
NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH: HOW THE LAW LIBRARY LED ME HOME

Like many of my peers, I came to law school with a clear destination in mind: to practice law. What I didn't realize at the time was that I had no compass or real sense of direction within a field far broader than I understood. As 1L began, that lack of direction quickly became overwhelming. Like many of my classmates, I faced late nights, stress, and moments of doubt, but for me, it felt more like wandering through a never-ending labyrinth.



While others around me seemed to quickly find their way—declaring interests, securing summer positions, and planning their futures—I felt increasingly lost, unsure of where I fit or what truly sparked my interest.

The moment my compass first appeared came unexpectedly, during a presentation by one of our law librarians in my contracts class. As she walked us through legal databases and research tools, something clicked. For the first time, I felt a sense of clarity and recognition. I could see myself in that work. I left that class not just relieved, but excited, with a growing sense that I had finally found a direction worth pursuing.

Later that year, I applied for a position in Technical Services at the law library. Being selected for the role was incredibly meaningful, and it quickly became much more than just a job to support myself—it became a space where I felt grounded and engaged. Over the next two years, I had the opportunity to learn more about law librarianship and the essential role law librarians play in shaping access to legal information and, ultimately, the legal profession itself. In that environment, my curiosity deepened, and I found myself eager to take on more responsibility and expand my understanding, both in my work and in my coursework.

Through specialized legal research classes and the relationships I built along the way, I began to see how my passions could connect. I discovered that I could blend my passion for research, information systems, and advocacy to help close the access-to-justice gap, ensuring that legal resources reach those who need them most. Now, as I reach the final weeks of law school and reflect on this journey, I can see that what once felt like a labyrinth was, in fact, a path I didn't yet know how to navigate. The law library, and the people within, gave me the compass I needed. They helped guide me not just out of uncertainty, but toward a place that feels like home.

As I begin this next chapter—pursuing an MLIS—I do so with a sense of purpose and direction I once lacked. I am following the compass that led me to where I belong: the law library.

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