

NORTHWESTERN LAW: A to Z

The students, faculty, and staff at Northwestern have a propensity for TSTRSMACP (taking something that is really simple and making it an acronym to confuse people). Fortunately, you have us to sort everything out for you! So don't TFO (totally freak out) just yet. Just read this simple A to Z of terms and lingo and you will be all set to ace being a 1L, no exam required.

- Your Orientation Leader

A

Abbott Hall

Abbott Hall is the grey building located on Lakeshore Drive, across Superior from the Law School. It is a crucial part of your law school experience for several reasons. Abbott Hall houses the book store, where you'll spend more money than you ever thought possible. Hence, an ATM is conveniently located in the lobby. Abbott Hall is also the location of the Financial Aid Office and the office for getting Wildcards (student IDs), as well as the location of CAPS, Campus Ministry, and the COFO office. In addition, there is a space at Abbott for student groups to either work-out or to use a piano for rehearsals. Abbott Hall is also the home to the only housing currently available on the Chicago Campus.

AJDs

The students in the Accelerated JD program (AJDs). They are on the fast track to earn their JD in five semesters, over the course of two calendar years. Not to be confused with the 2-year International JD students, the AJDs are required to meet all of the same graduation requirements as the 3-year JDs, with some additional required courses with fancy names (e.g., Legal Services Business Analytics, Dynamics of Legal Services Behavior, and Business Strategy for Lawyers). JD and LLM students should look for the AJDs in your elective and upper level courses.

APEX

Wondering what law school exams are like? What Outlining is and why everyone seems to be doing it after the first week of class? What classes you need to take to graduate and when you should take them? The Academic and Professional Excellence (APEX) program will teach you the ins and outs of acclimating to law school, preparing for class, exam preparation, exam writing, and curriculum planning. Visit the APEX Blackboard (see B) site for weekly podcasts, instructional videos, frequently asked Curricular Advising questions, and more.

ATMs

Got cash? ATMs are conveniently located in Abbott Hall and the basement of Levy Mayer.

Atrium

The hub of the law school, this is the place to hang out, to see and be seen. Also conducive for studying, group work, and mid-day naps. While the temperature in the atrium tends to fluctuate from blistering hot in the summer afternoons to freezing cold in the winter months, one thing that is always cool is the purple carpets and couches. Go Northwestern!

B**Bar Review**

A weekly shin-dig just for you and your law school mates (and your friends from outside of school). What could be better? Each Thursday night the SBA Social Committee finds another bar for us to liven up with our witty debates about Civ Pro Rule 12(b)(6) and CLR. Doesn't sound like fun? Just imagine all the gunners (see G) in your section after a couple beers, dancing on a table. Now you get the idea!

Barrister's Ball, a.k.a. "the law school prom"

What's better than seeing your classmates loosen up at Bar Review? Seeing them kicking back in dresses and suits and dancing up a storm at the Barrister's Ball! Hosted by SFPIF (see S), the Barrister's Ball is semi-formal dance held at a banquet hall every winter which serves as a chance to ask your special crush from section on an official date – or at least gives you a chance to wear that formal dress or suit from your college days. Not only is the event a blast to attend, but you help others by attending – ticket price goes towards funding summer public interest internships for students.

Blackboard (a.k.a. Course Info)

Accessible via Esquire (see E), Blackboard, also known as CourseInfo, provides a web environment for professors to post messages to students or conduct discussion boards. Many of your assignments and extra readings are posted there. If you lose your syllabus, have no fear, it's probably on Blackboard too. But wait, there's more: you can look up who is in your section (Pick a class- then "Communication" then "Roster") or to email the entire section about your house party. Best when used in conjunction with the Facebook (see F) Select users to avoid sending your invite to the professor!

Bluhm Legal Clinic

At this clinic, you can actually work like an attorney. There are a variety of clinic areas, ranging from the Center on Wrongful Convictions, where students try to help those that they believe are wrongfully convicted, to the Small Business Opportunity Clinic (SBOC), where students provide legal help to entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations. There are a variety of other areas of the clinic, viewable on the clinic's website, and every one is a great place to learn the trade. (See Clinic Work Space, below)

C**CAESAR**

Accessible via Esquire (see E), CAESAR (computer assisted electronic student access route) is the online site where you view your schedule, change your personal contact information (address and telephone number), view the status of your financial accounts, find out your grades, and register for classes (which you don't have to worry about for your first semester).

CAPS

Counseling and Psychological Services. Located on the fifth floor of Abbott Hall on the Chicago Campus, CAPS is the place to go for your psychological needs.

Center for Career Strategy and Advancement (CCSA), a.k.a. The Career Center

Located just off the Atrium. As 1Ls you can't use the Center until November 1st or contact potential employers until December 1st. Worried you'll miss out on all the jobs? Don't be, all the other law schools have the same restrictions. Plus, the Center puts on several excellent programs for 1Ls, some of them prior to November 1st, to help you develop the skills necessary to your job search process. Their website is a source for all things useful from Job Postings (get a job) to Call Back Statistics (what job can your GPA get you?) to the Summer Job Surveys Database (find out where other students worked, a.k.a., find a fun job).

Civ Pro

Short for Civil Procedure, this is one of the required 1L classes you'll be taking with your section this fall, along with CLR, Contracts, Criminal Law (Crim), Torts, and Property. What exactly is this class about? It covers the procedure by which a civil lawsuit is brought, adjudicated, and disposed of. More so than any other, this class will completely devalue those nifty techniques you picked up from repeated viewings of "A Few Good Men".

Clinic Work Space

This space is located on the eighth floor of Rubloff. Overlooking the lake and convenient to the offices of clinic professors, this space provides a convenient and gorgeous place for students to work. This space opened during the Spring 2007 semester and is one of the newest special additions to the law school.

CLR

Short for Communication and Legal Reasoning, this class covers the ins-and-outs of analytical thinking and problem-solving, including legal reasoning, research and oral and written communication. CLR is a full-year required course with each semester worth 2 credits. Classes are small, about 30 people, and mixed with students from all four sections. Students work on a variety of projects and assignments in and out of class, with a range of individual work to build autonomy and collaborative work to build skills in teamwork and leadership. While CLR assignments can be time consuming, the skills learned in this class are some of the most critical for your legal career. After all, who is going to hire you post-law school if you cannot think and communicate like a lawyer? After this class you won't have to worry about the answer to that question. Note that CLR also refers to the LLM class Common Law Reasoning.

COFO Office (Chicago Organization Finance Office)

Located in Abbott Hall, this office handles the accounts and finances for all student organizations.

Computer Support (Information Technology)

Keep hearing about the loaner program and the on-site computer support? Sure you have; they're located in the basement of McCormick. They're great and can fix just about anything (though it is not recommended that you spill coffee on your keyboard.)

D

Development (as in Office of Alumni Relations and Development)

Already thinking about what life will be like as an alumnus? The Office of Alumni Relations and Development is a department you should get to know well as it will be your link to Northwestern Law after graduation.

E

Esquire: <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/ewc/>

The fashionable homepage to have this season. EsquireCentral is the source for all information relating to the law school. Find out what events are going on at the law school today, tomorrow, and 2 months in the future. Find links to all the other important websites mentioned here. And most importantly: find the count-down to your graduation. In addition, there is an Esquire Student portal page at which everything has been placed to be easily accessible to students.

F

Facebook

The place to look for your next law school crush or to clarify the last name of that girl/guy you met at bar review last night. The facebook is published online in full-color. Find it on Esquire (see E) twenty-four hours a day.

G

Gunners

When the professor asks a question, gunners are the first people to have their hands in the air. They are also the people who have an opinion on *every* case your section ever reads, whether it concerns Volkswagen accidents, a request for a sister-in-law to live with you, or Russian roulette. While it can sometimes be irritating to stop class to hear Mr. or Ms. Gunner's opinion *again*, they are also the engine that drives the Socratic method (see S), and their lengthy discourse on the travesty of law and economics offers you the time to play solitaire for a few more minutes, not that you'd do that sort of thing.

H

Harry's

Located in the basement of Levy Mayer Hall (the oldest law school building), Harry's is THE place to buy everything from gum to lunch to coffee to pretzels to coffee to cookies to candy to coffee. Yes, law students do drink a lot of coffee.

Holmes Place

This athletic club serves the function of an exercise facility for Northwestern Law students. The university subsidizes student memberships, allowing them to join the club for only 170 dollars per year. Located south of the school on Grand Avenue. Just walk towards the people on treadmills behind the huge windows. And try not to stare.

I

ITA (Introduction to Trial Advocacy)

Refers to the combination of three classes which are taught in a closely coordinated, inter-related manner every fall: Trial Ad, Ethics, and Evidence. The entire set is 10 credits and is very popular among 2Ls and 3Ls, since it is taught in a unique problem-solving format rather than a traditional format. You don't need to worry about this just yet. ITA is not to be confused with ITP (see below), also very popular among 2Ls and 3Ls.

ITP (International Team Projects)

In this comparative law course, also for 2Ls and 3Ls, one learns about the role of law and legal institutions, as well as cultural, political, and economic systems in a foreign country. ITP combines semester-long research, a two-week field study abroad (over spring break), and a final group project. ITP destinations are determined by student choice – student leaders generate student and faculty interest in a particular country and plan the trip. This class is very popular among students since it affords a unique learning experience as well as a fun and exotic travel experience. In past years, students have travelled to: Chile, Greece, Argentina, Italy, Cuba, South Africa, Tanzania, Cambodia, Ecuador, and Egypt.

J

Journalism Students (MSJ/MSL)

Medill, Northwestern's School of Journalism, offers a joint degree in Journalism and Legal Studies for all those aspiring hard-hitting journalists. The program begins at Medill, located in Evanston, and then moves to the Law School for one year of study. While at the law school participants take most of the same courses as the rest of the 1Ls. After that year participants complete their studies at Medill.

Journals

Something you shouldn't even be *thinking* about yet. Seriously. But just so you feel in-the-know, we will tell you that Journal admission is based on grades and writing skill, with each journal giving different weights to these criteria as they see fit. Writing skill is based on a writing sample, which is generated during the Write-On Competition. The competition takes place for about 10 days after the completion of spring exams. The five journals, and their abbreviations, are as follows:

- Law Review
- JCLC (Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology)
- JILB (Journal of International Law and Business)
- JTIP (Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property)
- JIHR (Journal of International Human Rights)
- JLSP (Journal of Law and Social Policy)

K

K

An abbreviation often used for “contract.” One of many abbreviations which are useful for when your hands start to cramp and you develop carpal tunnels from excessive typing.

Kellogg

The Northwestern University School of Management (aka the business school). You’ll likely have some classes in Wieboldt (see W), which is the center of Kellogg’s downtown campus and is typically only used by the business school for evening classes. Hey, if the law students get old, you can always make friends with some B-school students. They like to network and therefore make excellent friends (also a lot of the part-timers have expense accounts).

L

Lake Shore Park

Across the street from the law school, this park has a track, tennis courts, and green space for other recreational activities. The park also includes a gym at which the law school’s intramural leagues have games and which can be used by students for pickup games during certain hours.

Library

It’s where they keep the books, brainiac. Also, it’s filled with lots of study rooms that are great for study group sessions. Just sign up at the front desk. Other fun features include Westlaw and Lexis computer labs (where you can print all your online research for free) and a regular computer lab (where you can print anything else). You’ll need your Wildcard to get in.

Lincoln Park

The neighborhood north of school. It stretches from North Ave. to Diversey St. and is home to a lot of fun bars and cool restaurants. Many of the Bar Reviews are held there.

Listserv

The school is broken up into mass email groups based upon class year, class section, or simply the entire student body. Anyone can send an email to one of these open email groups but beware, anyone can also reply to all. Be ready for ridicule, rational argument, irrational argument, and the dawning comprehension that, among so many future lawyers, you are going to have to back up whatever you say with ridicule, rational argument, and irrational argument. The listserv is useful for reporting lost items, buying and selling things, and any other marketplace activity. Also a great place to discover, if you’re paying attention, which of your classmates have a great sense of humor, a certain political stance, or no desire to finish their work.

LPS (Lawyer as Problem Solver) Program

A program unique to Northwestern Law School that characterizes our approach to the teaching and practicing of law. All 1Ls participate in the program, sessions of which are held throughout the first year. The program focuses on what it means to “think like a lawyer” in the 21st Century. Modern lawyers facilitate problem solving for clients in settings outside the courtroom or boardroom. Attorneys find themselves leading meetings, managing teams, and developing and exploring solutions beyond fitting facts into a legal framework. To serve

clients effectively, lawyers need skills in oral and written communication, interviewing, integrative negotiation, dispute resolution, creativity, coalition-building, decision-making, networking, ethics, professionalism, teamwork and leadership. This program highlights these skills with an emphasis on group learning. Students step outside the classroom and into the role of attorney. The unique curriculum uses hands-on exercises to bring key principles to life.

LLM

The abbreviation for a “masters in law” degree. Bet you never knew you could *master* in law – looks like you really can be an eternal student and continue to procrastinate getting a real job! But before you start planning your application you should know that there are usually only two reasons to get an LLM. Either you are a graduate of a foreign law school looking to expand your knowledge of American law or you have a JD and want to focus on tax law and learn to deal with complex real-world transactions. Either way, most LLMs have spent a few years practicing law since they were last in school. So forget about your dreams of another year on financial aid and start polishing that resume!

Lockers

There are two possible options for lockers: those in the basement of Levy Mayer and those in the library. You can use neither, one, or both, depending on your preference. The lockers located in Levy Mayer are typical long and thin lockers, great for storing jackets. The lockers in the library are smaller and more boxy, and therefore great for storing books – especially if your locker is close to your favorite carrel.

Loop, The

Have you looked at an L Map? No? Well most of the trains in Chicago go in a Loop around the financial district. Because of this the financial district is called the Loop. Pretty simple really. If you’re looking for a firm’s office, a courthouse, or any other official sounding office building, this is a good place to start.

Lost and Found

If you either lose or find something, you can take it to the Lost and Found, which is located at Administrative Services. You’ll also find that, frequently, students that have lost or found something report it lost or found on the listserv (see above).

M

Mezzanine

Located in front of the Administrative Services office, this area provides students with an additional space to study or to meet with a study group.

Model Penal Code (MPC)

The source for all the laws you learn in Crim Law. The perfect way to define crimes and their appropriate punishments. But do any states actually use the MPC? We’ll tell you when we find one.

Moot Court

While a “mock trial” is the imitation of a trial, “moot court” is the imitation of an appellate court. Appellate courts differ from trial courts in that a panel of judges reviews the trial proceedings, rather than a single judge. The attorneys for each side argue why the decision

below was or was not correct and that the law should be interpreted or applied in a manner which would produce a favorable outcome for their client. Whereas during trial an attorney proves her case through the testimony of witnesses, evidence, and opening and closing statements, at the appellate level an attorney proves her case through written and oral argument- responding to the questions of the judges and rebutting the arguments of opposing counsel. 1Ls participate in a moot court through CLR (see C) in the spring semester. Outside of class, there are also moot court and mock trial teams.

N

Northwestern University School of Law

A fine institution of legal learning- which you now attend!

O

Outline Bank

A very important source of information, Outline Banks are any collection of old outlines which can be used as a crutch in the creation of your own outline or, in a desperate situation, as a lifeline in the utter absence of your own. Several student groups organize their own outline banks, and often these are accessible to members and/or the public through their websites.

OCI (On Campus Interviewing)

OCI occurs during the final two weeks of the summer before one's second year of law school. During OCI, a large number of law firms come to the law school to interview students.

P

Plan 2008

Experience the Northwestern Law Difference! Northwestern Law's newest strategic plan, Plan 2008: Preparing Great Leaders for the Changing World, aims to ensure that you are better prepared for multi-job career success than those from any other top tier law school.

PORTAL

Short for Professional ORganization, Team Advancement, and Leadership. Students complete the PORTAL series during fall Orientation. During PORTAL, students will participate in a simulation that introduces them to key elements of the lawyering profession and exposes them to issues of diversity, ethics, communication, and leadership. Teams of faculty, alumni, and upper-level students facilitate the simulation and share their experiences in dealing with these issues in law practice.

Purple

The color of Dean Van Zandt's tie. Today. Tomorrow. Every day. He has that much school spirit!

Q

Quiet

Find it in the library.

R

RBR (Rare Book Room)

The small room to your left, when you enter the library, in which many small seminars are held.

Red Line

The only L line which is convenient to school (unfortunately). It runs up State Street, which is 2 blocks West of Michigan Avenue, and about 5 blocks from the school. The closest stop is at Chicago and State.

S

SBA (Student Bar Association)

The government of the law school. The SBA consists of executive officers and representatives from each class. The SBA also organizes and oversees several committees, the most infamous of which is the Social Committee, the planners of weekly Bar Reviews (see B). The SBA also regulates the formation of student groups on campus. Student groups which have been established are listed on-line as well as in the information mailed to you this summer.

Socratic Method

You're sitting in class, you've done the reading (you did the reading, right?), and you're patiently typing away as the professor waxes poetic about *Palsgraf* and proximate cause (Don't worry, you'll find out what we're talking about soon enough). Then, suddenly, it happens. The professor asks you to recite the facts of the case. All you can remember is that there was a bus, or was it a train? The Socratic Method is the way in which many law school professors teach, by asking question after question after question. While it seems terrifying when you get called on, no matter what you say, and no matter how brilliant or asinine you were, no one will remember it an hour later. Not even you. Especially not you.

T

Test/Exam Bank

Not to be confused with aforementioned Outline Bank, the Test/Exam Bank is a source of old exams from your professors, and probably a good place to visit once you have used an Outline Bank to create your Outline. The test bank is maintained by the library and can be accessed online at: <http://goldberg.law.northwestern.edu/ereserves/>

Thorne Auditorium

This is the large auditorium in the law school building that has the capacity to host large crowds. Thorne is utilized by the entire Northwestern Chicago campus.

The Trucks

Lunch option for the lazy. A number of trucks line up outside the school on Superior Street and sell a variety of different lunch options. Most offer a meal for \$4-\$5 (drink, chips and a lunch item). Truck options include: subs, Jamaican food, sandwiches, salads, burritos, and pasta dishes (try the Rigatoni Bolognese, trust us). Surprisingly delicious for food coming from the back of a motor vehicle. They're really popular with the hospital staff so get there quick.

U

U-Pass

Pass given to all students that let's you ride the Chicago transit system for "free." Or at least at no cost to you, besides tuition. What is not free is a replacement U-Pass. That costs money and time, since you have to go down to the CTA offices in the loop to get it replaced. So hold onto that U-Pass!

V

Van Zandt, David

The Dean of the Law School. DVZ, in acronym form.

W

WBT: Wieboldt Hall

The academic building next door to the law school, Wieboldt is officially owned by the business school. Many 1L classes are held in this building, and occasionally events or meetings will be held there as well.

Wigmore

An early dean of the law school, Dean Wigmore was famous for embodying his love of the law in witty musical lyrics, such as the Counselors' Chorus, on display in the foyer of Levy Mayer. In homage to his musical and theatrical talents, every year students produce "Wigmore Follies," a musical satire of law school life.

Windy City

The popular nickname for Chicago. Don't be tricked into thinking it refers to the weather, however. A true Chicagoan knows that this phrase references the behavior of Chicago's politicians before the 1893 Columbian Exposition. There was disagreement over which city would be best to host the fair and the Chicago politicians were known to make overblown and longwinded speeches boasting the beauty of their hometown. Ultimately, the Exposition was held in Chicago. However, despite its political, rather than meteorological, origins it's still a fitting title because the wind tends to whip off the lake close to school.

Z

Zimmerman, Cliff

Dean of Students and an excellent resource for anything else you need to know about Northwestern Law that has not been covered above. Please note that he likes everyone, including students, to call him Cliff.