

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

This is a self-guided tour for prospective and admitted students. We hope you find the guide useful. There are three (3) buildings that make up the Law Center campus: Krost Hall (to the left of the main entrance and library canopy), Bates Law Building (BLB) (to the right of the main entrance and library canopy), and Teaching Unit II (TU-II) (to the right of the main entrance, behind BLB). Please refer to the Law Center map throughout your tour as the rooms/offices below are listed with their number and building name to assist you along the way.

Tour begins where you are currently standing—the Student Services Suite.

1. STUDENT SERVICES SUITES (30 TU-II)

- a. UHLC has its own on-campus **financial aid officer, Laura Neal**. No need to visit main campus.
- b. Office provides strong support system for **student organizations**. Student Org advisor helps organizations plan and coordinate events, along with meeting UHLC and UH main campus requirements for student organizations and their events. No need to visit main campus.
- c. Huge variety of student organizations. For a complete list, please visit:
<http://www.law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp>
- d. The **Admissions Office** and Graduate Legal Studies Office are also located within this Suite.

Exit Student Services and turn right. Take your first right down hallway.

2. **STUDY ABROAD** opportunities posted on the right-hand side of hallway. Bulletins show various programs available to our UHLC students.

Stop at end of hallway.

3. CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & EXTERNSHIP OFFICE (56 TU-II)

- a. Clinics are like small law firms on campus. UHLC students handle real cases for real clients in actual courts under supervision of Faculty Attorneys.
- b. All are Legal Aid clinics serving clients with financial need who cannot afford attorneys.
- c. Clinics are taken for course credit by students.
- d. Clinics include:
 - i. **Civil Practice** – bankruptcy, collection, landlord-tenant, divorce, domestic violence, juvenile dependency and neglect, juvenile defense, administrative appeals, adoption, estate planning, guardianships, name changes and probate;
 - ii. **Consumer Law** – claims under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, as well as credit and debt-collection problems and landlord/tenant complaints;
 - iii. **Criminal Defense** – students actually work off-campus at the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, like an internship;
 - iv. **Entrepreneurship and Community Development** – students assist small businesses and non-profits with lease agreements, selecting organizational structure, developing employment policies, and buying/selling businesses;
 - v. **Immigration** – students represent immigrants who have been victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and those fleeing civil war, genocide or political repression
- e. Requirements to take clinics: 1L courses, plus Professional Responsibility (and in some cases, Evidence). Some clinics do allow students as early as the summer after 1L year.
- f. Externships are also offered for academic credit and these may include government agencies, the courts, and not-for-profit agencies.

Facing the Clinics Office, turn left and head up the stairs directly on your left. At the top of the first flight of stairs enter the foyer and (provided no classes are in session), enter the Vinson and Elkins classroom on your left.

4. VINSON & ELKINS CLASSROOM (111 TU-II)

- a. One of several classrooms built to simulate a courtroom and also used as a classroom. This room is used for 2L and 3L classes. Mock Trial and Moot Court teams use these rooms for (late-night!) practices. Similarly, practical skills courses use these rooms to teach cross-examinations, direct and closing arguments, jury selection, etc.

Exit the V&E room, taking an immediate right out of the classroom and then a slight left, walking through the swinging white doors by the bathrooms.

5. 1L CARRELS (105 TU-II)

- a. The 1L class is divided into 3 sections – A, B and C.
- b. Each FT section is comprised of approximately 60 students. Each section takes the same classes together throughout the entire 1L year.
- c. Study carrels: every student is assigned one and each Section has its own Carrel room. This room is a place to bond, show Section spirit and personalized by the Section. Students use the Carrel space to study and store their books between classes. There are 3 carrel rooms—the other two are in BLB 105 and 205.

Exit the Carrels on the opposite side of the room. Straight ahead in the hallway you will find the Health Law & Policy Institute.

6. HEALTH LAW & POLICY INSTITUTE (104 TU-II)

- a. Established in 1978 and is widely regarded as one of the top health law programs in the country.
- b. In April 2010, *U. S. News & World Report* rankings listed the University of Houston's health law program as tied for #3 in the country – the 13th straight year the program has been ranked among the top 3.
- c. The Institute takes advantage of its location in the city that boasts the largest medical complex in the world to offer not only the nation's most diverse academic curriculum in health law, but also a network of permanent faculty, adjunct faculty, research faculty, joint degree programs, student organizations, grants, and journals.
- d. The UH Law Center gives those who wish to emphasize health law and policy in their careers the opportunity to study broadly from a nationally acclaimed faculty in the broad spectrum of law that governs the modern world.

7. Institute of Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL) (upstairs above HLPI—don't go upstairs though)

- a. IPIL is recognized throughout the world for the strength of its faculty, scholarship, curriculum, and students – leading legal learning in patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret and information law.
- b. *U. S. News & World Report* consistently ranks the University of Houston's intellectual property and information law program top 10 in the country over the last 13 years.
- c. Institute allows for approximately 30 courses relating to IPIL to be offered on a regular basis to UHLC students

8. Environment, Energy & Natural Resource Center (EENR)

- a. EENR links energy issues with impacts on environment and natural resources. Buildings on the academic excellence of faculty and the complex issues in Houston, the Center provides a forum for education and discussion of the most important issues of the day – climate change, air pollution, clean coal, and renewable energy.
- b. Center allows UHLC students the opportunity to network and attend programs related to energy, resources and the environment in the Houston area
- c. EENR sponsors the EELPJ – first law journal devoted to the intersection of environment and energy law.

Take a left and exit the building. As you walk straight, you will find the TU-II Courtyard to your left.

9. TU-II COURTYARD

- a. The Law Center is comprised of 2 identical buildings – TU-II and BLB. Their courtyards are identical and the general classroom set-up is similar. Classes are taught in both TU-II and BLB.

Continue walking straight (courtyard will stay on your left) and enter the door ahead of you. You will find yourself in a hallway connecting the TU-II and BLB buildings with a staircase on your left dividing the hallway in half. As you enter the hallway, immediately on your left is one of our faculty suites.

10. FACULTY SUITE (114 TU-II)

- a. UHLC has an extremely accessible faculty and offers the best student/teacher ratio in Texas (13:1)

Keep heading down the hallway to the far side. On your right is the Blakely Advocacy Institute.

11. BLAKELY ADVOCACY INSTITUTE (101 BLB)

- a. The programs of the Institute merge substantive law and lawyering skills to enhance the education of our students and the local, national, and international legal communities.
- b. Institute teaches Mock Trial and Moot Court teams. It also provides mediation training to our students. We provide 40 free hours of mediation training prior to graduation.
- c. Moot Court/Mock Trial competitions are intramural (competitions for UHLC students only) and interscholastic (competing with other schools).
- d. John Black 1L Competition is required of all 1L UHLC students and is conducted by the Institute.
- e. Trophy case on right – highlights the many successes the UHLC teams have enjoyed at regional, national, and international competitions, including over 20 titles in just the last few years.

With the Blakely Advocacy Institute on your right, turn left and walk through the BLB 1L Carrels.

12. 1L CARRELS (105 BLB)

- a. Another example of the 1L class carrels.

Exit the room and walk across the BLB foyer to 144 BLB.

13. CLASSROOM (109 BLB)

- a. Example of what the 1L classrooms look like. There are electrical outlets at each seat.

14. SEMINAR CLASSROOM (113 BLB)

- a. Example of a smaller classroom, typical for seminars and other limited enrollment courses.

Exit the Classroom and go down the stairwell. At the bottom of the stairwell, turn left. At the end of the hallway on your right is the Lawyering Skills & Strategies Office.

15. LAWYERING SKILLS & STRATEGIES OFFICE (15 BLB)

- a. LSS is the only 1L course to span two semesters. The Lawyering Skills & Strategies staff assists students with 1L projects, along with seminar papers, Case Notes required by journals, and other scholarly projects our students and faculty are working on.
- b. 1L LSS activities include: research and write legal memo; research and write appellate brief; 1L appellate oral argument (John Black Competition at end of 1L year—required of all 1L students).
- c. Students learn important skills for writing onto a journal, performing well on law school exams, and lawyering skills and strategies necessary to succeed in practice.

Turn around and head back down the same hallway (the stairwell you just came down will be on your right). Turn right at the dead-end, down the adjacent hallway.

16. CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (on your left) (8 BLB)

- a. Every student is assigned a Counselor their 1L year. 1Ls are required to meet with the Counselor to discuss potential career path and how to acquire their desired job upon graduation.
- b. A few CDO-sponsored events include:
 - i. OCI – On-campus Interviews
 - ii. Mock Interviews and Résumé review
 - iii. Online job board – employers nationwide post opportunities specifically to UHLC students
 - iv. Public Interest Law Week – includes a job fair with only Public Interest employers.
- c. Office helps students locate other opportunities:
 - i. Internships/Externships (during law school)
 - ii. Summer Associate positions (during law school)
 - iii. Court Clerkships (after graduation)
 - iv. Public Interest Fellowships (during school [summer], or after graduation [2 yrs])

17. OFFICE OF LAW ALUMNI RELATIONS

- a. The Office of Law Alumni Relations is tasked with keeping our alumni network strong! The strength of this network has an impact on the opportunities available to current students and recent graduates.
- b. The Office of Law Alumni Relations plans events and programming for its members, such as: socials, networking, mentoring, community service opportunities, fundraising, continuing legal education programming and much more.

Walk down the hallway and at the end take a slight right, then immediate left down the hallway towards the Library (at end of the hallway, through the security sensors). You will see a glass block wall on your right.

18. SECURITY DESK (at entrance of library)

- a. Parking lot escorts are available upon request for late-night studying
- b. Except for the Library, the rest of Law Center is secured in the evenings; only UHLC faculty/staff/students have access to the Law Center with their IDs. The Law Center is not open to general population after-hours.

19. O'QUINN LIBRARY – (open to the public, and is frequented by the legal community, feel free to walk around and see our massive collection!)

- a. What distinguishes our Library? Two answers: 1) our **service**, and 2) our **collections**.
 - i. **Service:**
 1. 11 Professional librarians; all with JD's as well as some MLS's. That's a lot compared to other law schools. Three were on law journals.
 2. Law Librarians are available for research assistance.
 3. The reference desk is staffed 73 hours per week.
 - ii. **Collections:**
 1. Library holds over half a million volumes – among top 25% of US Law Schools
 2. Special collections include: Maritime, Foreign and International Law
 3. We are also a selective depository for US Government Documents
 - a. An entire room is dedicated to Federal materials
 - b. We have a complete selection of legislative history materials – Congressional record, session laws, etc.
 - c. Notably, Westlaw and Lexis online databases don't go back farther than the 1980s. However, UHLC has *a century* of legislative history in print.
 4. Library has a complete collection of legislative, executive, and judicial materials for all 50 states
 - iii. Broad collection of law-related journals

- iv. Reference desk collection (behind the front counter)
 - 1. Practice guides, O'Connor's books, etc: the tools that practicing attorneys use

Inside Library, go down center library stairwell. For security reasons, only UHLC students, faculty and staff have access to the basement's Student Organization Suite...but feel free to peak through the windows!

20. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SUITE

- a. Only law students can access this space.
- b. This suite houses our student-run academic journals and our student organizations' offices.
- c. UHLC students have access to the recreation room in the Suite which has TVs, lounge furniture, gaming tables, vending machines, etc.

21. STAIRWELL photos – check out the photos on the walls around the central stairwell!!

- a. Pictures around the stairwell showcase the devastation left by Hurricane Allison. Fortunately, after many years of hard work and dedication, our library is fully recovered.

Head back up the stairwell and exit the library the way you came in. Head back down the hallway, this time the block wall will be on your left. At the end of the hallway, turn left and head towards the Student Services Suite. Stop at the staircase on your right.

22. PRINTING STATION (behind center stairwell on your right)

- a. Printing station – “free” course-related printing, including online database research (but see Library's Westlaw and Lexis printers too).
- b. Wi-fi Internet – available throughout the law school; students can network laptops to printing stations for free printing.

23. COMMONS (on your left)

- a. Events/speakers often held here...On-Campus Interviews, job fair table talks, etc.
- b. Lounge where students hang out and relax between classes
- c. Law school events/accolades advertised on TVs and posters in this area
- d. The empty space located on the far end of the Commons will be the home of a new restaurant this fall
In addition, vending machines and several microwaves are also available.

24. IT HELP DESK (by elevator and Student Services Suite)

- a. The IT Help Desk is located in the Commons. The Desk is available to assist students/faculty/staff with any technological assistance in and outside the classrooms.

End Tour at Student Services Office – just ahead on your right across from the Commons.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Admissions Office
4604 Calhoun Rd., Houston, TX 77204
lawadmissions@uh.edu
713.743.2800