

2022 ORIENTATION LEADERS

Kirsten Allen (kirsten.allen@und.edu)

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

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.

Jack Blotsky (jack.blotsky@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Fargo, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Teaching Assistant, Lawyering Skills; Vice President, Student Trial Lawyers Association (STLA); Secretary, Criminal Law Association (CLA)

I came to UND Law because ... UND offers a quality law program and I plan to return to Fargo following graduation. UND Law provides me with the ability to receive an affordable legal education and the opportunity to network with practicing attorneys and judges that larger law schools don't provide.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... that 1L year is challenging, however, it was one of the most enjoyable years of my life. Create study habits that work for you early on, and your hard work will pay off.

Dillon Dyer (dillon.dyer@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in History (Minot State University)
- Hometown: Alexander, North Dakota

- Law school clubs / activities: Native American Law Students Association

I came to UND Law because ... The school is close to home and I enjoy the friendly community at the school.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... The work will be hard, but you can do it; just stay calm and take it one day at a time.

Haley Finch (haley.finch@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminology, minor in Sociology (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: North Dakota Law Review, Outside Articles Editor; Moot Court Board, Treasurer; Law Women's Caucus, President (current)—former Helen Hamilton Day Coordinator, 1L Rep; Canadian Law Student Society, Prime Minister (current)—former Treasurer, 1L Rep; Business Law Society, Secretary; Barbri 3L Representative (current)—former 2L Rep.

I came to UND Law because ... I wanted to advocate for others at a law school close to home! I also plan to live and work in the US after graduation, so coming to an American law school made that transition much easier.

The smaller class sizes at UND allows you to really get to know everyone at the law school. Despite starting during COVID, my classmates and I bonded throughout the year and we were able to make strong connections with the 2Ls and 3Ls.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Take a deep breath, you can do it! Law school is overwhelming at first, but you will learn how to manage your readings and assignments, while developing a way of studying that works for you. Also, everyone is just as confused as you are during your first year.

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)!

Be sure to sign-up for the UND scholarship portal in early fall before the deadline, you can receive money by submitting one application with your basic information!

Join all of the clubs you are interested in. Being involved in the school and community is a great way to make connections with students, professors, and professionals, and a way to gain exposure to various aspects of the legal field.

Riley Gilmore (riley.gilmore@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Criminology (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Sports Law Student Association – 2L Rep.; Canadian Law Students Society

I came to UND Law because ... I heard about the collegial environment in the school. I wanted to attend a law school where the pressure was not amplified by a highly competitive environment. UND is also the closest law school outside of Winnipeg and staying relatively close to home was important in my decision process.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... UND School of Law is a very welcoming place, everyone is quite friendly, and they want to help you succeed. I think incoming students should find a way to get involved with the school in some way, shape or form whether that be participating in a school event or joining a club as these are great ways to get to know your classmates. I would also tell incoming students to not to hesitate to ask for help if they need it. The faculty and most students would be eager to help.

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

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice and International Politics (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Immigration Law Society; Law Women's Caucus; Criminal Law Association; Phi Delta Phi; Research Assistant; Teachers Assistant; Externship Program.

I came to UND Law because ... I am from Grand Forks, so it just made sense.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Get to know the 2Ls and 3Ls they are awesome resources when it comes to study tips, what professors are looking for, or what to expect in classes or on finals.

Ashkan Jelodar (ashkan.jelodar@ndus.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology, minor in Philosophy (University of Manitoba)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Immigration law; Kaplan ambassador

I came to UND Law because ... I loved the community here at UND law. This law school focuses on student welfare, and the law school faculty are some of the most caring and incredible people you will ever meet.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Be kind to yourself. Law school is a fun but challenging journey. Everyone will make mistakes. The trick to law school is never to be perfect but to ask for help when needed and learn from mistakes when you make them.

Taylor Kuznia (taylor.kuznia@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology (second major in Criminal Justice) (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Horace, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Law Women's Caucus; Sport Law Association; Criminal Law Association

I came to UND Law because ... North Dakota is my home and I wanted to stay close to my family.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... This year will fly by so make sure to enjoy it all! Everyone here wants to see you succeed and is here to help you.

Will Levy (william.levy@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Business Management (Western University)
- Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Law school clubs / activities: Sports Law Students Association (President); Canadian Law Students Society (Deputy Prime Minister)

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 close to home. After two years in Grand Forks, I honestly have nothing but great things to say about the city, school, and people here.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... go out of your way early on to meet and become friends with your classmates. You are spending the next three years of your life with this group of people, and it is crucial to get to know them on both a personal and professional level. I also wanted to warn you that law school is tough. It requires putting in a lot of time and effort and countless hours of reading and taking notes. But, remember, everyone is in the exact same spot, you are all new to this. To set yourself up best for success, it is vital to establish a routine. Whether that takes a couple of weeks, months, or even after the first semester, it takes time to find the proper routine and one that works for you. Remember, you are here for a reason. Be confident in yourself and your abilities!

Logan Meyer

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Sociology (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Wahpeton, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Sports Law Student Association – Vice President

I came to UND Law because ... I grew up in North Dakota and want to stay around the Red River Valley area when I graduate.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Make sure you have a healthy outlet/support system to keep you involved with other things besides school, and it gets easier after each semester.

Danielle Middleton (danielle.middleton@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies and English (Dixie State University)
- Hometown: St. George, Utah
- Law school clubs / activities: Law Review

I would like to tell the incoming students ... congratulations! Your first year is going to be an uphill battle, but your classmates and professors are here to help you through it. Some general advice:

(1) Don't compare yourself to other law students. Everyone goes at their own pace, everyone has their own study method, and everyone learns differently. Do what works for you and be proud of your accomplishments.

(2) Take care of your health, both mental and physical. Make sure to take breaks and step away from reading or studying.

(3) Don't give up!

Muriel Rott (muriel.rott@und.edu)

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology, minor in Chinese Studies (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: Burnsville, Minnesota
- Law school clubs / activities: Moot Court Board President; External Moot Court Spring 2022 participant; Externship participant

I came to UND Law because ... When I toured, I felt like this would be a great environment for me to learn and thrive with the support available.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Enjoy the ride while you are on it. Learn to find things that make you happy— in law school and outside of it. Your entire life will not revolve around the law, so

don't start now. Find a hobby, make friends outside of law school, have a non-legal related job, etc. Some of the best advice and support I have received while in law school has come from the people who have nothing to do with legal work.

Sapir Sela (sapir.sela@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Communication, minor in Criminal Justice Studies (University of North Dakota)
- Hometown: I moved around a lot! Israel 5 years, MD 7 years, FL 6 years, ND 2 years
- Law school clubs / activities: Law Review; Teaching Assistant; Moot Court; Barbri rep.; joint JD/MBA program

I came to UND Law because ... I love the size of UND law. It is perfect enough that we have a big group of peers but small enough to where we know each one in our class. As we get to upper-level courses, we are able to develop mentorships with professors that are unlike big schools.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... Please ask questions in class when you have one and utilize friends as a support system; be there for them and they will be there for you. Also... take it one day at a time and know that so many people are willing to talk and share their experiences if you ever feel alone!

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

- Third-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Agricultural Business, minors in Accounting and Economics (North Dakota State University)
- Hometown: Kenmare, North Dakota
- Law school clubs / activities: Moot Court Board – Internal co-coordinator; External Moot Court Competitor; Immigration Law Student Association; Rural Practice Association – secretary

I came to UND Law because ... This school allows you to get one on one help with staff and faculty. I can email a professor and meet with them in person or zoom withing 3 days. The class sizes are awesome, and the facility is brand new. The town is perfect for developing legal skills. UND is just ideal.

I would like to tell the incoming students take a deep breath. You belong here. You believed in yourself and that's all that matters. Work hard, but make sure to take a walk or enjoy the day. Law school is long, so don't feel bad about taking a break to go for a walk or see a movie. It won't kill ya.

Jacoby Vault (jacoby.vault@und.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Business Management (West Virginia University)
- Hometown: Dallas, Texas
- Law school clubs / activities: Dakota Venture Group; Black Law Student Association; Sports Law; Business Law

I came to UND Law because ... of the welcoming environment from the faculty and staff, and most importantly it was a perfect environment for me to get away and solely focus on my academics with limited distractions.

I would like to tell the incoming students ... the first year is difficult, but it's not impossible. I think the most important part is for one to find your routine and stay discipline throughout the entire year to be successful. If you stay committed and acknowledge that everyone is dealing with the same challenges as you, you'll do just fine. We as new student orientation leaders are also here to support you, so if there's any questions you have along the way don't hesitate to reach out.

Leah Younkers (l.younkers@ndus.edu)

- Second-year law student
- Undergraduate degree in Economics, second major in Political Science (minor in Business Administration) (Bethel University)
- Hometown: Osseo, Minnesota
- Law school clubs / activities: Energy Law Association – Vice President; Environmental Law Society – 2L Rep; Law Women's Caucus; UND Law Cross-Border Classic hockey team member

I came to UND Law because ... I am from the Minneapolis area and wanted to branch out from the three law schools within MSP, I wanted a small school, and I wanted to be close to my family. Another reason is the price point – I am able to attend UND School of Law at a fraction of the cost of the schools in Minneapolis while getting what I consider to be a better education.

I would like to tell the incoming students ...

- I currently work as a Summer Associate for Traveler's Insurance Company in downtown St. Paul, MN handling general liability and worker's compensation defense.
- I have a dog named George. He is a newfoundland mix and weighs about 125 pounds.
- My two favorite classes of 1L year were Contracts and Civil Procedure.
- I am an early morning person. Most days before class I work out at 5am and get to the library by 6:30am.
- My favorite show is New Girl.