

# Two-Year Option Suits Non-Traditional Students



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**N**on-traditional law students are some of the busiest yet most dedicated scholars to pass through a law program, and UDSL’s two-year option is often the perfect tool to help them fit a legal education into their lifestyles. The two-year program is ideal for parents who want to pursue a new career now that their children are older, professionals who are craving a mid-career change, or graduates who have gone through other advanced degree programs and want to take the fast track to a legal career.

“Being able to graduate in two years instead of three is very important to me,” said summer starter Omar Tarazi. “I’m the kind of person who enjoys the intensity of studying at a faster pace, and getting back into the workforce a whole year earlier makes the most financial sense for me and my family.”

While the academic pace is quicker in the two-year option, students take the same rigorous course load and have the same opportunities to participate in special programs, like externships and clinics, and extracurriculars, like Law Review and Mock Trial. Students begin their legal studies in the summer rather than fall, and even those who start in the fall can finish in five semesters at the accelerated pace.

“Many students have gone through college at an accelerated pace and are looking for a similar law school experience,” said Lori Shaw, dean of students and professor of lawyering skills. “Others simply have life circumstances that are better suited to a two-year program. We want to make sure our students have options that best fit their goals and lifestyle.”

“I wasn’t sure at first that the 5-semester option was what I wanted because of the workload, but I knew if I made it through the first year I would have the confidence to continue,” said Shahrzad Allen, a fall starter who will graduate this December. “And, the 5-semester schedule will allow me to study and sit for the bar while my kids are in school.”

Potential students interested in UDSL’s two-year program could begin classes in May 2008 and graduate in May 2010, or begin classes in August 2008 and graduate in December 2010. Here’s how:

SUMMER START: 2-YEAR PROGRAM	FALL START: 2 ½-YEAR PROGRAM
1st semester 18 credit hours May – Aug.	1st semester 18 credit hours Aug. – Dec
2nd semester 18 credit hours Aug. – Dec.	2nd semester 18 credit hours Jan. – May
3rd semester 18 credit hours Jan. – May	Summer off for work experience
Summer off for work experience	3rd semester 18 credit hours Aug. – Dec
4th semester 18 credit hours Aug. – Dec.	4th semester 18 credit hours Jan. – May
5th semester 18 credit hours Jan. – May	Summer off for work experience
	5th semester 18 credit hours Aug. – Dec.



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# DAYTON BRIEFS

SPRING 2007

## UDSL Alumni Weekend 2007 – May 18 and 19

**A**lumni Weekend is on the horizon! Last year’s festivities brought more than 300 alumni back to the UDSL campus. Join your classmates and UDSL faculty to make this year’s event an even bigger success.

Alumni weekend begins Friday, May 18, 2007, at noon with our Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon at the beautiful Schuster Center. The Honorable Walter H. Rice Honorary Alumni Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at this memorable gathering where we celebrate members of the UDSL community and accomplished alumni reflect on their paths since graduation.

Saturday morning, May 19, will begin with a CLE program in Joseph E. Keller Hall, featuring Professor Tom Hagel and Mr. Ashley Brown ('77) speaking on substance abuse and disciplinary problems, and professionalism, respectively. Reunion-year classes kick off Saturday evening’s celebration with special receptions at 6:00 pm for the classes of 1977, 1982, 1987 and 1997, celebrating their 10-, 20-, 25-, and 30-year reunions. A general reception for all graduates will be held on the East lawn at the same time. Everyone will come together for a dinner on campus at 7:30 pm, followed by a silent auction to benefit the Student Volunteer Law Project, which allows law students to complete pro bono work with local attorneys to help solve the legal problems of community members in need.

This will be a wonderful weekend to catch up with old friends, former professors, revisit campus, and share a piece of your history with your family. Please check out our UDSL website at <http://Law.udayton.edu> for Alumni Weekend information or call 937-229-3793 for more information.



**Did you miss the big game?** Check the UDSL calendar of events (inside) so you don’t miss anything else! Top: Judge Barbara Gorman '77 and husband Tim enjoying the UDSL reception after the UD v. Xavier game on Feb. 24. Bottom: Alumni Michael and Lisa Sandner (both class of '94) and family.



## UDSL Students Take Pro Bono Philosophies on a Road Trip

**U**niversity of Dayton School of Law students have an opportunity to take their classroom knowledge on the road for some hands-on experience that will make a big impact. An Alternative Spring Break is planned for April 2-6, 2007, to complete pro bono work and help rebuild the areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The trip was the idea of third-year student Molly Buckman, who had heard of other law students volunteering their talents in the Gulf Coast region through the American Bar Association. She decided that she had the time, had the desire to help, and definitely had an interest – she just happened to be molding an independent study course around disaster law.

“Organizations in New Orleans, Mississippi, and Texas are eager to have law student volunteers,” Buckman advertised on an informational flyer. “Over 30 law schools participated last year, donating 68,000 volunteer hours – the equivalent of having 32 extra full-time attorneys doing hurricane relief work.”

The UDSL volunteers will hook up with the Student Hurricane Network, comprised of law student volunteers from around the country. The trip is open to law students from all years; each student will be matched with a legal agency prior to departure according to their experience and knowledge. Buckman said there are needs for

volunteers to work in diverse areas of the law, from FEMA-related issues and documenting damage for insurance purposes (property law), to helping local governments set up elections (election law), to interviewing persons in jail awaiting trial for misdemeanors (criminal law). The trip will count for between 30 and 40 pro bono hours for those students who have taken the pro bono pledge.

In addition to fundraisers like a Mardi Gras bake sale, Dayton law firm Dyer Garofalo Mann & Schultz, the UD president’s office, the UD School of Law, and the American Bar Association have contributed to the students’ trip.

Students who participated in Alternative Spring Break will share their experiences during the Interfaith Prayer Service on April 11 at 8 am, held at Joseph E. Keller Hall. A continental breakfast will follow in the Keller Hall atrium. RSVP at (937) 229-3793.



## Non-traditional UDSL Students Make Great Attorneys!

Their dedication to learning and sincere commitment to justice and service help to define the academic culture at the School of Law. Non-traditional students bring a wide range of backgrounds to bear on their academic pursuits. Read below about alumni Doug Jenks '05 And Patti Kane Schmidt '95.

### What profession were you in before enrolling at UDSL?

**D.J.:** I was the Director of Foundation Relations at the University of Dayton, doing grant writing and general fundraising. I started in UD's Advancement Division in 1994 as a grants and donor researcher and eventually moved into fundraising. I also taught American history survey courses to UD undergraduate students.

**P.K.S.:** My undergraduate degree is in electrical engineering. After college, I worked as an application engineer and, later, as a sales manager for a manufacturer of circuit protection devices. These positions involved sales and marketing skills. I worked with engineers, maintenance personnel and distributor sales people. On the one hand, I worked with the technical people to get the company's products approved and specified into a contract. On the other hand, I worked with the sales people to negotiate the order for the product.

### What made you decide to change career paths?

**D.J.:** I always wanted to go to law school. My father is an attorney, and growing up, I could not imagine doing anything else. From my perspective, there were lawyers... and then everyone else: I wasn't sure what they did. So I ventured to find out – and did – but law school was always in my future. At age 34, with two small children and my supportive spouse Erin beside me, I decided it was now or never.

**P.K.S.:** Because of my initial career path, I was planning to get an MBA. One evening, I was at a going away party for a friend. I sat next to a patent attorney who was a partner at a Chicago intellectual property boutique firm. When he heard I was planning to get an MBA, he suggested I go to law school and become a patent attorney. At the time, law school was the furthest thing from my mind. As an engineer, reading comprehension was not one of my strong points - I preferred math. After that dinner, however, I started to become more aware of the opportunities for patent attorneys. The next thing I knew I was taking the LSAT and applying to law school.

### What was it like being at UDSL as a non-traditional student?

**D.J.:** Have you ever seen one of those circus performers juggling really dangerous objects like chain saws and knives? OK, it wasn't that bad, but it was difficult to juggle the demands of being a student with everything that occurred beyond school. But this gave me the gift of objectivity. I understood that school needed to fit into my life and not destroy it. I tried to confine law school to as close to a 9-5 schedule as possible. Note: this was not possible during finals, and without Erin's support I could not have done it.



**P.K.S.:** I really enjoyed my UDSL experience. After working full time for five years, it was fun to be a student again. I also felt that, personally, I had a different perspective on my course work than I would have had if I attended law school right out of college. (I was a little burnt out on exams and school after college.) I also enjoyed getting to know my classmates. We managed to have quite a few laughs along the way to our J.D.

### Where do you work now and are you satisfied with your law career?

**D.J.:** I work with an excellent firm of dedicated and talented lawyers in Dayton, called Dunleavy, Mahan, & Furry. I like practicing law very much, and but for the weekly career-ending deadlines, I might even love it. By the way, can I bill this time?

**P.K.S.:** I am a partner at Bell, Boyd and Lloyd LLP in Chicago. Bell, Boyd is a general practice firm of about 300 attorneys. Our firm's Intellectual Property Group has approximately 50 attorneys, 35 of which are patent attorneys. My practice is focused in intellectual property litigation and patent portfolio counseling. So far, it has been very satisfying both professionally and personally. I also find that my prior work experience helps me to understand my clients' business issues and to provide legal advice that is consistent with their business goals and objectives.



Students taking Professor Saphire's intrasession work with homeless at The Other Place shelter.

## Intrasession Exposes Students to Legal Challenges Facing the Homeless

Some UDSL students took a mid-semester break to examine how laws hinder or could help marginalized people during a one-week course on homelessness.

Rich Saphire, the professor teaching the intrasession class, said there are a variety of laws nationwide that effectively criminalize homelessness or prevent movement of homeless people. Dayton's anti-panhandling law is an example, according to Saphire, current board president of The Other Place, Dayton's only daytime homeless shelter. Other examples include cities removing park and bus benches from downtowns. He added that most homeless people have below-average levels of education, no access to lawyers and often think "nobody like them" can be successful in being empowered and fighting the system.

"Few law students have an understanding of the homelessness problem," Saphire said. "The system does provide resources for those of us engaged in managing the symptoms of or getting rid of homelessness. Lawyers can and should play a major role in accomplishing these objectives. Lawyers should be exposed, on a personal and professional basis, to homelessness. There is no better occasion for this to happen than in the context of their professional education in law school."

The American Bar Association's committee on pro bono and public service says every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year to persons of limited means. UDSL students who take an optional pro bono pledge commit themselves to 50 hours of pro bono service prior to graduation.

## And in Other News...

- The judge handling the United Airlines bankruptcy case and a lawyer who helped create the test to determine bankruptcy qualifications participated in the Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP Program in Law Religion & Ethics, Feb. 26 & 27. The symposium was organized by UDSL professors Jeff Morris and Vicki VanZandt.
- UDSL professor Dennis Greene presented and performed in his play, "Harlem Exchange: A Journey of Friends Across Three Decades," on Feb. 17th, in UD's Sears Recital Hall.
- UDSL Dean of Students Lori Shaw spoke at the American Bar Association's midyear meeting in Miami, Florida on her series of articles that have appeared recently in *Student Lawyer* examining cheating in law schools.
- This winter, law professor Dennis Greene, with assistance from UDSL students, is teaching Street Law to 28 Dayton Early College Academy students. They are learning about criminal law, appropriate dispute resolution and other legal areas through readings, discussions and role-playing.
- UDSL hosted an evening of discussion about the past, present, and future of the United States Supreme Court, on February 5, which featured a sneak-preview screening of the new PBS series, *The Supreme Court*: "A Nation of Liberties."
- Dean Lisa Kloppenberg recently visited UDSL alumni in Southeast Florida. Want to meet up with other alumni in your area or find out who else is in town? Make sure we have your current contact information. Plans are underway for trips to Pittsburgh in June, New York sometime this summer, and San Francisco in August. Call our Development Officer Deborah Adler at (937) 229-4764 or visit the alumni directory online, <http://law.udayton.edu/alumncommunity/alumni%20directory%20login>
- The University of Dayton Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of Professors Dickinson and Wohl to Emeritus Professor status. Congratulations and thanks to Larry and Kel for all they have done for the University of Dayton School of Law!

**C**elebrating diversity – On February 16, more than 20 student groups, from the Asian Law Society to the Volunteer Student Law Project, organized and participated in our annual, law school-wide Diversity Fest. Students and faculty brought their families to enjoy cuisine, music, and dancing representing different cultures and interests. This year's event included a cornhole tournament, caricatures, and live entertainment.



Celebrating diversity

## UDSL Celebrates Milestones at Alumni Weekend

This year's Alumni Weekend marks some important anniversaries in the School of Law's history. After closing its doors in 1935, faced with heavy economic problems due to the Depression, the School of Law reopened in 1974, during a time when American law school enrollment had doubled in the previous ten years, and women's enrollment had grown from 1500 to nearly 9000 nationally in the same time period. The first graduating class of the new School of Law received their J.D.s in 1977. This year this inaugural class, which has produced six judges, celebrates its 30-year class reunion. "UD Law helped me build confidence in my ability to succeed," said the Honorable Frank P. Geraci, Jr. '77 during a recent visit to campus. "It taught me to have the courage to do the right thing, no matter what."

Members of the class of '77 probably remember when the School of Law only had one classroom in the basement of the library, and classes had to be held one at a time. The School of Law has come a long way since those days; this year we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of Joseph E. Keller Hall. Over the past ten years, Keller Hall has become the new home of the School of Law in body and spirit. The building is a technologically advanced environment for study and research, but also a place where community and student life have thrived. Students gather in the basement cafeteria, "Jury Box," to socialize, work on projects in the Zimmerman law library, and hone their legal skills in the Heck Courtroom.

## Calendar

**April 11**  
Interfaith Prayer Service:  
"Lawyer as Healer"  
8:00 am  
Joseph E. Keller Hall

**April 14**  
Admitted Student Law Day  
8:45 am – 3:45 pm,  
Joseph E. Keller Hall

**May 7**  
Summer semester classes begin  
for first year students

**May 12**  
School of Law commencement  
10:00 am, UD Arena  
Guest Speaker:  
Judge Andrew S. Effron,  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Armed Services

**May 18-19**  
Alumni Weekend/  
Schuster Center/  
Joseph E. Keller Hall  
See accompanying article  
for more details

**June 8**  
Law and Technology  
Conference: "Significant  
Developments in Computer  
and Cyberspace Law"  
Joseph E. Keller Hall

**June 27**  
Admitted Student Law Day  
8:45 am – 3:45 pm  
Joseph E. Keller Hall

**July 21**  
Thinking about Law School:  
The LSAT and more  
8:45 am - 2:30 pm  
Joseph E. Keller Hall

**September 28**  
School of Law Carl Kessler  
Memorial Scholarship  
Golf Tournament  
Yankee Trace

**September 29-30**  
Dean's Classic Softball  
Tournament  
NCR Fields