

NORTHWESTERN LAW: A to Z

A

Abbott Hall

Abbott Hall is the grey Art Deco 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, which sells more than just books. 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 Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), AccessibleNU, Campus Ministry, and the Chicago Organization Finance Office (COFO).

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.

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.

B

Bar Review

A law school tradition where students socialize at a different bar every Thursday evening.

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! 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.

Bluhm Legal Clinic

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

C

CAESAR

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

Counselling and Psychological Services. Located on the fifth floor of Abbott Hall on the Chicago Campus, CAPS counselors help students from all schools manage a wide variety of challenges in life and school.

Career Strategy Center

Located just off the Atrium. As 1Ls you can't use the Center until October 15th or contact potential employers until December 1st. Do not be worried that you will miss out on jobs opportunities. All law schools have the same restrictions. The Center puts on excellent programs for 1Ls, some of which are prior to October 15th, to help you develop the skills necessary to your job search process. Their website is a source for all things useful about law jobs.

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.

Clinic Work Space

This space is located on the eighth floor of the Rubloff Tower. Overlooking the lake and convenient to the offices of clinic professors, this space provides a convenient and gorgeous place for students to work.

CLR

Short for Communication and Legal Reasoning (or Common Law Reasoning for LLMs), 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 25-30 people, and mixed with students from all 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?

COFO Office (Chicago Organization Finance Office)

Located in Abbott Hall Room 703, this office handles the accounts and finances for all student organizations.

Computer Support (Information Technology)

It is located in the Information Commons inside the law library across from the circulation desk. They're great and can fix just about anything!

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

E-Briefs

E-Briefs is Northwestern Law's monthly electronic newsletter featuring the latest news and events at the Law School as well as highlights of faculty and alumni in the news.

F

Faculty

Where you can find out more about our faculty go to www.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/fulltime/

Fitness Formula Club

This athletic club serves the function of an exercise facility for Northwestern Law students. The university subsidizes student memberships, Located at 1030 N. Clark Street.

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

Harry's is THE place to buy everything from gum to lunch to coffee to chips to coffee to cookies to candy to coffee. Yes, law students do drink a lot of coffee.

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 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 one-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

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, which takes place after the completion of spring exams. The six 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).

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.

Library (Pritzker Legal Research Center)

It's where they keep the books, brainiac. Also, it's filled with lots of study rooms that are great for study group sessions. 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 and is home to bars and cool restaurants.

Listserv

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.

LLM

The abbreviation for a "masters in law" degree. LLM students are either a graduate of a foreign law school looking to expand their knowledge of American law or you have a JD and want to focus on tax or human rights law. Either way, most LLMs have spent a few years practicing law since they were last in school.

Lockers

There are two possible options for lockers: those in the basement of Levy Mayer and those in the library. You can use either, 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

Where the Administrative Services office is located.

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 Pritzker 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

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

Pritzker

In October 2015, J.B. Pritzker (JD '93) and his wife, M.K. Pritzker, made a historic \$100 million dollar gift to the Law School. The largest single gift ever to any law school. Their primary intention was to help ensure that the brightest students could get a legal education at one of the top law schools in the country, regardless of ability to pay.

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.

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. Your name is called and 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 (or some variant thereof) 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://www.law.northwestern.edu/library/services/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.

U

U-Pass

Your U-Pass provides you unlimited rides on the CTA, aka your Ventra Card, see below.

V

Ventra Card

The Ventra Card is given to all students and it lets you ride the Chicago transit system for “free” while school is in session (not during breaks). What is not free is a replacement Ventra Card. That costs money and time, so hold onto that Ventra Card!

VPN

Virtual Private Network (VPN) establishes a "secure tunnel" for your computer on the Northwestern network. You need to use VPN for accessing certain Northwestern resources from locations off campus. Most operating systems for computers and smartphones have a native VPN client that you should configure and use for VPN access.

W

WBT: Wieboldt Hall

The academic building next door to the law school, Wieboldt is officially owned by the business school.

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
