



MICHIGAN LAW

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Assistant Dean for Admissions
University of Michigan Law School
Ann Arbor, Michigan

THE SEARCH

The University of Michigan Law School (Michigan Law), one of the nation's preeminent law schools, seeks a strategic, principled, and collaborative leader to serve as its next Assistant Dean for Admissions. Reporting to the Dean and serving as Michigan Law's chief admissions officer, the Assistant Dean will provide leadership and oversight for all aspects of JD and LLM admissions. This is a distinctive opportunity for an experienced leader to steward one of the most selective law school admissions processes in the country while advancing Michigan Law's longstanding commitments to academic excellence, access, and community.

Michigan Law has built and long sustained a national and international reputation not only for scholarly distinction and intellectual rigor, but also for a deeply collegial culture and a highly personal, judgment-driven admissions experience. The Assistant Dean will lead admissions strategy and decision-making in a manner that reflects these defining characteristics, balancing continuity in what has long worked well with thoughtful adaptation to a rapidly evolving legal education landscape. As the legal profession, applicant populations, and market dynamics shift, Michigan Law seeks an Assistant Dean who can exercise independent judgment, communicate transparently, and guide admissions practices with integrity and care.

The Assistant Dean will lead a dedicated admissions team and collaborate closely with colleagues across the Law School, including faculty, senior administrators, marketing and communications, and financial aid, to support recruitment and yield efforts and to present a compelling and authentic case for Michigan Law to prospective students. Through thoughtful leadership and engagement, the Assistant Dean will play a central role in shaping incoming classes that will sustain Michigan Law's excellence for generations to come. The Assistant Dean will serve as a visible representative of Michigan Law within the broader legal education and admissions communities, contributing to conversations about access, assessment, and the future of the field. In doing so, they will address several key priorities, including:

- Lead the strategy and execution of admissions, recruitment, and enrollment for the JD and LLM programs in alignment with Michigan Law’s mission and culture;
- Lead and inspire a service-driven admissions team committed to a highly personal and student-centered admissions experience;
- Build credibility and trusted partnerships with faculty, staff, and the entire Michigan Law community;
- Bring creativity, judgment, and rigor to the use of technology, data, and emerging tools in admissions;
- Serve as an external representative and ambassador for Michigan Law.

Michigan Law has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. A list of the qualifications and characteristics desired, as well as instructions for submitting applications and inquiries, can be found at the conclusion of this document.

ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADMISSIONS

The Assistant Dean for Admissions serves as the chief admissions officer for Michigan Law and provides strategic leadership and oversight for all aspects of the JD and LLM admissions process, including application evaluation, decision-making, and candidate communications. Reporting to the Dean and serving on the Law School’s senior leadership team, the Assistant Dean is responsible for developing and executing a comprehensive, data-informed enrollment strategy aligned with institutional priorities.

The Assistant Dean will oversee an operational and travel budget of \$400,000 and will lead a dedicated team of 13 individuals, including six direct reports: the Director of Graduate Admissions, two Assistant Directors of Admissions, an Admissions Processing Supervisor, and two Application Review Specialists.

The outgoing Senior Assistant Dean will remain at Michigan Law for the next academic year in a special advisor capacity to the Dean. After leading Michigan Law admissions for over two decades, she will be available to empower and support the new Assistant Dean for Admissions as appropriate.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADMISSIONS

Lead the strategy and execution of admissions, recruitment, and enrollment for the JD and LLM programs in alignment with Michigan Law’s mission and culture

The Assistant Dean for Admissions will provide leadership for the strategic direction, management, and execution of admissions and enrollment for Michigan Law’s JD and LLM programs. Building on the school’s strong market position and historically high yield, this individual will be responsible for leading and refining recruitment, selection, and yield strategies, in close partnership with the Director of Financial Aid,

that attract and enroll an exceptionally talented student body while remaining deeply consistent with Michigan Law's commitment to collegiality and academic excellence. The Assistant Dean will ensure rigor, consistency, and sound professional judgment throughout the admissions process. This work will require balancing thoughtful stewardship of successful existing practices with a continuous assessment of how admissions strategies and operations can evolve in response to changing applicant behavior, market dynamics, and institutional priorities.

Lead and inspire a service driven admissions team committed to a highly personal and student-centered admissions experience

Michigan Law has long been known for a highly personal, relationship-driven admissions experience that reflects the school's collegial culture and deep commitment to access and excellence. The Assistant Dean will lead and support an energetic and service-oriented admissions team charged with sustaining and strengthening this high-touch approach in a competitive and complex recruitment environment. This leader will foster a team culture grounded in responsiveness and professionalism, ensuring that prospective students experience Michigan Law as welcoming at every stage of the admissions process.

Build credibility and trusted partnerships with faculty, staff, and the entire Michigan Law community

The Assistant Dean will serve as a visible and trusted leader within the Michigan Law community, building credibility through sound judgment and a deep understanding of the school's academic values and culture. The Assistant Dean will communicate admissions policies, standards, and outcomes with transparency and thoughtfulness, ensuring that stakeholders have confidence in how decisions are made. The Assistant Dean will work closely with faculty members as partners in recruitment and yield efforts, engaging them as ambassadors for Michigan Law and as authentic voices in conveying the school's intellectual rigor, collegial culture, and commitment to student success. By fostering trust and collaboration across the Law School through effective listening, communication, and engagement, the Assistant Dean will help reinforce admissions as a principled, mission-aligned function that supports Michigan Law's reputation for excellence, access, and community.

Bring creativity, judgment, and rigor to the use of technology, data, and emerging tools in admissions

The Assistant Dean will embrace a thoughtful, forward-looking approach to the use of technology, data, and emerging tools to strengthen Michigan Law's admissions strategy and operations. This leader will use data to inform strategic decision-making, assess outcomes across the admissions cycle, and continuously refine recruitment, selection, and yield practices. The Assistant Dean will also ensure that admissions systems, processes, and reporting infrastructure are effective and aligned with the high standards expected of a highly selective law school, supporting data integrity, operational efficiency, and clear communication. Success will require balancing innovation with discernment, approaching new technologies, including AI-enabled tools, with curiosity, creativity, and ethical care. The Assistant Dean

will use data and technology thoughtfully, while remaining attentive to the human judgment and personal engagement that define Michigan Law's admissions experience.

Serve as an external representative and ambassador for Michigan Law

The Assistant Dean will play an important external role as a visible and respected representative of Michigan Law within the legal education and admissions communities. Building on the school's longstanding reputation for excellence and leadership, this individual will engage thoughtfully with peers, professional organizations, and external partners, contributing to conversations about admissions, access, and the future of legal education. In partnership with marketing and communications, the Assistant Dean will help shape outreach, messaging, and recruitment initiatives, effectively representing and communicating Michigan Law's distinct value proposition to domestic and international audiences. As such, the Assistant Dean must bring strong communication skills and the ability to balance advocacy with empathy and humility, ensuring that Michigan Law is consistently perceived as both principled and engaged. Through this external presence, the Assistant Dean will help sustain Michigan Law's standing as a leader in legal education and a thoughtful voice in the broader legal community.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The search advisory committee welcomes applications from a wide range of backgrounds. It will consider the factors below when evaluating candidates for this important leadership role.

Qualifications:

- Significant professional experience in law school admissions, other highly selective admissions environments, legal practice, or a related field
- Demonstrated leadership and management experience, including supervising professional staff and overseeing complex operations and budgets
- Strong analytical, fiscal, and strategic thinking skills, with the ability to use data to inform decision-making
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage a wide range of stakeholders and represent the Law School effectively in public-facing settings
- Demonstrated ability to build credibility with and earn the confidence of faculty and senior academic leaders
- Awareness of trends in legal hiring and employer expectations for early-career attorneys, with sound judgment in how those trends should inform admissions decisions
- Significant knowledge of the features of legal education at an ABA-accredited law school and the competitive landscape in which Michigan Law operates with other leading law schools
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and collaborate with individuals and groups from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives

- Knowledge of and/or ability to learn University policies, processes, and procedures and of federal and state laws pertaining to admissions as well as the privacy rights of students and access to student information, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Familiarity with the legal education landscape and admissions best practices or deep knowledge of Michigan Law, its programs, and community
- Willingness and ability to travel regularly in support of recruitment and outreach efforts
- Ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced, high-stakes environment

Candidates without direct law school admissions experience must demonstrate:

- A deep understanding of Michigan Law and the Law School community, as well as a commitment to its mission (e.g., as an alum or through comparable engagement)
- A proven ability to quickly come up to speed in complex environments, with a willingness to learn and assume significant responsibility

Preferred Qualifications:

- JD strongly preferred
- Knowledge of financial aid practices and their intersection with enrollment strategy

LOCATION

The University of Michigan and Ann Arbor go hand-in-hand, with an intertwined city and culture. Ann Arbor is many things, including a bustling university town, culinary hotspot, and a tech hub with a walkable downtown that includes world-class arts and culture. Located in southeast Michigan, Ann Arbor lies at the center of a greater collection of communities in Washtenaw County. With so many thriving communities nearby, Ann Arbor has become a cultural melting pot and urban oasis and is widely recognized as one of the best college towns and places to live in the United States. In and around Ann Arbor, there are many sites to explore, including scenic strolls along the Huron River or spots where locals can be found kayaking, snowshoeing, and biking when they aren't attending a U-M athletic event. The Detroit airport is only a 30-minute car ride away, making travel easily accessible. The state's largest city, Detroit, is only 45 minutes from Ann Arbor and is known for its music and arts scene, history, and restaurants.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For best consideration, please apply by June 1, 2026. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-michigan-law-school/assistant-dean-admissions>

Kelly McLaughlin, Jaime Morgen, Jeff Kessner, and Jenny Rubin
Isaacson, Miller

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Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office (ECRT) at 734-763-0235 and ecrtoffice@umich.edu, and as follows:

Sex/Gender Identity/Gender Expression/Sexual Orientation, including sexual misconduct: ECRT Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Director and Title IX Coordinator.

Disability: ECRT Disability Director and ADA Coordinator

Race/Color/National Origin/Age/Marital Status/Religion/Height/Weight/Veteran Status: ECRT Civil Rights Director

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Michigan. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of Michigan would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

APPENDIX

ABOUT MICHIGAN LAW

Founded in 1859, the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor is one of the oldest institutions of legal education in the nation. Housed in the Cook Quadrangle on the University's central campus, Michigan Law is unmatched for its beauty. For generations of students, the Law Quad has been more than a collection of academic and residential buildings; it has been home and a place of community that has enriched their law school experience.

Unlike other highly selective law schools established in the nineteenth century, Michigan Law was never restricted to the privileged. In 1870, Michigan became the second American university to confer a law degree on an African American student. That same year, Michigan was the first major law school to admit a woman, and in 1871, graduate Sarah Killgore became the first woman with a law degree in the nation to be admitted to the bar. By 1890, more women had graduated from Michigan than from any other law school. The commitments to access and opportunity, joined an equally powerful commitment to excellence, continues to this day.

Michigan Law is a collegial community of scholars who work at the top of their fields. Today, Michigan Law boasts about 100 full-time faculty members, who are leading scholars and experiential educators who practice in and write about a range of fields, including constitutional law, criminal law, international law, comparative law, among many others. Additionally, the school is home to 150 full-time staff members who are committed to students' success and dedicated to supporting them throughout their educational experience.

Program Offerings

Michigan Law provides a legal education that is both theoretical and practical. Besides the traditional Juris Doctor (JD) program, the Law School also offers a Master of Laws (LLM) program, and a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) program for those pursuing an academic career in law. Additionally, Michigan Law's [joint degree](#) programs offered in partnership with U-M's 10 graduate schools allow law students to gain specialized expertise to prepare them for wide-ranging professional pursuits. The year-long Legal Practice course teaches students how to develop and articulate precise and persuasive legal arguments.

Since its inception, Michigan Law has been known for its distinctive blend of leading scholarship and legal practice. Now more than ever, it is vital for law students to possess practical, real-world experience. The school's 18 [clinics](#) cover a remarkable array of practice areas and are infused with Michigan's interdisciplinary emphasis, working with and relying on expertise from across the university. Additionally, Michigan Law offers five externship programs.

Students and Alumni

Offering a deeply collegial environment, Michigan Law currently serves over 1,000 students who bring a depth and breadth of careers and interests to the classroom and community. Numerically, the class of 2028 represents a 33% increase in applications from the previous year and highest number in the school's 166-year history. The median GPA and LSAT score were 3.88 and 171, respectively. Nearly 10% are first-generation college graduates, and 44 states and 20 countries are represented, with 22% of the class hailing from Michigan. In addition, just over 50% of that entering class are women, just over 47% are men, and nearly 2% are nonbinary or other genders; and 43% identify as students of color. The diversity of experience from each incoming class bolsters the collective experience of the whole. Michigan Law offers considerable financial support to students and graduates, with 85% of the class receiving financial assistance. The average award was nearly \$35,000, totaling \$11 million for the entire class.

Michigan Law's students benefit from its deep network and global reach. As such, Michigan Law graduates have been successful in making immediate and meaningful contributions to the legal community. For the class of 2024, nearly 96% of graduates who took the bar exam for the first time passed the examination, and 97% of graduates found employment within 10 months of graduation. Today, the Michigan Law [alumni](#) community is more than 22,000 strong and includes leaders in law, business, and public service across the globe.

Leadership

Neel U. Sukhatme is the 19th dean of Michigan Law. Sukhatme was appointed to serve a five-year, renewable term beginning July 1, 2025. He is the first externally recruited dean in the law school's 166-year history.

Sukhatme's current research focuses on empirical topics related to crime, AI and the law, and innovation and patent law. He has taught Property, Patent Law, Advanced Corporate Finance: Quantitative Analysis and Valuation, and Empirical Analysis for Lawyers and Policymakers.

Sukhatme joined Michigan Law from Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as Associate Dean for Research and Academic Programs, Anne Fleming Research Professor, Professor of Law, and Co-Director of the Georgetown Law and Economics Workshop series. He received his PhD in Economics from Princeton University, and his JD, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School, where he served as Notes Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Sukhatme received his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering (highest honors) with a minor in Mathematics from the University of Illinois.

After law school, Sukhatme clerked for the Hon. Vaughn R. Walker on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and the Hon. Ann Claire Williams on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He previously worked at Latham & Watkins LLP. Sukhatme co-founded Spindrop, an AI music technology startup with a novel approach for automatically mixing songs. He also co-founded

Free Our Vote, a non-partisan, non-profit organization of data scientists, economists, and legal researchers that seeks to restore voting rights for people with past felony convictions.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan (U-M) has a long and distinguished history dedicated to teaching, research, and public service. The University was founded in 1817 and was one of the first public universities in the nation. Throughout its 200-plus year history, it has maintained the highest levels of distinction in education, scholarship, and research while remaining accessible to a range of students. Originally established in Detroit, the University moved to Ann Arbor in 1837, where its flagship campus is located. The University has two additional campuses; one in Flint opened in 1956, and the other in Dearborn opened in 1959.

U-M's Ann Arbor campus is home to more than 53,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The University's academic programs are organized into 19 separate schools and colleges on the Ann Arbor campus, including Architecture & Urban Planning; Art & Design; Business; Dentistry; Education; Engineering; Environment & Sustainability; Graduate Studies; Information; Kinesiology; Law; Literature, Science & the Arts; Medicine; Music, Theatre & Dance; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Health; Public Policy; and Social Work.

The University consistently ranks among the top three U.S. public universities, and *U.S. News and World Report* ranks 114 of U-M's graduate programs in the top ten. The breadth and scale of intellectual strength is something that few public or private institutions can match. Its total research expenditures exceed \$2.16B, leading all but one of America's public universities.