

2021 ORIENTATION LEADERS

Kirsten Allen (kirsten.allen@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science with Comparative Politics emphasis (University of California, Santa Barbara)
- Hometown: Stevenson Ranch, California
- Law school clubs / organizations: Student Trial Lawyers Association (Secretary); Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity (Mock Trial Team member and Vice Justice); Criminal Law Association; Law Women's Caucus; Themis Bar Representative; Judicial Externship with Southwest Judicial District (North Dakota)

I came to UND Law because ... it is part of the state's major public university, provides a first-rate legal education, small class sizes, and great value for the cost. Additionally, UND offers unique certificate programs for law students. Also, I've always wanted to live in the Midwest region.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... to attend office hours and participate in the activities the law school has to offer. Law school is very challenging yet, rewarding, so make sure you create an environment that fosters your success.

Caitlin Baker (caitlin.baker.1@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science, minors in Criminal Justice and Business Administration (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Brooten, Minnesota
- Law school clubs / activities: Phi Delta Theta (Historian); Law Women's Caucus; Criminal Law Association; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Law Review

I came to UND Law because ... I wanted to stay in the area. This is a wonderful place to go to meet the surrounding areas law community.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... to take the time to enjoy their hobbies. Try to figure out what you need to do and what makes you happy. Make time for the things that make you happy.

Luah Beah (luah.beah@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Monrovia, Liberia

- Law school clubs / activities: Black Law Students Association; P.A.D. Mock Trial; International Human Rights Association; Law Women's Caucus; Criminal Law Association; Business Law Association; Immigration Law Students Association; Alternative Dispute Resolution Board

I came to UND Law because ... I came from a poor background in a small village and was blessed with the opportunity to live and learn in the United States where I could pursue my dreams of becoming a lawyer; my family has sacrificed a lot for me and I want to make them proud; UND Law is full of people who truly care about the success of each student and offers many opportunities for us to develop professionally; I intend to provide services to those who cannot afford legal counsel in and outside of the United States.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... congratulations and welcome to law school! This is a major step forward in your professional career and a triumphant moment worth celebrating. The faculty, staff, and students at UND Law are here to help you successfully navigate law school and get hands on experience as a leader and future attorney. I encourage you to stay driven and open minded, and I look forward to meeting each of you. Once again, welcome to law school.

Bailey Dumea (bailey.dumea@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Jurisprudence Pre-Law & Political Science, minor in Psychology (Howard Payne University)
- Hometown: Grapevine, Texas
- Law school clubs / activities: Native American Law Students Association; Rural Practice Association; Tribal Judicial Institute (Law Clerk); Spirit Lake Tribal Court (Law Clerk)

I came to UND Law because ... I saw value in a small and tight knit law school. At any other school you would be another number in the classroom, but not UND. I am originally from Texas, so, coming here was a massive leap of faith. But, it is a leap of faith that has paid off. This school has guided me in every class I have taken, in every extracurricular I have followed, and in every endeavor, I plan to make in the future. The staff truly care about the students and that is priceless when it comes to an education.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... that their first semester is going to be a learning curve. Not many come into law school knowing what they are doing or what to expect but you can learn. Reach out to upper classmen and ask them questions. Find out how the professors prefer their essays written and how they grade their exams. Make time to outline and to meet with the professors when you are confused. There is no shame in asking for clarification or help.

Idalis Figueroa

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science & Philosophy (University of Nevada, Reno)
- Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

- Law school clubs / activities: Law Women's Caucus; Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity; Criminal Law Association

I came to UND Law because ... the law school is very individualized, affordable, and welcoming.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... to not be afraid and to enjoy every moment because the year goes by quickly. Also, get involved and make your experience the best, because you get out what you put into law school.

Haley Finch (haley.finch@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminology, minor in Psychology (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: North Dakota Law Review; Law Women's Caucus (Helen Hamilton Day coordinator); Canadian Law Student Society (Director of Financial Affairs/Treasurer); Business Law Association (Secretary)

I came to UND Law because ... It's close to home (especially now with the border open!). I plan to permanently move to the US after graduation; I enjoy learning the law in an American context. The class size allows you to really know your classmates, professors, and staff at the law school. Everyone bonded quickly at the beginning of the year, and we were able to make strong connections with upper year students.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Research the externships during winter break to understand which ones you'd like to apply for. Apply for all the externships, even if you're Canadian because you can do the federal ones! Find upper years to get outlines from (we're friendly and will share)! Sign-up for the UND scholarship portal; you can receive money by submitting one application with only demographic information! Join all of the clubs you are interested in; involvement is a great way to make connections with students and professionals and gain exposure to legal fields.

Dixie Holland (dixie.holland.2@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice and International Studies (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Phi Delta Phi; Criminal Law Association; Immigration Law Association; Law Student Wellness Association

I came to UND Law because ... I went to UND as an undergrad and am from Grand Forks, it seemed like the best fit for me since I am local and didn't need to move or relocate when I have all my ties to this area and the class sizes and networking opportunities UND offers just sealed the deal.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Don't panic, everyone is in the same boat, even if they say otherwise no one has it down on day one.

Ashkan Jelodar (ashkan.jelodar@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology, minor in Philosophy (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Criminal Law Society

I came to UND Law because ... I really want to advocate for people who can't advocate for themselves.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Your first year is going to be hard but remember that you got accepted into UND because we know you can get through it! Good luck and work hard.

Erik King (erik.king@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice (Bismarck State College/Minot State College)
- Hometown: Bismarck, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Innocence Project; Student Trial Lawyers Association (Treasurer); Alternative Dispute Resolution Board (Treasurer); Criminal Law Association (Treasurer)

I came to UND law because ... I toured UND and immediately loved it. I appreciate the faculty and their willingness to go above and beyond for every single student. It is a smaller class size, and the entire class knows each other. The one-on-one time you get with professors is a rare finding compared to other law schools around the nation. Because the class sizes are typically smaller, I was able to make lifelong friendships with many of my classmates. Additionally, the North Dakota bar is a smaller bar which means many attorneys practicing in the state are graduates of UND. This allows students to network with current attorneys throughout the state. Also, I cannot think of another law school that has such a close relationship with their State Supreme Court in which the entire Court comes to UND Campus and conducts court proceedings and does Q&A's afterwards. It is a priceless experience that UND is able to offer.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Wear layers in the winter. It is ungodly cold here. Also, invest in a nice winter jacket.

But on a more serious note, take advantage of all the opportunities you are afforded. Join clubs you are interested in, jump in activities you find interesting, and make friends! Three years seems like a long time, but it will fly by. I cannot stress it enough... Make friends with your classmates! Help each other when you do not understand something. Do not be that person who pushes others down to get ahead. Form study groups and help each other. Your classmates you go to school with are likely going to be

practicing with you after law school. The reputation and relationships you form in law school will follow you throughout your career as attorney, so make it count!

Will Levy (william.levy@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degrees in Business and Geography (Western University)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Sports Law Students Association (President); Canadian Law Student Society; Environmental Law Society; Law School Wellness Association

I came to UND Law because ... I wanted to go to a school that was part of a tight-knit community and one that genuinely wanted what was best for its students. I also wanted an American Law degree and to go to a school that was close to home (Winnipeg). After nearly a year in Grand Forks, I can honestly say that I don't have one bad thing to say about the city, school, or the people here.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... If I could give any incoming 1L one piece of advice, it would be to go out of your way early on to meet and become friends with your classmates.

Ericka Muller Moran (ericka.mullermoran@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology (Ryerson University)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Canadian Law Student Society (Prime Minister); Moot Court Board (President); Moot Court; Trial Team; Hockey Intramurals; Innocence Project; Public Defender externships

I came to UND Law because ... they care. The staff, the professors, the faculty – they all care. You are not a number at UND Law and that makes all the difference. UND Law cares about seeing its students do well and providing them with the right resources to be able to succeed. If you find yourself struggling, there are ways to work out of that. If you find yourself wanting more of a challenge, there are opportunities available to you. There is always someone willing to help. Not only the staff, but students help one another out as well. The community among the students is unparalleled and always makes you feel supported. Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be afraid to mess up. You have a great community here at UND Law that want to see you achieve your best.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... you are going to get a lot of advice and opinions – take what you need and leave what you don't. What works for one person might not work for you and that is perfectly okay. Law school is a beast you need to learn how to conquer in your own way. Just because you see a peer doing something you're not doesn't mean they are right and you are wrong. Figure out what is right for you and that is how you will succeed.

Annie Nistler (anna.nistler@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Business Management, minors in Sports Business and Communications (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Thompson, ND
- Law school clubs / activities: Sports Law Student Association; Law School Wellness Association

I came to UND Law because ... it's close to my home and the price is the best you'll see for the quality of education that you're receiving. I had registered to take the LSAT in January of 2020 just because law school had always been a consideration of mine. In all honesty, I think I took the test just to see what my score would be and didn't seriously consider it until the pandemic and I was a graduate with no job. Now, I am beyond grateful for this education and opportunity.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... your professors are there as a resource. It's a lot different from large undergrad lectures where they might not know, nor care, what your name is. The success you have is a reflection on the law school and they truly care for the students and are happy to help.

Imade Omonuwah (imade.omonuwa@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science
- Hometown: Benin City, Nigeria / West Fargo, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Black Law Students Association; Immigration Law Student Association; Phi Alpha Delta; Criminal Law Association

I came to UND Law because ... UND law is one of the top 10 affordable law schools in the nation, plus its small class sizes and distinguished alumni network makes it more of a bargain.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... that UND School of Law chose them for a reason, so they deserve to be here.

Kayla Peterson (kayla.coons@ndus.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice (Minot State University)
- Hometown: Tempe, Arizona (moved to Bismarck, North Dakota in 2011)
- Law school clubs / activities: Family Law Clinical Practicum; Criminal Law Association; Law Student Wellness Association; Alternative Dispute Resolution

I came to UND Law because ... My husband and kids live in Bismarck, so it was closest to home. Also, I have worked in the legal field for over four years and almost every attorney and/or Judge I know went to UND Law and highly recommended it. UND Law provided an affordable education without overwhelming large class sizes. UND Law is more of a close community than other big city schools which allows for a more personal learning experience.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Ask for help when you need it, whatever it may be, there will always be someone who can help. Law School is a whole new learning experience from undergrad and can be scary the first year. Don't be afraid to lean on your classmates, peers, professors and other staff to help get you through it.

Kaydin Schmitt (kaydin.schmitt@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Political Science, minor in Criminal Justice (Bemidji State University)
- Hometown: Hazen, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Criminal Law Association

I came to UND Law because ... UND was the most affordable option for me, and I wanted to remain close to family and friends. I also liked that UND was a smaller school where students had access to resources and the ability to get to know professors. Additionally, UND emphasized experiential learning, which I thought (and have found) to be a great opportunity to learn and apply skills.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Work hard and take law school seriously because it is not easy. However, don't feel like you must give up all other aspects of your life to go to law school. Classes and studying are going to be time consuming, and putting in the effort is important, but it is also super important to take care of yourself, spend time with friends and family, do activities that are fun and make you happy, etc. Take the time to figure out the right balance for yourself.

Rainey Selvig (rainey.c.selvig@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Business Management (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Jamestown, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Law Review; Alternative Dispute Resolution Board; Business Law Association; Phi Delta Phi; Student Bar Association Board

I came to UND Law because ... I loved the family atmosphere at UND Law. Professors truly care about your success and wellbeing, and take the time to get to know you. The community here is very tightknit which is so incredible to have when the going gets tough, as it inevitably does during law school.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... You can do this!! I know it's cliché, but you are all totally capable of succeeding during law school AND actually enjoying yourselves. You just have to find what works for you, and that's what us orientation leaders and your professors are here to help you figure out. Law school truly can be some of the best years of your life!

Charles ("Chuck") Steinberger (charles.steinberge.1@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Agricultural Business (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Kenmare, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Environmental Law Club; Law Student Wellness Association (2L Representative); Phi Alpha Delta (Treasurer)

I came to UND Law because ... It is local. The Professors are amazing and friendly. It is affordable. You just feel like family.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Honestly, the first semester is going to be like drinking from a fire hose, but that experience caused myself to grow as an individual and I expect you will grow from it as well. You did not make the wrong decision, you belong here. Welcome to the team.

Kelsey Thorpe (kelsey.m.thorpe@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology, minor in Rehabilitation and Human Services (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Student Trial Lawyers Association; Criminal Justice Association; Student Bar Association

I came to UND Law because ... I am originally from Grand Forks and did not want to relocate my family. I am also staying in Grand Forks after I graduate.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... that first year is the hardest year. Complete the assigned readings, brief the cases, and consider forming a study group! Give it your all and you will do great!

Robert Togni (robert.togni@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in History (Dickinson State University)
- Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado

- Law school clubs / activities: Moot Court Board; Energy Law Association; Federalist Society

I came to UND Law because ... of the benefits and opportunities our school offers. First, you are not a number at UND. It was such a great feeling to talk to Dean Parrish for the first time and have the Dean of Students call you by your first name, then having your first teacher know who you are. Everyone at this school, from your classmates to the faculty, is here to make you better. Secondly, the opportunities UND gives through externships. I just finished an externship with the Air Force. It was such a rewarding experience and it really helped having a UND alumni in the legal office to help me develop the skills I need to be practice ready when I graduate.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... they can do this. I won't lie to them and say 1L year or law school is going to be easy, because it isn't. Just follow some simple rules and they will not burn out or fail. First, **DO NOT GET BEHIND IN YOUR READINGS**. Read your assignments at least a day in advance of class and make sure to read every day. Second, do not neglect your physical wellbeing. You will not always get 8 hours of sleep; I know I did not. But get at least 6 hours of good sleep. Go to the gym and work out the stress 1L brings. Go on a run or even a walk for 30 minutes. I promise you will feel better after. And finally, make some friends, reach out to other people in your class. I have made some amazing friends during the last two years. Do not wall yourself off. Go to social events, get a coffee with classmates at the Archives. You can have a terrible or an amazing three years at this school. It is up to you to decide which.

Priscila Ulloa (priscila.ulloa@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Sociology (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Law Women's Caucus (President); Canadian Law Student Society (Vice Prime Minister); Student Bar Association (3L Representative); Barbri Bar Prep Materials (3L Representative); Criminal Law Association; Student Trial Lawyers Association; Law Student's Wellness Association

I came to UND Law because ... I chose UND Law because the faculty and staff actually care about the success of their students. Everyone is so welcoming, and you aren't just a number, they really make the effort to know your name and where you come from. I also chose UND Law because of the unique practical experiences that are available to their students. UND Law has a really great externship/internship program along with many different practical courses and extra curriculums such as Trial Team, Moot Court, Carrigan Cup etc. These opportunities landed me a paid internship in my 2L spring semester, and I now also have a job offer for after graduation!

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Do not be afraid to get involved! Of course, this is new to you, and you will have a lot of hard work to do but do not let it scare you from getting involved. One of the ways to find a network of support is to join a student organization. A lot of people asked me if I was overwhelmed by joining too many groups in my 1L year and the answer is no, I was not overwhelmed.

The key is finding the balance. Student orgs give you the opportunity to meet people in your class, meet upper classmen and also gives you the opportunity to network with attorneys in the area. Student Orgs also host a variety of events throughout the year which are the perfect break from studying and good for your mental health. Be sure to take advantage of all the support you can get!