Northern Illinois University
College of Law
Update
December 7, 2023
Cassandra L. Hill
Dean & Professor
College of Law Priorities

- Strengthen the COL Profile and Footprint
- Ensure Diversity, Equity & Inclusion In Action
- Expand Admissions & Enrollment Targets
- Continue Student Success in Academics & Develop New Employment Opportunities
- Enhance Alumni Engagement & Community Partnerships
- Increase Resources—Revenue & Relationships
#NIULaw
#NIULawHasItAll
#NIULawIs4You
#niulawproud
Recent Accolades

• 2023: Ranked #13 in the nation for law schools that add the most value to the ultimate bar passage and over-perform predicted expectations on the bar.

• 2023: Ranked #3 for Criminal Law according to preLaw Magazine.

• 2023: Ranked #12 for Public Service according to preLaw Magazine.
Faculty Accomplishments

Prof. McConkie Weighs In on Rittenhouse Verdict on Chicago Tonight
November 24, 2021
NIU Law Professor Dan McConkie was featured on WTTW's Chicago Tonight on Monday, November 22 to weigh in on the impact of the Rittenhouse verdict.

Professor Boraca Honored for Contributions Improving Access to Justice
July 21, 2021
Professor Colleen Boraca is the 2021 recipient of the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Jay Leonard Schrager Award of Excellence. The Award was established to recognize exemplary

Professor Bernick Cited in Opinion by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gorsuch
November 8, 2022
In an opinion, 21-072 Buffington v. McDonough (11/07/22) (supremecourt.gov), arguing that the Court should have heard a case about a federal agency’s denial of disability benefits
Diversity Initiatives: Diversity Awareness

Provided Diversity Workshop
Open to All Faculty and Staff
Second Annual Building Community Program
with First-Year Minority Students
Race and the Law Conversations

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN
SHEILA JACKSON LEE

"EXAMINING THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS"

Tuesday, August 31 | 6-7 p.m. CST
Register via Zoom: go.niu.edu/reparations
Moderated by Dean Cassandra L. Hill

Toi W. Hutchinson ('14)
Sr. Advisor to Governor Pritzker for Cannabis Control

"CANNABIS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE"

Tuesday, November 16 | 6-7 p.m. CST
Register via Zoom: go.niu.edu/cannabisjustice
Moderated by Prof. Wendy Vaughn
1 hr Illinois MCLE (pending approval)
Diversity Scholars Program

- Received grant for $142,000
- Launched November 6, 2023
- Enrolled: 30 students
- Partner schools include:
  - Northern Illinois University
  - Northeastern Illinois University
  - Aurora University
  - Chicago State University
  - Jackson State University
  - Bennett College
## Enrollment Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Minority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Students – Class of 2026

106 STUDENTS

- Women: 57%
- Men: 43%

- Minority: 40%
- Caucasian/White: 60%
Our Students — Class of 2026

Educational Background

- 67 Colleges and Universities
- 34 Majors
- 8+ Languages Spoken
Outcomes – Job Placements

92% Reported Employed

Class of 2022

- 49% Law Firms
- 17% Government
- 19% Public Interest
- 13% Education
- 1% Business
- 1% Judicial Clerkships
Clincs

- Criminal Defense Clinic (Rockford)
- Prisoners' Rights Project (Rockford)
- Civil Justice Clinic (Rockford)
- Health Law Advocacy Clinic (Aurora)
- Business Law Innovation Clinic (DeKalb)
Business Law Innovation Clinic

- Hosted Launch Reception in September 2022 & raised $30,000.
- BLIC students attended the ABA Business Law Section Spring Meeting
- BLIC was honored by Bloomberg Law as one of six "top scoring programs" in the category of "Innovation and Business"
New Clinical Law Center

Reception area, interview rooms, and large classroom.
New Student Organization Space
**Alumni Highlights**

**Judge Colleen Lawless ('09)** was appointed a federal judge in 2023.

**Brigadier General Jackie Thompson ('97)** was appointed to his position in 2021.

**Sonni Williams ('99)** is President-elect of the Illinois State Bar Association.

**Judge Eugene Doherty ('89)** was appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court in 2022.

**Kenya Jenkins-Wright ('03)** is President of the Chicago Bar Foundation.

**Andrew Lothson ('08)** was named a Top 40 under 40 attorney.
Alumni in the Judiciary

The College of Law now has 150 current and retired judges.
Alumni Visits & Engagement

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- DC
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Texas
- Wisconsin
Support for Faculty Awards

Professor Laurel Rigertas
*Lenny and Stacey Mandell Faculty Excellence Award*
Accomplishments in teaching and service.

Professor Sarah Fox
*Board of Visitors Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award*
Accomplishments in scholarship and research.
Support for Student Scholarships

Casimere Street (’26)
Board of Visitors
Student Excellence Scholarship
50th Anniversary – Save the Date!

Anniversary Gala
November 2, 2024
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Questions?