following this tradition, we are committed to providing a legal education that blends theory, practice, and service to promote the common good.

The Marianist tradition values all people -- regardless of religious belief or faith tradition. We are expected to respect others and ourselves because all of us are gifted with a common human dignity.

At UDSL you will obtain the knowledge and skills needed to serve clients in a changing profession and world. The atmosphere will encourage you to develop your professional, moral, and ethical perspectives and support you in fulfilling the legal needs of the profession and the community in which you live.

EDUCATE YOUR WHOLE PERSON

Devote yourself to a lifetime of learning.

Use your head: Choose classes and activities that challenge your intellect, that compel you to develop your knowledge of the law and your problem-solving skills. True intellectual rigor requires dedication, discipline, and a love of learning.

Use your hands: Choose classes and activities that cultivate the practice skills your clients, colleagues, and employers expect.

Use your heart: Choose classes and activities that require you to examine the ethical, moral, and spiritual dimensions of law and practice.

KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU VALUE

Grow as a person as well as a scholar

Maintain your identity: Do not be defined by your role as a law student or a lawyer – you are much more.

Explore your vocation: Cultivate your sense of mission. Integrate it into your career path.

Act with integrity: Make time for spiritual development and renewal.

Live your values: Ponder the role your own morality and/or religious beliefs will play in your professional life.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Re-center yourself through prayer, meditation, mindfulness, or silence

- Talk to attorneys and judges about how their morality code their work.
- Attend workshops and presentations relating to civility, professionalism, or spirituality.

PREPARE YOURSELF TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING PROFESSION AND WORLD

Master the art of learning.

Be open to change: Neither the law nor society is static. Learn to master new concepts and acquire the critical thinking skills needed to react to an unknowable future.

Become a mindful learner: Acquire the skills needed to research and interpret areas of law that are unfamiliar and new to you.

Be technologically savvy: Take advantage of the opportunities to use technology in the practice of law while recognizing possible shortcomings.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Break out of your comfort zone – work and socialize with classmates from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Talk to attorneys and judges about how their morality code their work.
- Encourage your student organization to make a positive contribution to UDSL, the city of Dayton, and communities where you work and live.

LIVE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS

Be known for compassion as well as competence.

Be collegial: Develop relationships of trust with your classmates that allow you to support and challenge one another. Interact with faculty and staff outside the classroom. Network with UDSL alumni and other attorneys in Dayton and beyond.

Exhibit professionalism: Treat all with kindness, civility, and respect.

Practice solidarity: Value all members of our community and promote the dignity of every person. Be actively present with those who are struggling.

Take responsibility for yourself and your community: Exercise self-discipline. Accept the consequences of your actions during and outside of school. Speak up when you witness behaviors that harm, demean, or damage others.

Hold your family and friends close: Share the triumphs and challenges of law school and life with them.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Thank the support staff and others who help you on a daily basis.

- Learn to handle conflict with respect, understanding, and forgiveness.
- Seek relationships that bring out the best in you and others.

LEAD FOR SERVICE, JUSTICE, AND PEACE

Practice service in leadership.

Be generous: Give of your time, talent, and treasure in service of others.

Commit yourself: Find a cause that moves you and find a way to further that cause.

Contribute to the common good: More than compassion from afar, the common good takes into account the good of all people and of the whole person.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Connect with the community by donating at least the fifty hours of community service required to earn a Pro Bono Commitment to Community Award. Contact Maureen Anderson, manderson1@udayton.edu.
- Participate in the Law Clinic to speak up for those with no voice.
- Work with our Campus Minister to find a way to give back.

GET IN TOUCH: www.udayton.edu/law/students
www.udayton.edu/ministry/law-ministry/index/php