Center History

FOUNDATION OF ATTORNEY MENTORS

The Pre-Law Center was established in 2012 based on the student body need for access to attorneys and attorney mentorship. Through partnership with UT Arlington and alumnus Donald Wayne Watts, then General Counsel of AT&T, students were given the opportunity to establish and maintain relationships with the members of the AT&T Corporate World Headquarters legal department to aid them in the law school admissions process. The Center launched in the Fall of 2012 with the goal of providing the students with help with course planning, preparation for the Law School Admissions Test, law school application documents, public speaking and advocacy experience, and one-on-one mentoring from practicing attorneys. Initially, the Center supported a small group of 42 students. The initial expectation at the time of its inception was to serve as many as 200 students a year. As of Fall 2016, the Pre-Law Center supports nearly 600 current students, alumni applicants and members of the Arlington community seeking to enter a law school.

In the 2014-2015 school year, the UT Arlington Pre-Law Society student group and activities club was revitalized out of the necessity for the students to have a centralized social arm for law school bound students. Pre-Law Society focuses on gathering speakers, including lawyers, judges, political activists and LSAT instructors to guide the students along the path to law school and provide one-on-one advice on how to pursue their legal dreams. Special emphasis is placed on LSAT study as the Pre-Law Society leads weekly study groups designed to assist those students who either can’t afford individualized tutoring and commercial LSAT preparation, as well as those who benefit from group study.

That same year, students approached the Center about initiating a student club that focused on the non-law school legal career track in global politics and diplomacy. Out of that need, the Model United Nations (MUN) student group was created. In the last three semesters alone, the MUN student group has grown from 3 to as many as 47 interested student members and has sent 32 young delegates across the country to participate in collegiate conferences.

While the departments of Political Science, History, Criminology and Criminal Justice and Philosophy each offer a pre-law concentration within the College of Liberal Arts, the Pre-Law Center is open to all UT Arlington students. In its most recent years, the University of Texas at Arlington Pre-Law Center has seen tremendous growth in the areas of advocacy and public speaking. Since its inception, Pre-Law Center students have competed in dozens of moot court, mock trial and ADR competition rounds in Fort Worth, Richardson, Plano, Lubbock, San Diego, Atlanta, South Beach, Houston, and Vienna. We have titles extending from Best New Mediation Program, Outstanding Delegation, Top Delegate, Outstanding Orator, Top 20, Top 15, to Top Witness. With the incredible support from attorney coaches and volunteer judges aiding in the growth and development of the naturally talented students of our campus, we will continue to see the expansion of UTA titles for years to come.