



Strategic Plan Levin Center at Wayne Law January 2018 through December 2022

I. Mission: To strengthen the integrity, transparency, and accountability of public and private institutions through the promotion and support of bipartisan, fact-based legislative oversight; to advance good governance, particularly with respect to the legislative process; and to promote civil discourse on current issues of public policy.

A. Executing the Mission. To carry out its mission, the Center will, through academic programming, training, symposia, conferences, and scholarship:

1. Educate students, attorneys, business leaders, legislators, and public servants about the legislative process and the importance of fact-based, bipartisan legislative oversight at all levels of government;
2. Support and promote good governance by addressing current public policy issues through civil discourse and advancement of democratic values and bipartisan solutions;
3. Collaborate with entities inside and outside Wayne State University when their missions are consistent with those of the Center.

B. Location of Activities. The Levin Center is based in both Detroit, Michigan, and Washington, D.C., and will carry out activities where opportunities arise. It will conduct such activities in a manner that both encourages and exemplifies the use of civil discourse and the maintenance of democratic values.

II. Legislative Oversight:

A. Substantive Areas will include:

1. Congressional oversight of the public and private sectors to advance the public interest.
2. State and tribal legislative oversight of the public and private sectors, including oversight of and by:
 - a. administrative agencies;
 - b. special districts and authorities;
 - c. local governments.
3. Judicial decisions affecting legislative oversight;
4. Oversight by foreign legislative bodies.

B. Objectives will include:

1. Training on legislative oversight;
2. Provision of information and commentary on legislative oversight;

4. Encouragement and provision of academic coursework on legislative oversight and other legislative functions;
5. Encouragement and provision of research on legislative oversight and other legislative functions;
6. Engagement of students on the value and importance of legislative oversight.

C. Specific activities will include:

1. Research and scholarship on legislative oversight on the federal, state and local level. This will include:
 - a. promoting a national conversation and advanced scholarship on oversight through the Scholars Roundtable (initiated in June 2017) and related activities;
 - b. research on oversight practices by state legislatures nationwide;
 - c. research on oversight practices by local governments and special districts and authorities;
 - d. research on oversight of other entities where oversight may be lacking;
 - e. research on oversight practices by foreign legislatures;
 - f. development and maintenance of an anthology of research on legislative oversight.
2. In-person education and training for members and staff of legislative bodies at all levels of government. This will include:
 - a. general training on oversight for congressional staff;
 - b. speaking directly to Members of Congress about oversight;
 - c. workshops on oversight for individual congressional staff, both personal or committee;
 - d. training on oversight for state legislators and staff, based on the outcome of our research;
 - e. developing and conducting educational workshops on oversight for the private sector and government personnel;
 - f. approaching Michigan Native American tribes about conducting training on oversight for tribes;
 - g. offering Michigan cities and other municipalities training on oversight for cities and municipalities;
 - h. training on oversight and the legislative process for foreign legislative bodies, their members, and their staffs.
3. Development and maintenance of oversight training materials and expansion of our on-line multimedia library. This will include:
 - a. continuing to develop and add new training materials on oversight to the existing on-line multimedia library;
 - b. supporting the congressional oversight boot camps with on-line materials and community-building;
 - c. continuing to add links on the website to significant past and

- future congressional oversight hearings;
 - d. keeping the reading materials on oversight on the website as current and informative as possible;
 - e. providing links on the website to relevant documents and videos in Senator Levin's archive at University of Michigan.
- 4. Exposure of Wayne Law students to oversight through law school courses, internships and externships, and other opportunities. This will include:
 - a. conducting at least one course per year on legislative process and the role of oversight;
 - b. encouraging development of additional courses on legislation, including legislative drafting and lobbying;
 - c. sponsoring law students each summer for legal internships with oversight-related legislative committees on the state, federal, and tribal levels;
 - d. developing a proposal for a congressional oversight committee externship for at least one law student;
 - e. establishing a nationally competitive Levin Center scholarship for students interested in legislative oversight and the mission of the Levin Center.
- 5. Raising public awareness of the value of bipartisan, fact-based legislative oversight through symposia, conferences, commentary, and awards. This will include:
 - a. hosting national conferences on oversight-related issues of current importance and interest;
 - b. continuing to host the oversight Scholars Roundtable and promote other oversight research events, as appropriate;
 - c. selecting and celebrating recipients of the Levin Center award for bipartisan, fact-based oversight;
 - d. developing a communications plan to provide commentary (through conventional and social media) to encourage effective, bipartisan oversight.

III. Legislative Process, Good Governance, and Civil Discourse on Current Legal Issues:

A. Objectives. The Levin Center will:

1. Be a source of information and commentary on good governance, with an emphasis on bipartisanship;
2. Encourage academic coursework and research on good governance;
3. Engage law students, the academic community, and the public in civil discourse on current public policy issues, seeking bipartisanship in their resolution;
4. Serve as a model of civil discourse and principled conflict resolution.

B. Specific activities will include will include:

1. Exposing law students to civil discourse on governance and current public policy issues through law school courses and seminars, including conventional classroom courses, experiential education, and courses in which model legislation is drafted;
2. Providing courses, programs, and projects involving legislative process and governance issues such as gerrymandering and the Electoral College.
3. Hosting forums and guest speakers on current legal and governance issues, including promoting effective and principled legislative processes. This could include:
 - a. hosting symposia and conferences on current governance and legislative issues, such as immigration, taxation, gerrymandering, and the role of Presidential Executive Orders, that model principled and civil discourse and debate;
 - b. sponsoring well-known guest lecturers on governance;
 - c. hosting casual conversation sessions for students with the Levin Center Chair and Director, other Wayne Law faculty, and other knowledgeable individuals on current public policy topics;
 - d. hosting workshops on civil discourse and debate;
4. Sponsoring and encouraging research into governance issues. This will include:
 - a. hosting panel discussions and sponsoring research on removing barriers to bipartisan legislation;
 - b. seeking opportunities to sponsor research related to good governance and decision-making.
4. Collaborating with other Wayne State University programs that promote civil discourse on public policy, including but not limited to the Urban Public Policy Dispute Resolution Consortium.

IV. A Note on Implementation and Revision. We regard strategic planning as an iterative process. In implementing this plan, the Levin Center at Wayne Law will pursue opportunities related to its mission as they arise, and amend the plan accordingly. The Center will continue to seek advice from its Faculty Committee and Advisory Board. In developing its courses and projects it will seek the involvement of the Wayne Law faculty.