

Western New England University School of Law offers the community Mini-Law School

In celebration of the University's 100th anniversary, Mini-Law School will examine the last 100 years of law in a variety of areas. Mini-Law School offers non-lawyers an understanding of legal topics that impact their everyday lives. Each class is taught by Western New England School of Law faculty.

Tuesdays, October 15, 22, 29, & November 5, 2019
6-8:00 p.m. / \$35 for all four sessions

\$20 for High School, College, or Graduate Students

Western New England University, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA / Sleith Hall's Wood Auditorium

The Honorable Kenneth Neiman (ret.) will moderate all sessions.

Tuesday, October 15 – Professor Erin Buzuvis
100 Years of Gender Equality

This session will examine the major milestones for gender equality in the last 100 years, including the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, the recognition of gender equality as a statutorily and constitutionally protected civil right, and the emergence of a constitutional right to reproductive freedom. We will discuss both the advances and the shortfalls in the effort to secure gender equality, including from the perspective of intersections based on race and LGBTQ status, as well as the trajectory of the gender equality movement in the current political moment.

Tuesday, October 22 – Professor Justin Dion
100 Years of Consumer Protection Law

Join us for an interesting discussion on how society balances the rights of consumers against the rights of businesses, both historically and currently. Professor Dion will examine how unregulated business practices often preyed on unsophisticated consumers, causing financial (and sometimes physical) harms. Consumers who incurred debt faced harsh penalties for non-payment, including debtors' prison. Recognizing the unfairness, state laws and federal agencies created protections that both shielded the consumer and punished wrongful business practices. Professor Dion will discuss how the evolution of modern bankruptcy laws have also provided significant protection to consumers. He will conclude with a glimpse into what the future of consumer protection will likely hold going forward into the next 100 years.

Tuesday, October 29 – Professor Julie Steiner
100 Years of Cannabis Law

The last century has been marked by dramatic change for cannabis law and regulation. In this session, Professor Steiner will highlight 100 years of important legal developments, including criminalization, the "War on Drugs," state-level legalization, and the proliferation of a new cannabis industry.

Tuesday, November 5 – Professor Matthew Charity
100 Years of International Criminal Law

On June 28, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles included an agreement by Germany to the prosecution of Kaiser Wilhelm II as part of the settlement of the First World War. One-hundred years later, we have moved closer to a transnational understanding of culpability for atrocity crimes—war crimes, crimes against humanity, aggression, and genocide—through national, international, and hybrid courts. At the same time, we see impunity for crimes go on far too long. Join us, as Professor Matthew Charity discusses 100 years in International Criminal Law.

Learn more or register at
wne.edu/minilawschool.

The Mini-Law School is directed by Pat Newcombe, associate dean for Library and Information Resources, and Beth D. Cohen, associate dean for Academic Affairs.

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