



## **Leadership Forum at the Innovation Practice Institute University of Pittsburgh School of Law**

The Innovation Practice Institute (IPI) trains law students to work with *and to be* innovators and entrepreneurs. The IPI Leadership Forum is a one-of-a-kind program that introduces law students, law graduates, and others to key concepts and skills associated with leadership and professional and personal development, complementing the analytic skills that define traditional legal education. Topics covered in the course include emotional intelligence; innovation, change management, and strategic visioning; understanding organizations and institutional roles; and understanding and overcoming barriers to success at both personal and organizational levels.

Examples, illustrations, and exercises are drawn from leadership literatures, popular culture, and participants' own experiences. The Leadership Forum is not based on nor aimed at success as a lawyer; the Leadership Forum aims to change lives – wherever and however those lives are lived. No prior background or experience as a named “leader” is expected or required, and the course is rich and useful for professionals at all stages of their professional and personal development, whether or not they anticipate serving in formal “leadership” roles.

The Leadership Forum is offered on 5 weeknights that span 5 consecutive weeks during Pittsburgh's winter, for 10 hours of meeting time in total. Participation in the Leadership Forum is open to all members of the Pitt Law community – student, graduate, faculty, and staff. Participation is entirely free of charge, and it is entirely voluntary. Everyone who completes the Leadership Forum receives a certificate documenting their status as an “IPI Leadership Ambassador,” signifying the possibility of carrying the lessons of the Leadership Forum forward and sharing them with others. There is no other recognition or reward, and no academic credit.

The Leadership Forum has been offered annually on a volunteer basis since 2012 by Professor Michael Madison, a senior tenured member of the Pitt Law faculty and Faculty Director of the Innovation Practice Institute, who specializes in intellectual property law and innovation and entrepreneurship subjects. A native of Silicon Valley, Professor Madison served for many years as a senior leader of the global alumni community at Yale University.

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