

Tour Route – C. Blake McDowell Law Center, Law Library, and West Hall

Section 1: Atrium and Classrooms

- 1 The Atrium
 - Built in 1993 to link the Law Center to West Hall
 - Intellectual Property Faculty Suite located on the second floor of the atrium at the front of the building
 - The Dean's Office (administrative offices) are located on the first floor of the atrium – these include a reception area, alumni and development, finance and administration, faculty support, dean and associate dean, admissions, and student services.

- 2 Career Planning and Placement—Alisa Benedict-O'Brien
 - Split between Program Assistant's Office and Director's Office (Alisa)
 - Services: Personal career counseling, on-campus interviews, mock interviews, career fairs, the career planning library, job posting collections (in binders inside Alisa's office and on job board)
 - Full time students may meet with Career Planning staff after November 1 of their first year; part-time students may meet with Barbara as of the first day of law school

- 3 About the classrooms and the building
 - General
 - ❖ Wireless computer network
 - ❖ All seats in all classrooms are wired for electricity to accommodate laptop use
 - ❖ All classrooms are equipped with a multimedia system
 - ❖ Laptops are not required; some professors allow them, some don't
 - ❖ The majority of professors allow exams to be taken on laptops
 - ❖ Typical class sizes
 - » First year – 40 to 60, depending on your section and whether you're full or part-time
 - » Upper-Division – average is 30-35, but classes range in size from 10 to 90
 - » Overall student to faculty ratio is approximately 13:1
 - L-151
 - ❖ Moot courtroom
 - ❖ Houses regular classes as well as guest speakers, moot court/mock trial practices, open houses, and most other special events
 - L-165 (the judge room)
 - ❖ The portraits on the walls of this classroom are of Akron Law alumni who serve or have served as judges during their careers.
 - ❖ There are currently more than 180 alumni judges
 - ❖ There are two Akron Law alumni (Deborah Cook and Alice Batchelder) who serve on the U.S. Circuit Court (one level below the U.S. Supreme Court) – Akron is the only Ohio law school (there are nine in all) to have more than one alum on the U.S. Circuit Court.

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Section 2: Law Library

- 1 Circulation Desk
 - Students may use the circulation desk to check out closed reserve materials, academic success materials, and keys for the 3rd floor group study rooms
- 2 Main Computer Lab
 - Students can use these computers for general Internet access, or to access web based research services such as Lexis and Westlaw and library catalogs
 - Students also have word-processing and network printing capabilities from these machines
 - Students with wireless-equipped laptops can do all of the same things on their laptops as they can from the computers in the labs
- 3 Group Study Rooms
 - This is a resource available to law students who require a consistently quiet place to study
 - They may be checked out at the circulation desk on a first come first served basis
 - Three of the rooms are equipped with television/VCR combo units for viewing the videotapes available at the circulation desk
- 4 Journal Offices
 - *Akron Law Review* is a quarterly publication that addresses current issues in law
 - *Akron Tax Journal* is annual
 - *Akron Intellectual Property Law Journal* is published three times per year
 - *The Akron Journal of Constitutional Law* is an online journal focusing on constitutional law
 - Articles written by faculty and students across the country are published in the Law Review
 - Students in the top 15% of their class are automatically selected; students with at least a 2.6 GPA can join through a writing competition
- 5 Academic Success—Donna Palmer-Schmitz
 - The Academic Success Program is a tutorial service for law students
 - If a student is struggling in a particular subject matter (contracts, torts, etc.) or a given skill (briefing, outlining, exam preparation etc.), they can attend group sessions conducted by Donna, a structured group study session led by an upper-division student, or they may schedule individual meetings
 - A library of information and resources including dictionaries, hornbooks, flashcards, CDs, etc. is also kept in this office
- 6 Faculty Offices
 - Located on the west wall on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the library and near the group study rooms and Law Review offices

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Section 3: West Hall

- 1 Student Lounge
 - Mailboxes
 - Student organization offices
 - ❖ More than 20 active student organizations
 - ❖ Almost all organizations have three aspects to them – community service, social, and academic
 - Community Service: Organizations engage in community service events regularly (example: LAW’s Angel Tree program)
 - Social: Organizations plan social events for their group and for the law school student body (example: SBA’s Barrister’s Ball)
 - Academic: Organizations sponsor academic events, such as debates and lectures, for the students, faculty, and staff
- 2 West Hall, 2nd Floor
 - Faculty offices located in entrance area, 2nd floor
 - Classrooms
 - Moot courtrooms
 - ❖ Used mainly for moot court/mock trial practices
 - ❖ Also used for trial advocacy courses
- 3 Legal Clinic
 - Administration
 - ❖ Clinical Professor Joann Sahl
 - ❖ Clinical Professor Gary Spring
 - ❖ Maureen Davis, Program Assistant
 - Student work and research area
 - Overview of the Clinic
 - ❖ **Inmate Assistance Program**
 - » Paid positions (up to 20 hrs per week; 30 hrs/week part time students and summers)
 - » Allow students to meet with inmates at Summit County Jail and Mahoning County Jail to discuss their situations
 - » A good way to gain interviewing and research experience, as well as exposure to the Ohio criminal justice system and judicial process
 - ❖ **Clinical Internships**
 - » Paid positions (up to 20 hrs per week; 30 hrs/week part time students and summers)
 - » Allow students to work on cases referred to them through Legal Aid of Akron and of Summit County, as well as other sources
 - » Students work with research, depositions, writing, and other aspects of the cases
 - » Criminal defense, appeals, and civil cases (housing); all clients are indigent
 - » Clinic also does work related to Certificate of Qualification for Employment, Clemency, and Expungement
 - » Third-year students can try cases under attorney supervision if they are certified to do so by the State of Ohio
 - » A good way for *anyone* interested in litigation to gain exposure to the litigation process; **not just for those interested in trial law**
 - ❖ **Externships – Clinical Seminar Course**
 - » Unpaid positions at external locations
 - » Students may do up to two externships for a total of six semester hours; one externship per semester

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- » Possible placements include government agencies, nonprofit organizations, juvenile court, prosecutor's office, University counsel, hospital system, etc.
 - » Any clinical placement is valid as long as it is in a non-profit setting and there is an attorney there to supervise the student's work
 - » Students may do externships within the legal clinic, and would perform basically the same duties as the paid interns, but for course credit rather than for pay
- ❖ **Small Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Legal Clinic**
- » Purpose: to represent emerging businesses in the greater Akron area
 - » Businesses must be in existence for under 5 years and have an annual profit of no more than \$100,000 to qualify for assistance
 - » 5-7 internships per semester are available
 - » Internships are not paid, but students receive credit for them (same as the clinical seminar externships described above)
 - » Interns work very closely with Gary Spring and with the clinic's clients to resolve many issues related to the formation and operation of a small business