



**BORA LASKIN
FACULTY OF LAW
Lakehead University**

**PLACEMENT
INFORMATION**



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law: A Unique JD Program



The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University is breaking important new ground in legal education. It is a different kind of law school, with a special focus on equipping graduates to serve the legal needs of communities in northern and rural Ontario.

How does this mission infuse our curriculum? First, all of our students learn about Indigenous legal issues through an innovative suite of courses and inter-cultural learning activities. In addition, lawyering skills are baked into all three years through our Integrated Practice Curriculum, approved by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2013 as an alternative to articling. Theory and practice are brought together from the beginning by incorporating skills exercises, simulations, and hands-on application of substantive law. In their third year students take a mandatory Business of Law course focused on small firm practice management. They also complete a four month placement working under the supervision of counsel.

Upon completing their JD our graduates are immediately eligible to write the licensing exams and be called to the Bar. The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is the only law school approved to offer this alternate pathway to practice.

Our program has been designed to meet the needs of “main street”, empowering students to become lawyers and leaders who can make a real difference in smaller communities and in a wide range of practice settings. We rely heavily on the support of the profession to achieve this vision.

The Faculty is grateful to all those firms and organizations that have created placement opportunities for our first cohort of third year students. We are now looking to place the next class starting in Fall 2016. Therefore, we invite you to consider hosting a student again, or becoming a placement host for the first time. This brochure will provide you with more information and our staff will be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

We are extremely proud of our students. We thank you for your interest in supporting their development.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Philipps
Interim Dean of Law

What is a Placement?

- ✓ A 4-month / 15-week placement.
- ✓ Approved by the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) to replace the mandatory articling requirement for **Bora Laskin Law graduates only**.
- ✓ Required for our students in 3rd Year (3L) in Fall OR Winter term:
FALL TERM, beginning September 6, 2016 - 15 weeks
WINTER TERM, beginning January 3, 2017 - 15 weeks
- ✓ Organizations can select term preference or have a different student in each term. Larger firms may wish for multiple students each term.
- ✓ Unpaid placement, very similar to a Nursing, Medicine or Education professional placement for students to further develop their skills.
- ✓ Excellent for small organizations that cannot manage 10-month paid articling positions and that want to attract students to their community. Covered by Lakehead University insurance.
- ✓ Opportunity for all Bora Laskin Law students to work in diverse practice environments in different communities across Ontario.
- ✓ Opportunity for organizations to assess students for junior associate positions post-graduation.
- ✓ Placement experience is monitored by the Faculty.
- ✓ Placement supervisors fully participate in the selection of their students. No student is forced on you. No student is forced into a placement.
- ✓ Placement evaluation conducted by placement supervisors, based on the LSUC articling requirements.

How does the placement fit into the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC)?

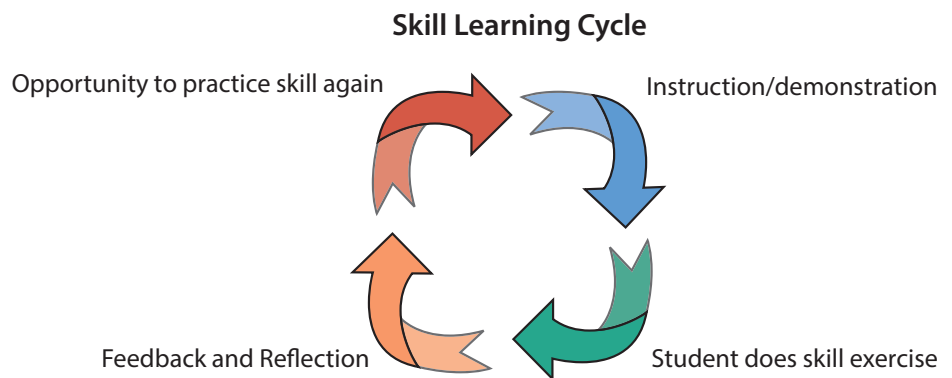
Skills are built in throughout our three year curriculum - not just taught in the last few months. Each year, the incoming class is only 60 students and as such, we have flexibility to incorporate skills into almost every course.

In first year, students participate in a variety of legal skills exercises designed to reinforce concepts discussed in the classrooms, putting theory into practice right away. Final exams are complemented by other assessment methods, reinforcing the value placed on skills development.

Our second year Civil Practice course fully immerses a student into a civil action - acting in small firms with a local practitioner as their “principal”. They take a fact situation from initial client interview through to appeal, including a 4-hour trial in February.

In third year, in the alternate semester to their placement, students take mandatory Family Law, Real Estate, and Wills & Estates modules, as well as The Business of Law course (small firm practice management).

Our Faculty have outstanding academic credentials and have practiced law in a range of settings from large national and international firms to tribunals and small town law. They have drawn upon these experiences to design innovative courses that integrate lawyering skills into the process of learning about substantive law.



Who are our students?

At the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law we take pride in our mandate.

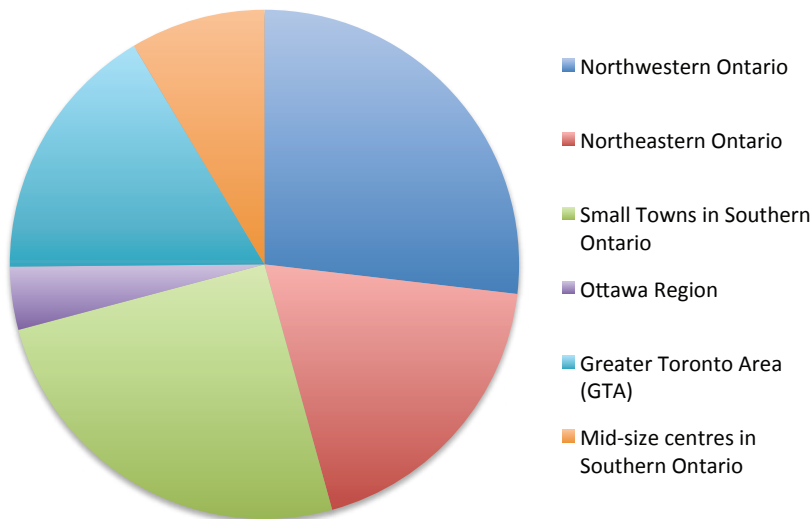
We have a focus on small practice. We have a focus on Aboriginal legal issues. We have a focus on Environmental and Resource Management concerns.

When we admit students, we look for academic excellence as well as connection to smaller centres, and rural or northern towns. We also look to strengthen the Aboriginal bar. This is consistent with our mandate to enhance access to the profession and to educate students who are open to practicing in underserved areas.



Northern and small town Ontario communities represented by our students:

Ancaster	Fort Frances	Kenora	Owen Sound	Sioux Lookout
Belmore	Garden River FN	Kincardine	Pembroke	St. Catharines
Bolton	Geraldton	Kirkland Lake	Peterborough	Sudbury
Brantford	Goderich	Little Current on	Point Edward	Thunder Bay
Bright's Grove	Gormley	Manitoulin Island	Port Hope	Timmins
Chelmsford	Hanmer	Madoc	Port Sydney	Tiny
Coldwater	Holland Landing	Marathon	Red Lake	Utterson
Copper Cliff	Huntsville	Niagara Falls	Ridgeway	Uxbridge
Dacre	Kapuskasing	North Bay	Sandy Lake FN	Washago
Dryden	Keene	Orillia	Sault Ste Marie	



6% of our students self-identify as Aboriginal.

98% of our students are from Ontario.

Students not from Ontario are from across Canada including Deer Lake NFLD, Okotoks AB, Revelstoke BC, and Winnipeg MN.

What Does a Placement Involve?

The Integrated Practice Curriculum is an approved alternative pathway to licensing in Ontario. Our graduates have completed a four month placement and are not required to article post-graduation.

Students may still choose to article if that is beneficial for their career plans.

Placements will need to meet the same Experiential Training Competencies as the new articling requirements announced by the LSUC in May 2014, in the broad categories of:

- Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Interviewing
- Fact Investigation and Legal Research
- Drafting and Legal Writing
- Planning and Advising
- File and Practice Management
- Negotiation
- Advocacy
- Transactional/Advisory Matters

Placements are a pass/fail credit in 3rd year and we work closely with firms to provide guidance and relevant forms for assessment of the placement outcomes.



What Happens Next?

Step 1 - Review this package

Contact Annet Maurer, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law
with any questions
(807) 346-7862 or ajmaurer@lakeheadu.ca

Step 2 - Sign on as a placement location

Fill out the attached / enclosed Placement Application Form*
and return to Annet Maurer by October 20** if possible

* Current placement firms only need to indicate their continued interest by email.

** Expressions of interest will continue to be accepted until all students have been placed.

Step 3 - Students apply

Students apply for placements by Tuesday November 10
through the Student Services Office.

Applications will be forwarded to you for review shortly thereafter.

Step 4 - Interviews with students

Join us on Friday January 15 for on-campus interviews
or arrange alternative times throughout the first two weeks of January.

* We ask that no interviews take place prior to the new year,
to allow students to focus on their studies throughout November / December.

Step 5 - Nominate top placement candidates

Organization nomination forms due January 20, 2016

Students nomination forms due January 20, 2016

Step 6 - Placements confirmed

Placement matches will be announced to students
and organizations by early February.

Students not yet placed will have further opportunities to apply.

Placements commence September 6, 2016 (fall term)
or January 3, 2017 (winter term).



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