The Corporate Institute is a premier center of learning, collaboration, and leadership in business and business law. It does just what new legal education models call for—it prepares students not just in technical aspects of the law but in practical skills for success in life and career, while building real value for the larger business community.

— JAMES L. CHOSY ’89, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, U.S. Bancorp

Building Momentum for the Future

The Corporate Institute is committed to building deeper connections to benefit Minnesota Law, its students and alumni, and the entire community. To become a partner in this important work, please contact:

Emily Buchholz ’10
Executive Director and Business Law Clinic Director
buchholz@umn.edu
Telephone: 612-625-4641

John Matheson
Director and Law Alumni Distinguished Professor of Law

Kristin Hickman
Associate Director and Harlan Albert Rogers Professor of Law

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA), an organization dedicated to helping minority entrepreneurs succeed, frequently refers businesses to the Business Law Clinic. It was through MEDA that Jose Tori Maguina, founder of Minnesota Interpreters and Translators (MINT), was connected with the clinic.

MINT is a leading provider of language services, specializing in communication solutions for multiple industries, including health care, education, business, and law. Like many small businesses, MINT had a variety of legal needs, which 3L students Kevin Boyle ’19 and Baiyue Han ’19 handled under the supervision of Jayne Sykora, business attorney and partner at Sykora & Santini in Minneapolis.

“We’re a specialized company and our needs were specialized,” says Maguina. “The work was multifaceted—it was real life. The students did a fantastic job with the work that we asked them to do.”
The Business Law Clinic offers students the opportunity to represent businesses and gain broad transactional experience by forming new entities, drafting business agreements, completing transactions, and counseling clients for growth and business sustainability.

The corporate mock interview program taught me to speak confidently about the unique set of professional experiences I bring to the legal profession. It was also a fantastic way to get to know attorneys working in a variety of practice areas.

— PEGGAH NAVAB, IL

Recognizing the role that lawyers provide as leaders and celebrating diversity across the profession, the Corporate Institute collaborates with corporations to build long-standing relationships, offer insightful continuing education opportunities, and create robust connections within the community.

The Business Law Clinic was very professional to work with. They produced a robust set of corporate documents for our nonprofit that would not have otherwise been available to us. They went above and beyond by offering to continue to support us.

— ANNE FRANZ, Founder, Settled, a Minnesota nonprofit

The corporate mock interview program taught me to speak confidently about the unique set of professional experiences I bring to the legal profession. It was also a fantastic way to get to know attorneys working in a variety of practice areas.

— PEGGAH NAVAB, IL

High-profile Programs
- The Perspectives on Taxation Lecture Series brings the brightest tax minds in the nation to Minnesota Law for regular lunchtime CLEs to foster learning for alumni, other practicing attorneys, law students, and faculty.
- The Minnesota State Bar Association’s Corporate Counsel Institute, hosted annually by Minnesota Law, presents opportunities to keep current on the latest developments in the field and to meet and greet some of the top local corporate law practitioners.
- The Corporate Externship Program places law students in corporate legal departments, giving students direct exposure to in-house legal practice and the opportunity to develop the soft skills necessary to thrive in such an environment.

Corporate Connections
The Corporate Fellowship Program pairs corporations and recent graduates in full-time, career-building legal employment opportunities designed to provide important professional development and legal skill advancement as the fellows continue along their career paths.

Students also benefit through summer externships and numerous other career opportunities with top-notch companies. Our partners include Alliant Tech Systems, Best Buy, H.B. Fuller, Land O’Lakes, Medtronic, NCS Pearson, Pentair, Regis Corporation, Snap Fitness, Target, Tennant Company, Thrivent, and U.S. Bank.

IN ACADEMIC YEAR:
- 40 small businesses assisted
- 1,300 pro bono hours logged
- $268K estimated worth of services provided
- 100 legal matters handled

Q&A WITH A FORMER FELLOW
ANDREW G. HEIRING ‘17, a former corporate fellow, today is an associate with Faegre Baker Daniels, where he handles construction and real estate matters.

What was your experience with the corporate fellowship like?
I had a tremendous experience with the corporate fellowship program—it provided me with a ton of valuable experience and I got to work with some wonderful people.

What is the value of the program to a participant?
Working as a fellow shows you a completely different side of legal practice from what people get exposure to in a law firm or a judge’s chambers. You really get an in-depth understanding of the business side of legal decisions, and you get to see how business models shape legal decision-making in a corporate environment.

Why is the corporate fellowship program worthy of support?
The University of Minnesota Law School trains some of the brightest legal minds in the nation, and the fellowship program gets you in on the ground floor, as it were. You get a smart, dedicated, and hard-working young lawyer to support your legal department, and at a fraction of what it would cost you to hire the same talent at a firm.

Faculty Director
John Matheson, Law Alumni Distinguished Professor of Law, and Executive Director
Emily Buchholz ‘10

Corporate Institute
Diversity and Leadership