

CSU Law Housing Resource

Deciding where to live during law school can be a difficult decision especially for those unfamiliar with Cleveland. In order to help, the Office of Student and Career Services created this guide to assist students in their housing search. Page three includes opinions and advice from current students. While this guide discusses many areas of Cleveland, it should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation of any specific housing option or location.

Things to Consider Before Choosing a Location & Signing a Lease

- What can I afford?
 - Remember there may be extra fees associated with utilities, parking, pets, or other amenities
 - The University's established maximum Cost of Attendance budget for Housing and Meals for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$22,400. In evaluating your housing options, you will want to make sure that your planned expenditures for housing and meals combined will not exceed \$22,400
- How do I plan to get to school?
 - If I am driving to school, do I plan to park on Campus? How much will my parking pass cost?
 - Do I want to walk or take public transportation?
- Ideally, how far away would I like to live from Campus?
 - Keep in mind you will likely be traveling to Campus at least four days a week for classes, but you may need to be on Campus more for study groups, extracurriculars, or other commitments.
- Do I plan to do most of my studying on Campus or elsewhere?
 - If I plan to stay on Campus to study, will I be traveling home in the evening or later at night? Will I be comfortable driving, walking or taking public transport?
- What other kinds of things will I need or want to be close to? (Restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacy, gym, laundromat, etc.)
- Have I visited this area before? Do I know how busy the area is at different times of day? Will I feel comfortable and safe here?
 - If you absolutely can't visit the area before signing a lease, consider taking a look at the street view on Google Maps to get a feel for what the area looks like and for an approximation of typical traffic in the area at different times of day

Eastside or Westside

If you aren't familiar with Cleveland you may not know that Clevelanders can be passionate about which "side" of Cleveland they live on. Basically, east or west of downtown. You'll often hear people refer to themselves as "westsiders" or "eastiders" and a common question is "Are you an eastsider or westsider?".

However, both "sides" are great places to live, and accessible to the law school. So, if you choose to live outside of downtown, pick a side and be ready to defend your choice!

Downtown Cleveland Districts

CSU Law is located in downtown Cleveland on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 18th street near Playhouse Square (our Theater District!). Downtown Cleveland offers residents numerous options for living and provides students the ability to walk or take public transportation to school (every semester CSU students receive a pass for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) with tuition). While the Theater District and the Campus District might offer the closest proximity to the school, the College of Law is accessible from any of the downtown districts.

To learn more about the different downtown districts and to locate housing options visit:

- <https://downtowncleveland.com/live>
- <https://www.thisiscleveland.com/about-cle/downtown-cleveland>



Neighborhoods in the City of Cleveland

In addition to the downtown districts, the City of Cleveland has numerous neighborhoods that are just a quick drive or RTA ride away from the College of Law. Some popular options on the westside include Tremont, Ohio City, and Detroit Shoreway. Some popular options on the eastside include Little Italy, Shaker Square, and University Circle.

To learn more about the different neighborhoods in Cleveland visit:

<https://www.thisiscleveland.com/about-cle/cleveland-neighborhoods>

Cleveland Suburbs

Students also choose to live outside of the city in one of the many suburbs surrounding Cleveland. In general, this tends to be the most popular option for students who don't mind a short commute and who are looking for more space at a lower price while in school. Lakewood and Cleveland Heights are popular options for students because they offer a similar feel to many of the neighborhoods in the City of Cleveland at a lower price. Additionally, if you don't want to drive or are unable to drive, Lakewood is a great option because it offers a specific Cleveland State bus route. However, there are plenty of suburb options outside of the city and each has its own unique charm.

To learn more about the different suburbs just outside of the city visit:

<https://www.thisiscleveland.com/about-cle/cleveland-suburbs>

Cost of Rent:

Like any city, the cost of rent varies based on your location among other things. Use the link below to see median rent based on zip codes. Keep in mind this is the median so there will be less expensive options available in these areas!

To see median rent based on zip code visit:

<https://www.cleveland.com/data/2022/06/a-zip-code-by-zip-code-look-at-rent-price-trends-for-greater-cleveland.html>

Other Options:

The College of Law is located in Cuyahoga County, but some students choose to live in other counties entirely including Lake, Summit, and Lorain. The typical commute is likely a little bit longer for these students, but still manageable.

Parking and Transit:

How you plan to get to Campus and where you plan to park can make a big difference for your budget. Don't forget to include these items when thinking about where to live while attending CSU Law.

To learn more about parking passes at CSU visit:

<https://www.csuohio.edu/parking/parking>

To learn about other parking options downtown and different means of transit, including the RTA, visit:

<https://downtowncleveland.com/parking-transit>

To see the specific Cleveland State RTA line, visit:

<https://www.riderta.com/routes/clevelandstateline>

(this is not the only option for getting to Campus via the RTA, many routes, including the Healthline, run through or very close to Campus)

The Student Perspective

We asked current students for their opinions on the best places to live while attending CSU College of Law. These appear in no particular order and should not be considered an endorsement by Cleveland State University or the College of Law.

What would be your #1 recommendation of neighborhood/location for law students to live?

- **Downtown Cleveland**
 - “12th street - the Luckman - 7 min walk to campus” – Current 2L
 - “I live at the Seasons at Perk Park. It is an 8-minute walk from campus. I do not have a car. The rent for my apartment is \$1250; \$1300 with utilities. This is the most affordable location without having a car or a roommate.” – Current 3L
 - “Playhouse square (17th-9th on and around Euclid Ave.) It is close to the law building, restaurants, and bars. It has plenty of options and they range from \$1000-\$3000 per month. It is close to public transportation, so leaving downtown is a cinch.” – Current 1L
 - “Warehouse District. The warehouse district is the best spot to live for anyone looking to enjoy what downtown Cleveland has to offer. It is within walking distance to an endless number of bars and restaurants in the warehouse district itself, the Flats, Ohio City (either by crossing the bridge or taking the water taxi), E 4th St, and more. It's also about a ten minute walk to all of the sports venues in the city. . . . Also, the large majority of residents in this area are under 30, so the energy is high and it's easy to make friends. The law school is about an 8 minute drive or 30 minute walk. There is public transportation stops throughout the warehouse district, but I am unsure of how long it takes to get to school. Apartments can get rather expensive in the warehouse district, but it is possible to find somewhere around \$900-1000/month (including parking), especially if you have a roommate.” - Anonymous Student
- **Lakewood**
 - “Close enough and still urban but safe and cheaper than right near campus.” – Anonymous Student
 - “Lakewood can expensive, but an affordable alternative to downtown with a nice night life. Just be aware of landlord issues. The CSU bus line 55 runs through there for easy and quick access to the campus without parking costs.” – Current 1L
 - “I would recommend the city of Lakewood. I live there and have lived there for years. Lakewood offers public transportation via the rapid or the RTA bus system. For people with cars Lakewood allows easy access to both the Shoreway and I90. Lakewood rental prices have increased recently, I currently pay about \$650/month between rent and utilities with a roommate.” - Anonymous Student
 - The city has a nice park on the lake. It is a nice and welcoming environment to all people. Also, the city has affordable decent apartments. And the RTA run on Clifton that has a stop right outside the school. If the students live on the other side of Lakewood, the RTA offers a route downtown that connects to the Healthline for school purposes. It takes 10-15 minutes to get to school no matter the traffic. Also, the city has or is near a variety of stores and restaurants.” – Current 2L
 - Great neighborhood with community involvement, shops, restaurants, bars, not so close to campus that it restricts housing to feeling like a dorm, not so far that the commute is a hindrance, multiple highway entrances/exits; 15-20 min. commute; multiple bus stops; RTA stop, relatively safe; would recommend west-end apartments/houses over downtown for women, pet friendly” – Current 1LE

- “The area is very renter focused and a lot of young people live there. There are direct bus lines from Lakewood to downtown. It is very walkable and there are a lot of great places to eat. I would say prices are around \$700-\$1,300 depending on size of the apartment or house. A lot of the houses or apartments are pet friendly.” – Current 3L
- Cleveland Heights
 - “It is a very nice neighborhood. It has people from all walks of life. You have to be careful of where you live, but overall, there is lots to do, and the people are great. I ride the #11 bus and it takes about 30 minutes to get to school. I pay \$900 in rent, it is a 2 bed, 1 bath apartment.” - Anonymous Student
- Parma
 - “It is close to downtown (approximately 15 minutes) and the rent is much lower than downtown Cleveland, so it is more affordable.” - Anonymous Student

What would be your #2 recommendation of neighborhood/location for law students to live?

- Ohio City
 - “There are a lot of new apartment buildings being built around W25th. I wouldn't branch too far from W25th if people are worried about safety. There are a lot of restaurants and there is a lot to do on W25th. it is very close to downtown.” – Current 3L
 - “10 minute drive. \$1200 w/o a roommate.” – Current 3L
- West Park/Kamm's Corner
 - “Great neighborhood with community involvement, shops, restaurants, bars but very quiet, close to highway entrances/bus stops/RTA stops, 20 minutes to campus by car” – Current 1LE
 - “Easy access to RTA transportation and close proximity to I90 and 480” - Anonymous Student
- Brooklyn
 - “Still close to downtown Cleveland, rent is more affordable than downtown Cleveland” - Anonymous Student
- Tremont
 - “Safe, quiet, and close to school” – Current 2L
- Suburbs in Northeast Ohio
 - “Rent a room from family or family-friends if possible. You don't need to live downtown to be involved at CSU Law. There are many commuter students from all over. The suburbs in Northeast Ohio are nice and often much cheaper. However, also consider driving/bus time vs. studying time, what works for your habits (do you focus better studying at the school library?), and financial goals.” – Current 1L

What would be your #1 recommendation of neighborhood/location for law students to live who have children?

- “Crocker park or Lakewood” – Current 2L
- “Bay village, Westlake, Avon Lake, Avon They all have good schools, parks, are safe and more family friendly neighborhoods.” - Anonymous Student
- “University Heights/Cleveland Heights area” – Current 1L
- “Mayfield - good schools” – Current 1L
- “Parma, North Royalton or Strongsville (but these two are farther from downtown and rent is a bit higher)” - Anonymous Student
- “Rocky River: 20-min commute by car; Magnificat and Rocky River high schools are well-liked” – Current 1LE

How would you recommend that an incoming student look for rentals?

- “I used Apartments.com, Trulia, and Zillow” – Current 3L
- “Facebook Cleveland housing page” – Current 2L
- “I found my apartment by walking around Cleveland.” – Current 3L
- “Google search apartments in the area you want, call those apartment complexes to find rates and dates of availability. Many don't have a website or update it regularly enough to be helpful. Calling directly will get you the best info. Negotiate your contract! And if possible, bussing to campus can be time efficient and help you maintain a study routine.” – Current 1L
- “Look on Zillow, Facebook, and Craigslist. Two months before you want to move in is when I would start looking.” - Anonymous Student
- “Students should start searching in June. I recommend Googling “apartment complexes in the area.” Student should then use the map feature to find apartments. I also recommend students draw a radius around the school of how far they are willing to drive, and drive around the neighborhoods to determine if they prefer the area. In that process, they can visit different apartments’ leasing offices to ask for information.” – Current 2L
- “You MUST check the apartments' websites constantly. Especially if you're living downtown, the units get taken quickly. A lot of apartments won't let you sign several months in advance so around 3 months before move-in, check all the websites around the area and see which units are available.” – Current 2L
- “Highest recommendation: Zillow (landlords must undergo background check, provides list of schools/areas of interest nearby). Winter/cooler months in general are the best time to look. February/March are worst times, but that does not mean there are no options. The best landlords are the ones who don't lease homes for a living, but the ones who own one or two places out. If you are able, try driving around neighborhoods to look for "FOR LEASE" signs. Sometimes those places are not listed anywhere online. Be very quick about messaging potential landlords, and don't be disheartened if places get taken before you can accept to rent them. Other sites to use aside from Zillow; apartments.com; apartment guide.” Current 1LE

Please give specifics on buildings or landlords you'd recommend

- Sustainable Community Associates
 - “Best way to get in touch with them is to reach out to owner Josh Rosen josh@sustainableca.com or the property manager Chris Rini at christopher@sustainableca.com, and/or have them fill out this contact page or request-a-tour: <https://sustainableca.com/request-a-tour/>. This is a great company that actually promotes ethical values as landlords, as community developers, and is committed to diversity. I have LOVED living here and it has exceeded my expectations. Included in my rent at the Wagner Awning is parking, gym, in-unit laundry, and no pet fees. Also, I don't recall them having a very strict/expensive background/credit check compared to other places I was looking at, not many fees. This company has six locations all in or near downtown in either new builds or rehabbed historic buildings. They range in cost per unit, and size, unsure of cost, but I pay \$1500 for a 1100sq unit 1BR loft. More info here>><https://sustainableca.com/>” – Current 3LE
- The Millennia Companies/ The Statler
 - “I extern for The Millennia Companies, which manages a ton of apartments downtown (The Statler, The Garfield, 75 Public Square). They are a really great management company, so I will always recommend them. I live at The Statler and really enjoy it. It's very close to school which I love. My rent is \$1350 for a one bedroom which is pricey but the unit is over 1,000 square feet so it's a pretty good deal for downtown. A lot of rent prices are going up though so it may be harder to find a unit that big for that price. A lot of buildings downtown have reasonable prices for 2 or 3 bedrooms though.” – Current 2L

- The Archer
 - “I’ve lived at the Archer for over two years and I highly recommend it. Amazing location with access to the Flats and warehouse district (without having to go up or down the hill). Awesome rooftop to use during the summer and 27 Club coffee shop attached to the bottom of the building.” - Anonymous Student
- CRM Properties
 - “I have had a fantastic experience over the last 3 years with CRM Properties. Cleveland family owned. They have raised my rent by \$50 over 3 years. I plan to stay in my apartment post-graduation.” – Current 3L
- The Luckman
 - “Myra Blanch at the Luckman, rent for studio is \$940 and parking is \$155 a month” – Current 2L
- Other Apartment Recommendations
 - “Statler, East 4th apartments, Huron Square Apartments, Hanna Building, Halle Building, Church and State” – Current 1L