Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy

Advocacy is the heart of legal education at Loyola University Chicago. With one of the most respected advocacy programs in the nation, Loyola continues to set a standard for excellence. Loyola graduates are among the most effective trial, appellate, and dispute resolution lawyers in Chicago and across the country. Named for a Loyola graduate and legendary litigator, the Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy brings together the school’s many academic programs and cocurricular activities in the multifaceted discipline of advocacy.

WIDE-RANGING CURRICULUM

Offering a wealth of expertise, distinguished academics and experienced attorneys teach courses in trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). In recognition of the importance of the art of advocacy, all students must take skills and experiential learning courses. Students who wish to continue their studies may earn the center’s advocacy certificate. For lawyers seeking more in-depth training, an LLM in advocacy is offered.

• Trial advocacy—Many graduates attribute their success to Loyola’s highly regarded trial advocacy program, which offers intensive coursework and participation in mock trial competitions while sharpening skills via externships and clinical work. Loyola was a pioneer in adopting the widely recognized methodologies of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) for use in training law students in trial litigation skills.

• Appellate advocacy—Students receive intensive training in the appellate process through coursework and participation in appellate advocacy competitions. Students also gain practical experience by assisting professors who accept cases of indigent prisoners on appeal, conducting interviews, preparing motions, and, on occasion, arguing before an appellate court.

• ADR—Reflecting the changing legal landscape, Loyola’s Dispute Resolution Program gives students tools to resolve conflict using negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and related processes. Loyola frequently hosts international dispute resolution competitions, symposia, and other events.

Loyola participated in 32 student competitions this academic year.

Advocacy skills courses and competitions prepare students to be effective advocates.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
SCHOOL OF LAW
ADVOCACY

108 students competed on a student team during the 2014-15 academic year.

100+ attorneys donate their time and talents each year to coach Loyola law students for competitions.
COMPETITIVE EDGE

Loyola students compete in regional, national, and international student competitions, where Loyola teams routinely take top honors.

2014-15 ADVOCACY COMPETITION AWARDS AND HONORS

2015 ABA National Criminal Justice Competition
National Champions, Best Advocate

2014 Appellate Lawyers Association
Moot Court Team
National Champions

2015 L. Edward Bryant Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition
National Champions

2015 Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition
National Champions

2014 Chicago Bar Association
Moot Court Competition
National Best Advocate, National Quarterfinalists

2015 National Child Welfare and Adoption Law Moot Court Competition
National Best Brief, National Octofinalists

2015 Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition
National Semifinalists

2015 National Hispanic Bar Association Moot Court Competition
National Semifinalists

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot
Top 64 out of 299 Worldwide, Honorable Mention Memorandum

2015 National Moot Court Competition
National Quarterfinalists, Regional Finalists

2014 National Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition
National Quarterfinalists

2014 National Health Law Moot Court Competition
National Quarterfinalists

2014 Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition
Regional Champions, Regional Best Brief, National Quarterfinalists

2015 American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
Regional Best Brief, Regional Finalists

2015 National Trial Competition
Regional Finalists, advanced to National rounds

2015 Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition
Regional Finalists, advanced to National rounds

2015 INADR International Law School Mediation Tournament
International Finalists

Vis Moot (East)
Honorable Mention Memorandum, Honorable Mention Oralist

CORBOY FELLOWSHIPS

The Philip H. Corboy Fellowship in Trial Advocacy, now celebrating its 20th year, annually selects 10 students for scholarship assistance and some of the best advocacy training in the country. The Corboy Fellows represent Loyola in several prestigious mock trial competitions throughout the year.

ADVOCACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Circle of Advocates Scholarship
Cooney Conway Scholarship
Joan Marie Corboy Scholarship
James Carey Scholarship
Leahy and Hoste Scholarship
Ozmon Family Foundation Scholarship

PREPARING FOR PRACTICE

Loyola’s advocacy courses and competitions serve as the foundation for preparing students for the practice of law. Students also hone their practical skills training by working with actual clients in one of Loyola’s seven in-house clinics, or participating in externships with judges, prosecutors, defenders, and legal service agencies. Students also gain hands-on experience by representing clients in mediations or serving as mediators.

A TRAINING LEADER

Loyola serves as the Midwest regional headquarters for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), the largest of the association’s regional programs. NITA offers seminars, workshops, and weeklong training sessions to train practicing attorneys in basic and advanced litigation skills. Students may sit in on NITA classes and interact with lawyers who come to Loyola to participate in NITA programs.

ALUMNI STAY INVOLVED

Alumni support current students in advocacy by coaching student teams as well as teaching and guest lecturing in advocacy courses. They are also active in the Circle of Advocates, an alumni group that hosts an annual “Meet the Lawyers” event and sponsors a mentoring program pairing students with top litigators and judges in the Chicago legal community.

Some of the past year’s victorious Loyola teams (clockwise from top): the Corboy Fellows National Criminal Justice Trial Competition Team, Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition Team, and Appellate Lawyers Association Moot Court Team.