Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Northern Illinois University College of Law is to provide a high-quality and affordable legal education that

- Prepares students to become effective, creative and ethical lawyers, ready to serve the legal needs of their communities
- Engages faculty and students in a broad range of legal and interdisciplinary research and scholarship
- Fosters access to law school and the legal profession by traditionally underrepresented groups
- Inspires students to serve the public interest throughout their legal careers
- Builds a unique atmosphere of collegiality and cooperation within the law school community
Experiential Learning - Skills

Lawyering Skills
Criminal Practice Skills
Trial Advocacy
Appellate Advocacy
Competitions
Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic
-Civil Justice Clinic
-Criminal Defense Clinic
Health Advocacy Clinic
Prisoners’ Rights Project
Civil Externships
Criminal Externships
Judicial Externships
Bridge-to-Practice
Academics

Certificates

– Business Law
– Civil Advocacy
– Criminal Practice
– International Law
– Law and Women and Gender Studies
– Public Interest Law

Joint Degree Programs

– JD/MBA
– JD/MPA
– In the process of exploring others
Accelerated Law Degree/3+3

• We’ve opened the 3+3 program to students in the Honors Program.

• **7-6-5**
  
  NIU 3+3 students get free tuition for the first year of law school, so two degrees that normally take 7 years can be completed in 6 years and they only pay tuition for 5 years.

• We have entered into 3+3 agreements with a handful of other institutions and more discussions are in progress.
Our Students – Class of 2022

119 STUDENTS

- Men: 51%
- Women: 49%

- Students of Color: 23%
- Caucasian/White: 77%
Law School
2019 Incoming
Class by county

Your Future. Our Focus.
Outcomes – Bar Passage

July 2019 Illinois Bar Examination
First Time Takers

• 83% Pass Rate for NIU Graduates
• 80% State Average Pass Rate
Outcomes – Job Placements

Class of 2018

- Law Firms: 53%
- Business: 18%
- Government: 18%
- Public Interest: 8%
- Pursuing Advanced Degree: 3%
Accomplished Alumni

Over 100 Alumni are now members of the judiciary

Honoring NIU Law Graduates in the Judiciary
Union League Club of Chicago
May 1, 2019
Faculty

Teaching  Scholarship  Service
10 Things You Might Not Know About the College of Law

1. We have paired about 90% of our first-year students with lawyer mentors.

2. We have a 5k run on campus every spring.

3. Every year the Black Law Students Association puts on an amazing Thanksgiving dinner.

4. Recently many of our students assisted with an expungement summit.
5. In June 2019 NIU launched The Legal Education, Access, and Recognition (LEARN) Program, which is funded by a $125,000 grant from AccessLex Institute.

6. We just had our second annual Chicagoland junior scholars’ workshop, which our junior faculty created and organized.

7. Three of the last six presidents of the Illinois State Bar Association were alumni of NIU Law.
8. Our Civil Justice Clinic Received the 2018 ISBA’s *Excellence in Education Award* which recognizes a law school program that serves as an example of excellence in the practice of law.

9. In 2018, the Illinois Lawyers’ Assistance Program awarded the inaugural *Warren Wolfson Award in Educational Excellence* to NIU Law.

10. National Jurist ranked NIU Law 11th in the nation for sending students to small firms.