



January 2016

The beginning of 2016 marks my six-month anniversary as your law dean. This is my first letter to you, and it has a special purpose. I am writing to ask you to nominate a future lawyer-leader to receive a full-tuition scholarship to our Leadership Honors Program (LHP).

The LHP is our exciting new initiative to educate the next generation of lawyer-leaders. Our impetus for creating this Program comes out of concern that something must be done to counteract the negative social dynamics engulfing the world today. Perhaps more than ever, we need leadership that promotes law over violence and legally principled decision-making over capricious rule. In the United States, lawyers have provided this kind of leadership for over two-hundred years. In these challenging times, the University of Dayton School of Law wants to do its part to carry forward our profession's noble legacy by investing in tomorrow's lawyer-leaders.

The LHP curriculum is distinctive. In addition to receiving a tuition-free legal education culminating in a Juris Doctorate, students will participate in a specially-designed Graduated Leadership Sequence. In the first year, students will engage with prominent leaders in law, governance, and business as part of the Honors Roundtable Series to be chaired by Governor Robert Taft. In the second year, students will learn leadership skills in our exclusive LHP Leadership for Lawyers Program of Study at the University of Dayton's prestigious Center for Leadership. Finally, in the next-to-last semester students will work together to create their Leadership Legacy by designing a project to help transform a community institution. Students who successfully complete the LHP will receive a Leadership Honors Program Certificate at Commencement.

Because of the exclusive nature of the LHP, students may not apply directly to the Program. Rather, prospective LHP students apply for admission to the Law School, but they must then be nominated to the Program by specially designated nominators. This is where you come in. We want to invite you to serve as a nominator. I believe that by putting our faith in our distinguished alumni, we will produce the best class of LHP students possible, while at the same time strengthening our UDSL family bonds.

To nominate, there are just a few matters I would like you to consider: First and most important, tuition-free scholarships constitute a tremendous honor for recipients, and we are relying on our nominators for the success of the Program. So, please consider your nominee carefully.

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We have both quantitative and qualitative criteria for admission to the LHP. The minimum quantitative criteria are an undergraduate GPA of 3.15 and an LSAT score of 152. We expect that many students will have higher--even significantly higher--grades and scores, but we set the minimum where we did because we do not want you to be overly constrained by numbers. Our qualitative criteria are at least as important. We are looking for students who show a special potential for leadership. There is no one measure of this potential. Of course, we are interested in students who have held leadership positions, but students who have shown unique creativity, perseverance or allegiance to principle also demonstrate the qualities we value.

As a further consideration, please note that we can only allow you to nominate one student. While we recognize that you may know several excellent candidates, limiting the nominations makes it most likely that we can accept the qualified nominee of every participating nominator.

Finally, please be mindful of the nomination process timing and deadlines. All nominations to the Program should be received by March 15th. This means that if you know someone who seems like an excellent fit for the LHP, but has not taken the LSAT, that person would need to take the June administration of the test while their nomination is pending. The deadline for registration for the June sitting is May 1st.

You may complete your nomination at go.udayton.edu/lhp-nominate. You, or your potential nominee, may learn more about the Program at go.udayton.edu/lhp. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our LHP Director, Susan Wawrose, at 937-229-2235 or swawrose1@udayton.edu.

I hope you are as excited about this Program as I am. In these difficult times, I cannot think of a better way to fulfill our University's Marianist mission to learn, lead, and serve, while at the same time, providing a remarkable opportunity for future lawyer-leaders. I hope to welcome a student you nominate to the LHP, and I wish you and your family a healthy and fulfilling 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Strauss", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Strauss
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Dayton School of Law

P.S. I look forward to meeting you, or visiting again, at our upcoming Law Reunion during the University's annual Alumni Weekend —June 10 – 12.