

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Campus Art Walk—Large Print Copy



Northwestern
PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Welcome to the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Campus Art Walk!

You might be part of our community already, as a student, professor, alumni, or staff member. If not, I hope you feel part of Northwestern by the end of our time together today.

The tour is split into two parts: core stops, which detail chronology, and sponsored stops, developed in collaboration with student organization leaders to celebrate the diversity of the NLaw community.

Each core stop is accompanied by discussion prompts, listed below:

1. Welcome

What makes you feel at home, or comfortable, in a new place?

2. Across Communities

Consider the responsibility and privilege of being part of an elite university community. Make a wish for your future impact in the world.

3. 1859–1900

Consider your place within the continuum of institutional tradition, and the challenge of honoring past generations' contributions while also embracing evolution.

4. 1901–1925

How can the focus on prominent individuals overshadow the contributions of lesser-known individuals in institutional narratives?

5. 1926–1979

What might these busts suggest about the historical values and priorities of the institution?

6. Across Time

How do the legacies of Mary, Dawn, and Joyce resonate with your personal experiences of service and opportunity?

7. 1980–1999

Reflect on your own values and identities. How might they be visually expressed, and are they represented within the NLaw art collection?

8. Across Space

How might the impact of local architects and artists contribute to a sense of connection between the Northwestern Law community and the surrounding city?

9. 2000–2010

Reflect on the complexities of balancing artistic vision, financial constraints, and community expectations. How does the incomplete execution of the Portraits of Diverse Alumni Program prompt us to consider the limitations of individual efforts in affecting systemic change?

10. 2011–2020

Which social movements inspire your own trajectories?

11. 2021–Present

How do placement, presentation, and artist intentions impact an artwork's ability to fulfill institutional purposes both now and in the future?

12. Looking Forward

Were there any artworks that you found controversial or challenging? What made them so, and do you think they still serve a valuable purpose within the collection? Imagine you were tasked with selecting additional artworks to augment our collection. What criteria would you prioritize?



This symbol indicates the location of the sponsored stops throughout the tour. Sponsored content may be accessed through the NLaw Campus Art Walk website (see last page).

Campus Chronology

1859—Founding of Chicago University Law School

1873—NU merges with CULS, forming the Union College of Law

1891—NU assumes sole control of the legal program, renaming it the Northwestern University School of Law

1899—New location: the top floor of the YMCA Building, 153 LaSalle Street

1902—New location: the Tremont Hotel Building at the corner of Lake and Dearborn

1926—New location: Levy Mayer and the E.H. Gary library complete

1962—McCormick Hall complete

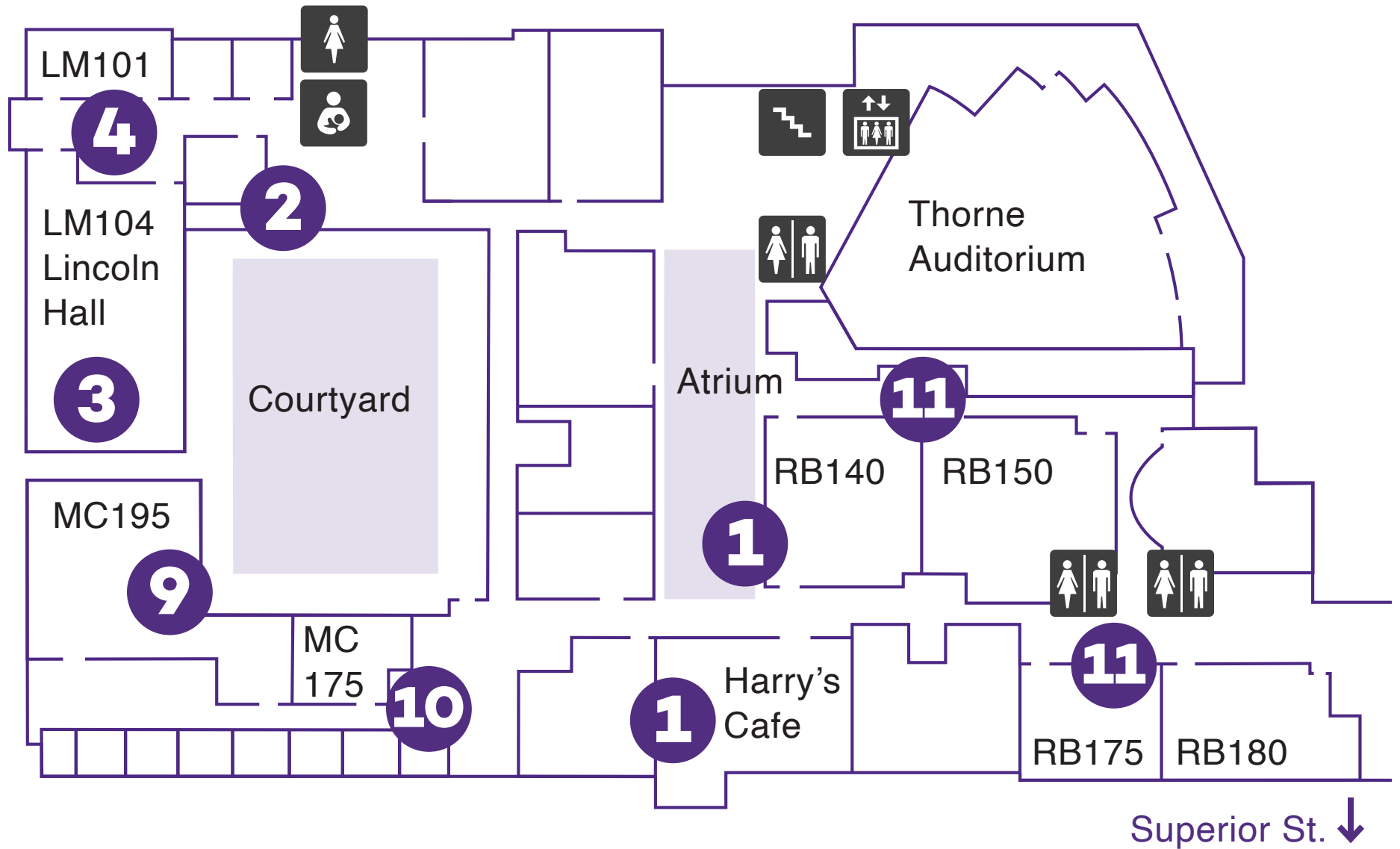
1984—Rubloff building complete

2015—Atrium Expansion complete

Campus Map

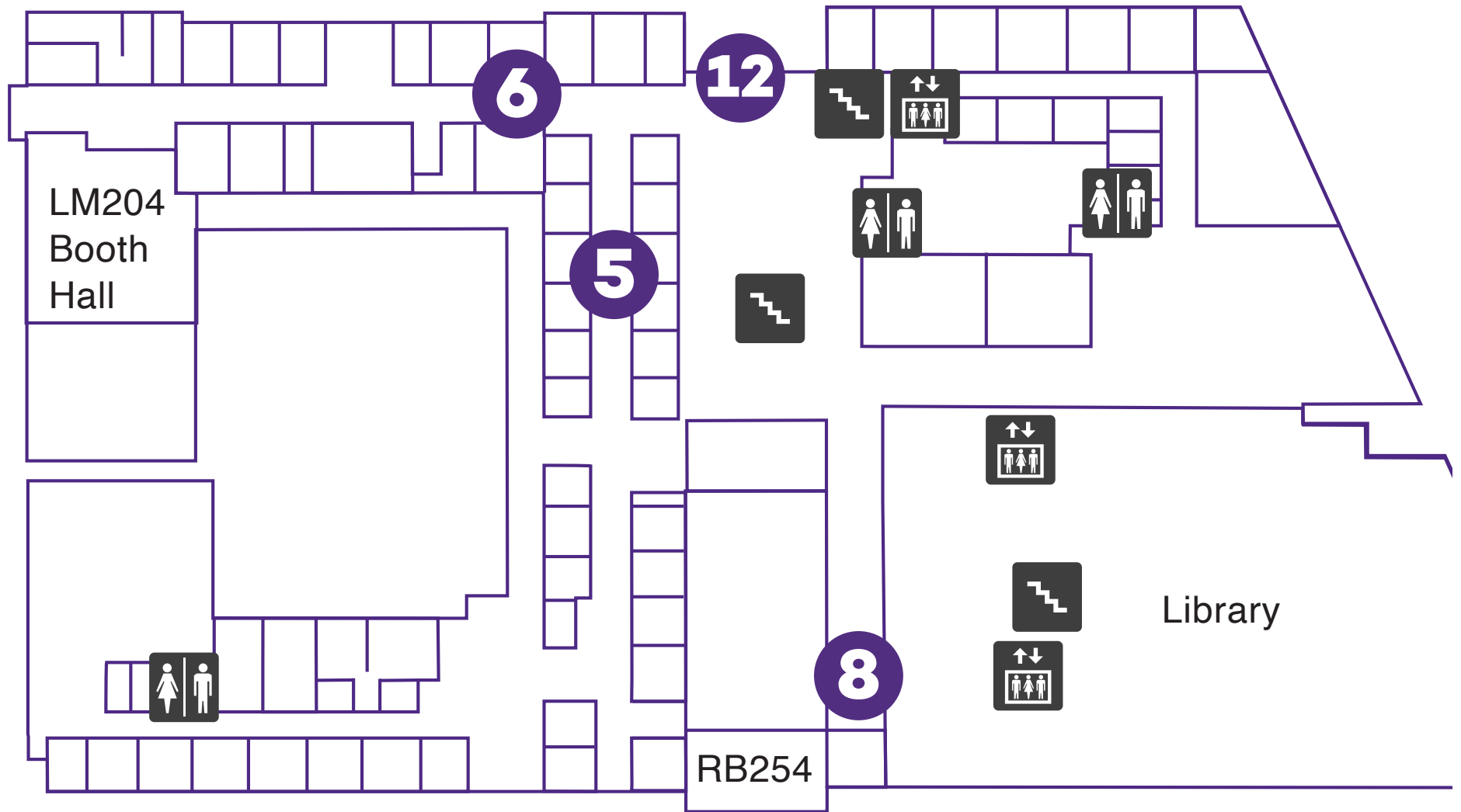
1st Floor

Chicago Ave. ↑



2nd Floor

Chicago Ave. ↑

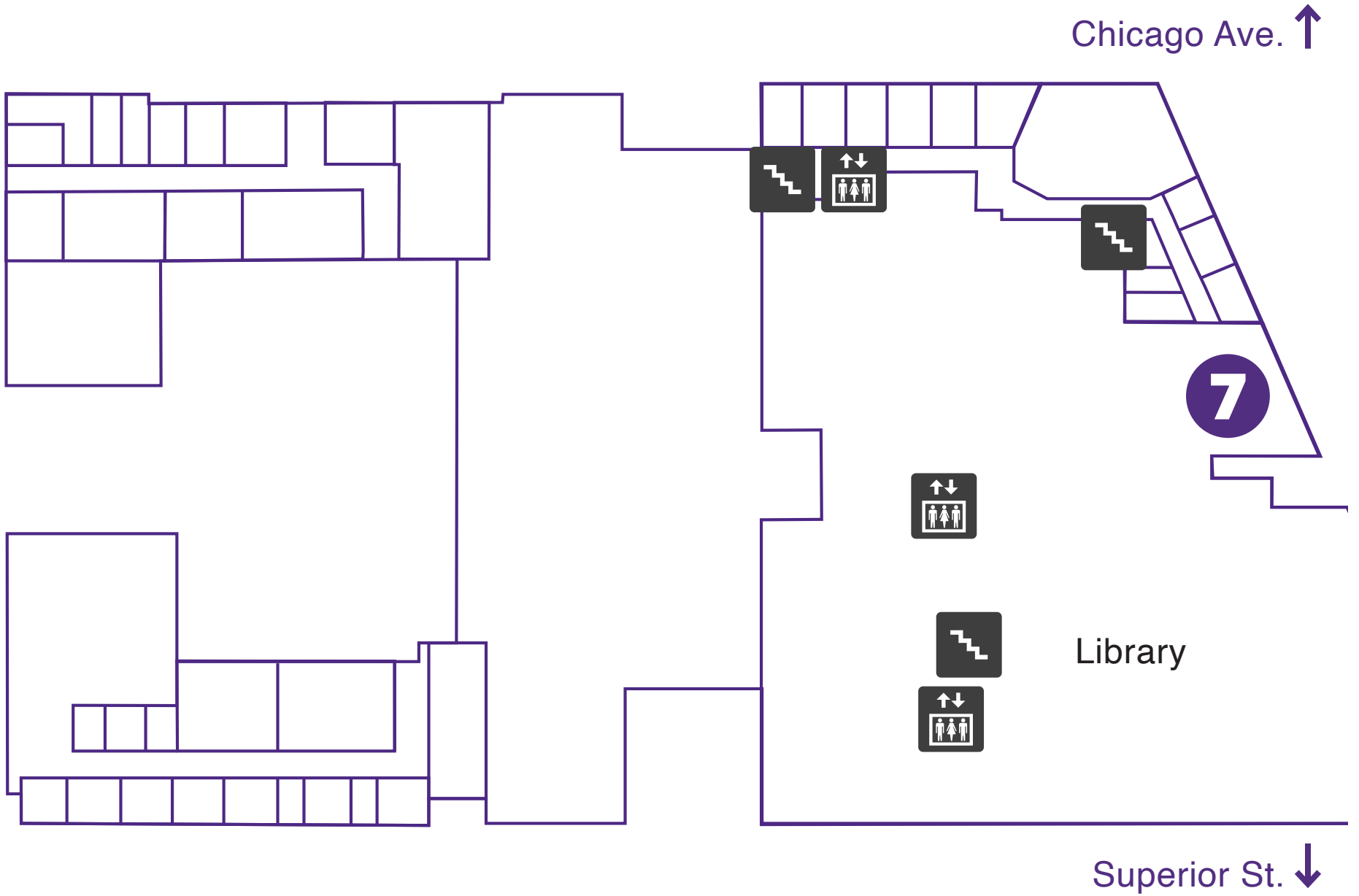


Library

RB254

Superior St. ↓

3rd Floor



1 - Welcome

Explore Harry's Café, where a neon sign highlights the pioneering legacy of NU alumnae Dawn Clark Netsch. Netsch served as the first female professor at NLaw before transitioning to politics. The Netsch family donated several artworks to the school, allowing the NLaw community to enjoy fine art without barriers.



Walter Netsch American, 1920-2008
Elect Dawn Clark Netsch Comptroller, 1990
Neon Sign



Roy Lichtenstein American, 1923-1997
Wallpaper with Blue Floor Interior, 1992
Screenprint on paper, mounted on board
Edition 46/300

2 - Across Community

The Ruttenberg Arts Foundation donated the sculpture, hoping to start a new school tradition in which graduating students would gather at the sculpture to make wishes for their future. At their 25th or 50th class reunion, the wishes would be returned to the students to see which came true.



Christopher Gentner American, born 1966

Wishbone, 1993

Fabricated steel sculpture

3 - 1859–1900

Early school officials commissioned portraits to celebrate faculty, donors, and noted alumni. In 1859, NLaw cancelled classes for Lincoln’s appearance in court—making him an unofficial member of NLaw faculty. The surrounding stained glass celebrates graduating students from each year of NLaw’s history.



Christian Abrahamsen Norwegian, 1887-1983

Abraham Lincoln, 1925

Portrait, Oil

4 - 1901–1925

Before 1926, NLaw operated from Tremont House, a former hotel. Dean Wigmore; librarian Frederic B. Crossley; cataloguers Anne Millar, J.E. Cagle, and Mary E. Goodhue ensured the NLaw art collection was safe throughout the relocation. This exact copy of the U.S. Constitution was commissioned for the new campus as a teaching aid.



Levin Corbin Handy American, 1855-1932

The Federal Constitution, 1926

Document Facsimile



The Christian Legal Society, the St. Thomas More Society, and First Generation Law Student Association

5 - 1926–1979

The hall of heads is framed by famous orators, to exemplify “the function of the lawyer as a persuader” in addition to the lawyer’s role as a scholar and jurist. These plaster busts previously hung in the Tremont House and were changed from white to bronze prior to 1949.



Casper Hennecke German, 1833-1892

Alexander Hamilton, probably late 1850s

Plaster bust with bronze patina, after Jean-Antoine Houdon



Black Law Students Association

6 - Across Time

Though Mary, Dawn, and Joyce walked the halls of the school decades apart, each woman left a lasting impact on Northwestern and beyond, inspiring countless individuals to make a difference in their communities through service to others.



Christian Abrahamsen Norwegian, 1887-1983

Mary Bartelme, 1928

Portrait, Oil

First elected female judge in Chicago, LL. B. (1894)



Artist once known

Dawn Clark Netsch, probably late 1960s

Photograph

NLaw's first female professor, NU 1948, JD ('52)

First female Democratic nominee for Governor of IL



Jules Arthur American, born 1970

Professor Joyce Hughes, 2023

Portrait, Oil

Northwestern's first Black female tenured professor



Jewish Law Students' Association and the
Women of Color Collective

7 - 1980–1999

In the 1980s, the Rubloff family gifted 36 bronze casts to the school, each symbolizing important values such as self-identity, strength, patience, and fortitude. Several pieces remain on display “to maintain the spirit of the Rubloff gift.” Bronze casts are created by sculpting a clay mold, which is then filled with molten bronze. Once solidified, the cast is rubbed with patina or gilt to add dimension.



Emmanuel Fremiet

French, 1824-1910

Joan of Arc, probably late 1870s

Cast bronze with golden patina



Muslim Law Students Association and the
Middle Eastern Law Students Association

8 - Across Space

Chicago-based architecture firm Holabird and Root designed the 1956 McCormick Hall, the 1984 Rubloff Building, and the 2014 Rubloff Atrium expansion between the two. You're currently standing in the expansion, decorated with works by Chicago artists. Notice that both Soto and Santana's artworks reference home.



Stephanie Santana American, born 1984

Living Room Study I, 2020

Screen-print, hand-embroidery, machine quilting



Edra Soto Puerto Rican, born 1971
Casas-Islas / House Islands 18, 2021
Commercial Tabloid Digital Press Print



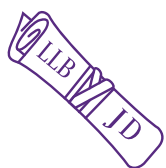
Latinx Law Students Association and the
Veterans Law Association

9 - 2000–2010

Todd Belcore (JD '10) started the Portraits of Diverse Alumni Program. More portraits were planned, but limited funding and time hindered the program. Its work to support diversity is continued by ongoing staff efforts and the Visibility Initiative, formed in 2013 by students Nick Carson, Brenna Helppie-Schmieder, and Chime Asonye.



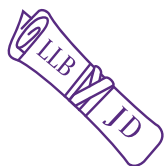
Rebecca Crouch-Pelham
American
Harold Washington, 2010
Portrait, Oil
First Black Mayor of
Chicago, JD ('52)



Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the LLM Committee (representing international law students), & OUTLaw (representing LGBTQIA+ law students)

10 - 2011–2020

This hallway is the first major project of the Visibility Initiative. Artworks were selected with the help of the NLaw community, who submitted photos to represent their reasons for attending the law school. The works are arranged chronologically to show the relationship between different social justice movements.



Women's Leadership Coalition, the Native American Law Students Association, and the Disability Law Society

11 - 2021–Present

NLaw Facilities staff carefully select new artists, media, and subjects to create “a welcoming and inclusive environment for all... taking concrete actions to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, and social and racial justice in our Law School and the broader society.”



Alisha B. Wormsley American, born 1978
So Says the Beautiful Spirit: Circle, 2020
Wool, Cotton, Circuitry, Wood



Amanda Williams American, born 1974
20-15-410-026-000, 2021
Oil, conte, and charcoal on canvas



South Asian Law Students Association

12 - Looking Forward

The purpose NLaw's art collection is multifaceted and goes beyond mere decoration. The works of art must represent our community, convey ideals, celebrate accomplishments, inspire students, challenge historical failures and norms, and appeal to a wide variety of identities and tastes. Here, the NLaw community is united in light and learning.



Ricardo Montañó Indigenous, from present-day Mexico
NLaw School, 2005
Stained Glass



Campus Art Walk Website and Audio Guide

Scan the QR code to follow along the self-guided audio tour for a one-of-a-kind immersive experience!

Narrated by NLaw students, faculty, and staff during the 2023–2024 academic year. Additional details, archival materials, and sponsored content accompany each stop.

A large print copy is available at the circulation desk of the Law Library.

A Glimpse from the Archives

The historic seal depicts St. Ives, patron saint of the legal profession, doing equal justice for the rich and the poor. St. Ives is also quoted in the seal's inner circle, which reads, “bon droit et raison” meaning, “with good law and justice.”



John Henry Wigmore American, 1863–1943
Levy Mayer Medallion,
after John Henry Wigmore’s historic
Northwestern School of Law Seal, 1925

Additional Self-Guided Campus Tours

Black Experience Tour (Evanston), Campus Art Walk (Evanston), Feminist Campus Tour (Evanston), Indigenous Tour of Northwestern (Evanston), NU History Tour (Evanston)

Sponsors

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Student Bar Association, Visibility Initiative

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