

Audio Transcript, Stop 1: Welcome

Welcome to Northwestern's Chicago campus. I'm so glad you're here.

Over the next hour, you'll join us in celebrating the law school community. You'll learn how and when the building was built and about the people that bring this place to life. By the end of the tour, you'll know that the artwork on the walls isn't random.

Each piece is a reflection of our community dynamics as we've grown and changed in the decades since our 1859 founding.

Institutions use art to communicate messages to and about their communities. You might be part of our community already as a student, professor, alumni, or staff member. If not, I hope you feel part of the NLaw community by the end of our time together today.

You're presently standing in Harry's Café, a Pritzker School of Law staple. If you haven't already tried the coffee, now's a great chance to grab a cup.

My name is Sydney and I'm the student leader behind this tour. This project is supported by the Law Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as the Visibility Initiative, a student government committee dedicated to promoting diversity and wellness through engagement with the NLaw art collection.

Each stop of the tour will be narrated by a different NLaw community member, including alumni, students, staff, and faculty.

Toward the back of the café, you'll notice a glowing neon sign. It reads, "Elect Dawn Clark Netsch Comptroller," with a sunbeam sketched over the word dawn. A comptroller is like an accountant for the government. Walter, Dawn's husband, made the sign to hang in her campaign office.

Before becoming a politician, Netsch was a student at Northwestern. She completed both her undergraduate and legal education here, something we call being "Double Purple."

She was the only woman in her class and the first woman to win the Scholar's Cup, which is awarded to the first year student with the highest GPA. Netsch was also the first female professor at the law school.

Dawn and Walter Netsch loved art and together they collected many pieces.

As you exit Harry's, look to your right to see one of the pieces that the Netsches collected.

The artwork is brightly colored with pops of yellow and blue. It may remind you of a comfortable living room in someone's home.

You see a white couch, a pink table lamp, and a mirror reflecting the scene. The room is decorated with artwork, plants, and a domed yellow ceiling light. Each object is framed in thick black outlines. This piece is called "Wallpaper with Blue Floor Interior." It is signed by the artist Roy Lichtenstein in the bottom right corner.

The Netsch family generously donated this piece to the law school, so that the NLaw community could enjoy fine art without barriers.

While you look at this piece, think about what it means to feel at home or comfortable in a new place. What makes you feel welcomed?

The NLaw art collection features many similar pieces, generously given or chosen for our community to help us feel more at home in the law school.

Come along to learn more about those artworks as we continue this walk together at our second stop, the wishbone in the Levy Mayer Arcade.