University of Michigan Law School
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University of Michigan Law School Self-Guided Walking Tour

University of Michigan Law School

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Founded in 1859, Michigan Law is one of the oldest law schools in the nation

Over 19,800 alumni internationally

One-third of the Michigan Law faculty hold Ph.D.s in a discipline other than law

14 dual-degree program options

First top law school requiring all students to take a class in Transnational Law

Home to one of the world’s four best law libraries

Eight clinics, where students work under the supervision of full-time clinical faculty

Among the top five law schools in placing students in prestigious national firms

Top public law school in the U.S. in Supreme Court clerkships – placing 22 graduates at the Court since 1991

Debt Management/Loan Forgiveness Program and additional support for students interested in public service careers

700 employers interview at the Law School yearly; interviews are selected by students, not by employers

99.5 percent or higher employment rate for Michigan Law graduates

Highly-ranked, internationally prestigious LL.M. program

Alumni work in 50 states and 79 foreign countries
"I looked at a number of other top law schools, but none conveyed the sense of beauty, tradition, and warmth as Michigan, and that impression was more than confirmed when I enrolled. The incredibly accomplished professors are also approachable and accessible; students who take the initiative get to know their professors as colleagues – senior colleagues, of course, but colleagues. From drinking coffee and talking life to emailing me at my summer job regarding a particularly thorny legal issue, Michigan faculty go above and beyond in order to guide and develop young lawyers. And my classmates were smart and challenging and very, very fun; we'd argue into the wee hours of the night about anything we could think of, but in a context of mutual respect and genuine camaraderie. Finally, Ann Arbor is the ideal place to study the law. The Quad is the most beautiful law school campus in the country and the city of Ann Arbor itself is full of the kind of intellectual energy that one would expect from a major university. I don't quite know how Michigan figured out this formula, but the combination of faculty, colleagues, and location makes Michigan a great environment in which to train to become a lawyer."
University of Michigan Law School

Law Quad benefactor William W. Cook, class of 1882, believed that the character of a law school determined the character of the legal profession. And because character is shaped at least in part by environment, Cook earmarked a significant portion of his wealth to a law school architecture and design that would help attract high-caliber faculty and students and forge a sense of community between and among them. By all accounts he succeeded even beyond his vision, and today's Law Quad is not only a warm and resonant locus for the School's 20,000 worldwide alumni, but a fount of intellectual engagement and inspiration for current and future generations of Michigan Law students.

**We recommend you start your tour from the Legal Research Building as designated on the map.**

1 Legal Research and Reading Room

Enter the Legal Research building from the central Quadrangle and you'll experience an extraordinary vaulted lobby leading to the Gothic-style Reading Room, one of the widely-heralded wonders of campus. The Reading Room is 244 feet long and 44 feet wide, can accommodate up to 500 students, yet remains surprisingly quiet thanks to a sound-deadening cork floor. Next, look up to explore details of the exquisitely beautiful ceiling. Some 50 feet high, the ceiling is made of large medallions of decoratively-painted plaster separated by massive beams.

The leaded-glass windows – another notable feature of the room – contain colorful stained glass seals representing the principal colleges and universities of the world during the 1920s. There is a chart matching the windows with their institutions in the foyer east of the main desk if you would like to find the seal for your undergraduate school.

The Reading Room, the original Law Library in the Quad, is open for the public to enjoy. In addition to providing a quiet study environment, it also houses the Law School's Center for International and Comparative Law, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Michigan Clinical Law Program, and various faculty offices.

*From the Reading Room, go down the central stairway toward the Law Library. An elevator is conveniently accessible if you prefer.*
Law Library

With nearly a million volumes and staffed by research librarians who hold J.D.s as well as graduate library degrees, Michigan’s Law Library has been ranked fourth out of 183 law school libraries in the nation by the National Jurist magazine. It is the main library for the law school and open exclusively for law students, faculty, staff, and legal scholars.

When at the landing before passing through the gate: At this point you are one floor underground and there is more natural light here than above ground in the Reading Room. The Allan F. and Alene Smith Library, the underground addition to the Law School, was completed in 1981. Built three stories underground to preserve the visual integrity of the Law Quadrangle, it added 77,000 square feet of library space with 4,800 square feet set aside for future use. The Library houses one of the preeminent library collections in the world and is especially strong in its international holdings; in many cases, its foreign legal holdings are more comprehensive than is available in those countries themselves. Books circulate only to carrels in the Library and offices in the Law School and the Library keeps careful track of where they are. When a book charged to a carrel or office is needed, staff retrieve it for the second user.

As you descend the green-carpeted staircase to the first level of the Library...

Careful thought and planning went into the design of the Library down to the smallest of details. For example, the carpet is green and tan to create a sense of the outdoors. The pattern formed by the colors reverses the pattern of green grass and tan concrete above ground. The building doesn’t feel “like a basement” because it has unusually high ceilings, and two large lightwells that bring in the light from several directions.

Designed with students in mind, the Law Library has more than 200 study carrels. In addition, our six student-edited journals have their offices within the library so their staff members have easier stack access. The Library also has two very popular group study rooms and a multi-terminal computer assisted legal research room (Lexis and Westlaw). As is the entire Law Quad, the Library is 100 percent wireless.

Leave the library and head toward the snack bar.

Continuing down the hallway you’ll enter the social area of the Quad, where the snack bar anchors an area for students to hang out, relax, or study individually or in groups. The snack bar’s extensive menu offers selections from health food to junk food, and its prices are budget-friendly. Farther down the hallway is where many of what we call our “basement groups” have their offices. These are student groups based on all kinds of themes — from group identity such as race, gender, and sexual orientation to legal interests such as the Federalists, the ACLU, environmental law, media and entertainment law, and scores more. You can see that their individual bulletin boards encourage informational posting on their activities and causes. By no means is this all of our student organizations, though; we have more than fifty, and students routinely start new groups based on prevailing interests.

Now head up the nearby stairs to the first floor of Hutchins Hall to view the School’s classrooms.
Hutchins Hall is the Law School's main classroom building. The first two floors consist primarily of large classrooms and smaller seminar rooms. The third and fourth floors house administrative and faculty offices. Classrooms are 100 percent wireless capable. As you look at the interior side of the hallway, you'll note the beautiful inner sanctuary of the Quad. It's where both formal and informal gatherings are held during the year — from a somewhat atypical student production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the more likely lunch with the Dean.

As you walk along the corridors surrounding the inner courtyard, take a moment to view the cartoons etched into the windows. These images offer a humorous portrayal of various law situations. They were specially commissioned to help law students remember that although the study of law is a serious venture, it's also wise to retain one's sense of humor. Some twenty Latin legal maxims frame humorous vignettes of legal situations, some a bit more obscure than others. You can chart your progression as a lawyer by these windows: when you first get here, there are going to be a lot of windows that appear not to be remotely funny, and then one day, you'll understand a new window, and you'll know you've reached another milestone in your legal education.
Honigman Auditorium seats 372 and is the largest classroom at the Law School. In 2004, permanent teaching aids were added, including a data projector and remote control for audio visual and computer use. Many of the Law School’s workshops, guest speaker presentations (such as one by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia), symposia, and the moot court competition finals are held here.

Electronic Classroom – Room 116

With microphones built into every desk, room 116 is equipped with videoconferencing and wireless capabilities as well as a data projection system. Designed for distance learning opportunities, the size and layout of the room also facilitate a more intimate interchange between the students and faculty under normal classroom circumstances. The room can seat 72.

The Squires, Sanders, and Dempsey Classroom – Room 120

In 1991 room 120 was renovated to blend new structural features with the room’s original design. This was the first classroom renovation fully funded by donations from Law School alumni rather than from law firms.

The Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt and Howlett Classroom – Room 132

Reminiscent of the original classrooms of Hutchins Hall, this recently-renovated classroom seats 67.

Room 138

Following a recent 8-month restoration, room 138 can accommodate 60 students in a four-row lecture format that also allows for additional configurations, down to a 16-seat conference table setup. Individual HVAC systems separately manage both a seminar-type setup and a full-room format. A-V includes full integrated projector, document camera, image camera, and remotely controlled lighting, shades, and screens. Electrical outlets are available at each seat, as are computer data ports, document camera, image camera, and remotely controlled lighting, shades, and screens.
Continue up the stairs or convenient elevator to the second floor to resume your tour.

10 The Dykema Gossett Classroom – Room 250

Refurbished in 1989, this classroom has fixed-tier seating that can accommodate up to 116 people. It features a decor of sage green draperies, carpeting, and walls. Hardwired Ethernet connectivity is available at every desk.

11 The Moot Court Room – Room 232

Due to security concerns, this room is closed to the public.

The Moot Court Room contains state-of-the-art equipment including remote control cameras, an audio system, air-conditioning, and a movable podium that allows lawyers to face the jury and judge separately. These features also make the room particularly effective for use by our clinical programs. To enhance an actual court environment, there’s even a separate room for jury deliberations. The working judges who act as moot court volunteers for us often remark that this room is better looking than their own courtrooms. The bottom line is that when you walk through these gates as a student, you really feel like a lawyer, with all the anxiety and excitement that accompany court appearances.

12 The Foley & Lardner Classroom – Room 220

Room 220 has been elegantly restored and technologically updated. Students find hardwired Ethernet connectivity at every desk; permanent teaching aids include a data projector and remote control for audio, visual, and computer use.

13 Student Lounge – Room 200

Formerly a computer lab, the space has been transformed into a student lounge, complete with coffee cart, vending machines, and flat screen TV. And, yes, you can still use the computers in the back to check your email and print documents between classes.

14 Lawyers Club

Built in 1924, the Lawyers Club was the first section of the Law Quadrangle to be constructed. Nearly 95 percent of the Club’s rooms include private bedroom space for each resident. The Lawyers Club is an unusually distinctive law student residence and offers the further advantages of steps-away proximity to the Law Library, classrooms, faculty offices, campus, and town. If the Quad seems familiar, it may be more than a déjà vu experience. This magnificent location is frequently used as backdrop for all kinds of photography, from fashion shoots to weddings and senior pictures, as well as being a favorite painting and sketching spot for local artists.
15 **Lawyers Club Lounge**

Your next stop on the tour is the Lawyers Club Lounge. Renovated in 1987 and redecorated in 2000, the Lounge is one of the most beautiful rooms on the U of M campus. The room's décor provides an elegant backdrop for special occasions, but is equally conducive to studying or relaxing with friends. When the Lawyers Club first opened, it was for men only and a much more formal environment than now. For example, male students had to be elegantly dressed and properly shaved before entering the cafeteria for meals. To ensure compliance, they were required to line up and file past the vigilant housemother. Legend has it that some students would shave only one side of their face and try to make it past the housemother without being detected.

16 **Dining Hall**

Meals are served in the spacious and elegant Dining Hall. The Hall is 140 feet long, 34 feet wide, and 49 feet high. The roof is supported by 9 oak trusses and decorated with carvings of eminent jurists. The variegated glass in the windows was imported from England.
Ford School of Public Policy and Ross School of Business

Directly across from the Law School's Monroe Street entrance is U-M's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, not only an international center for research and scholarship in public policy, policy analysis, and related disciplines, but a favorite dual-degree destination for law students. A few hundred yards east is Michigan's Ross School of Business, yet another dual-degree locus for law students and one of the nation's premier business schools with notable strengths in accounting, entrepreneurship, marketing, international business, non-profit management, production/operations, and supply chain/logistics management. U-M's top-ranked and internationally regarded business school offers undergraduate, MBA, other graduate degrees, and Executive Education programs in a state-of-the-art facility.

In fact, within easy walking distance of top ten-ranked Michigan Law are not just Public Policy and Business but other equally highly ranked sister schools including Medicine, Engineering, Social Work, and Education. That critical mass of excellence makes Michigan one of the world's finest public universities and greatly enriches the intellectual, cultural, and social experience of every Michigan Law student.

Michigan Union

Located in the heart of Central Campus, the Michigan Union has for 85 years witnessed historical events – such as JFK's announcement of the Peace Corps – and ones of less historical significance, including student visits to its bank outlets, post office, ticket office, travel agency, bookstore, and multiple dining and snack venues.

Martha Cook Residence

In honor of his mother, Martha Walford Cook, William Cook began donating funds in 1911 for the construction of a women's dormitory on campus. Completed in 1915, the Cook Building is one of the most attractive and impressive at the University. Constructed of red brick and limestone, the exterior combines Tudor Gothic and early Renaissance architectural styles, with a battlemented roof, pointed arches, and traceried windows. The trimmings are of cut stone in which Gothic details are accentuated, such as the rows of gargoyles in the stone cornice and the elaborately carved main entrance. A statue of Portia, donated in 1918, stands in a niche above the entrance to the building.
The University of Michigan Law School

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Ann Arbor Highlights

Contrary to popular belief, Michigan Law students actually do have free time — enough to sample the extraordinary artistic, cultural, social, and recreational bounty of Ann Arbor, including:

- The Arb: U-M’s amazing 123-acre arboretum
- The Big House: aka Michigan Stadium, seating 107,000+
- Hill Auditorium: from Patrick Stewart in King Lear to the Berlin Philharmonic
- The Ark: Ann Arbor’s legendary acoustic venue
- The Blind Pig: Blues, rock, and other live music
- The Firefly Club: Live jazz
- Kerrytown: Sophisticated yet funky market area
- Power Center: Opera and theater in a striking setting
- Michigan Theater: Old, avant-garde, and foreign film
- State Street: Heart of campus shopping, bars, restaurants
- Main Street: Ann Arbor’s major shopping, gallery, people-watching avenue
- Huron River: Canoeing, paddle boats, crew, and swan-gazing

Law School Food and Drink Favorites:

A Random Sample

For directions and more on these and hundreds of other restaurants, night spots, sports and recreational opportunities, concerts, museums, and Ann Arbor attractions, check out the Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau website at: http://annarbor.org.

- Ashley’s (scores of draft beers and more)
- Blimpy Burger (generations-old burger favorite)
- The Broken Egg (great breakfast and lunch)
- Dominick’s (Italian food, bar across from Law and B-Schools)
- Gandy Dancer (excellent seafood menu in former train station)
- Le Dog (hot dogs and gourmet soup)
- Raja Rani (North Indian lunch buffet)
- Zingerman’s Deli (New York Times, Zagat kudos)

Plus ethnic cuisines that include Thai, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Ethiopian, French, Irish, American Traditional, Middle Eastern, Jewish, German, Vietnamese, Italian, Pan-Asian, Jamaican, Continental, Syrian, Greek, Southwestern U.S., and Mexican.