

Audio Transcript, Sponsored Stops Welcome

Dean Samantha Kwok Ting Woo: Welcome to the sponsored stops of the NLaw Campus Art tour. My name is Samantha and I am the interim associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a proud NLaw alumna, class of 2012. When I think of the NLaw community, I think about all of the lifelong friends that I made during my time here, whether it's a student or as an administrator.

The NLaw campus tour project is sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion seeks to foster diverse and inclusive law school community that supports the diversity of its student body, staff, and faculty, while also maintaining an intellectually rigorous environment in which diverse viewpoints are explored, shared, and debated.

In addition, the office provides support and guidance for students, staff, and faculty with identities that are historically underrepresented in law schools and in the legal profession.

The Office of DEI Innovation Fellowship Program specifically provides an opportunity for 2L and 3L students to develop and implement creative programs or initiatives designed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Northwestern Law community.

NLaw student Sydney Matrisciano, class of 2025, received a DEI Innovation Grant in January of 2024 to design this tour.

Sydney Matrisciano: and it's been an absolutely amazing experience.

So when I started law school, I didn't expect to have interdisciplinary opportunities like this. Most of what you've heard today comes from a research project I did for Professor DiCola's *Law and Creative Industries* course in the fall of 2023.

A version of the paper is available on the website under the resources tab,

I was originally researching art collection management guidelines using NLaw as my case study for private collections. As I got deeper into the process, I realized how much knowledge had been lost about the history of the NLaw collection. My project focus shifted.

Rather than management guidelines, I became interested in institutional politics and identity formation through art and architectural decisions. Nothing about NLaw's aesthetic is accidental. It's all intended to communicate messages to and about our community.

My research process for this project was extensive. For example, I cataloged every single piece of art on the walls on October 2023. I also interviewed over 60 people, including past deans and faculty, other catalogers, and several of the contemporary artists featured in the collection. I spent a lot of time in the archives, and by the end of the class, I wanted to find a way to give what I'd found back to the NLaw community.

This is our collective story: one of diversity, community, and joy.

That's why the sponsored stops are so important. I may have started this project, but it isn't mine alone. You're about to listen to several more amazing student leaders introduce art from the NLaw collection that's meaningful to them and the communities that they represent.