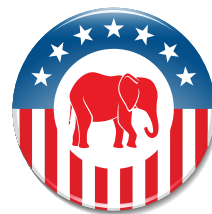




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186 law schools ranked



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THE MAGAZINE FOR LAW STUDENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2022 | VOL. 32, NO. 1

BEST JOB MARKET EVER?

The Class of '21 reported the highest employment rate on record with a median salary of \$80,000. But will the party continue through a feared recession? Find out what to expect for your class.

Plus

Hottest Legal Job Markets

How an LL.M. Can Advance Your Career

Interview Advice

\$190,000 for big law

509

91.9% employed

788

Public interest: \$63,000

852

\$80,000 median salary

639

75.6% in law firm jobs

724

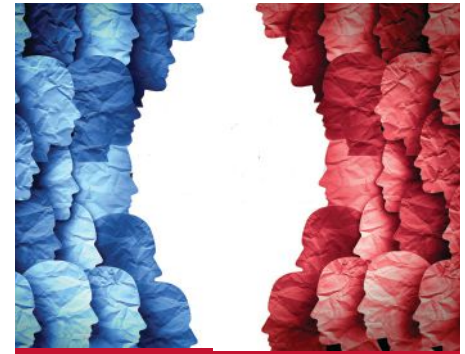


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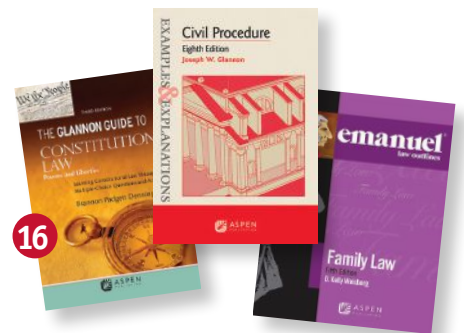
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800-296-5696

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CYPRESS MAGAZINES

3544 E. 17th St.
Suite 201
Ammon, ID 83406

Tel: 800-296-9656
Fax: 877-300-2232

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Best job market ever?

Entry-level hiring has been red hot. Will it remain so for your class?

BY MIKE STETZ

The Class of 2021, like the class before it, faced considerable challenges, as it had to navigate law school during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But there was a light at the end of the tunnel — jobs.

According to the American Bar Association (ABA), 83% of 2021 law grads had jobs within 10 months of graduation. And these were full-time, long-term jobs — ones that require bar passage or where a law degree is an advantage.

This percentage was higher than the percentage of students who passed the bar exam. Within six months of graduation, 80.28% passed. That is a historical anomaly, as many mid-size and small law firms do not hire graduates until they pass the bar.

NALP reported that the overall employment rate was 91.9%, 3.5 points higher than 2020 and tied for the highest on record. The median salary also rose to \$80,000, up 6.7%.

Data for the Class of 2022 is not available yet, but most expect the numbers to be even stronger, given a robust recruitment season.

“Law firms have been scrambling for talent at both the lateral and entry levels,” said James Leipold, executive director of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). “As a result, recruiting activity in 2021 was robust, with offer rates for summer spots reaching their highest mark since 2007.”

Leipold said large law firms made more money in 2021 than ever before, and that helped drive the entry-level job market — meaning that the Class of 2022 may report the best entry-level job market employment rates ever.

Or the Class of 2021 could prove to have been the high water mark. After all, inflation and recession fears are beginning to spook employers.

Leipold cautioned that employment trends are always cyclical.

“The law firm boom, like all booms,



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Employment outcomes as of April 2022 (Class of 2021 Graduates)

	Class of 2021		Class of 2020		Change	
	Total	% of total grads	Total	% of total grads	% point	yr to yr
Bar Passage Required	26,999	75.60%	24,698	71.80%	3.80%	9.30%
JD Advantage	3,724	10.40%	3,454	10%	0.40%	7.80%

Source: American Bar Association

will not last forever, and the law schools have some larger classes starting to come through the pipeline, so I expect that by the time we get to the Class of 2023 we will see some downward pressure on the entry-level job market again,” he said.

But how much worse will it be? Most experts do not expect the job market to fall back to 2009, when employment rates were 15% less than today. Prior to 2020, employment numbers had been strengthening.

The Class of 2019 reported an employment rate of 80.6%. The rate dropped to 77% for the Class of 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

“The fact that overall employment went down slightly for the Class of 2020 was largely the result of that class graduating into the worst of the pandemic,”

Leipold said. “Even with that class, as overall employment was down, private practice employment was still up. The demand for legal services, especially from the large firms, has been very high, and law firm hiring, both entry-level and lateral, has been super hot.”

For the Class of 2021, the number of full-time, long-term, bar-passage-required and J.D.-advantage jobs increased by nearly 3,000 — up 11.2% from the previous year.

“The higher percentage of graduates in the bar-passage-required or J.D.-advantage jobs likely reflects a modest increase in the number of jobs nationwide, perhaps due to the legal market’s recovery from the impact of the pandemic,” said Bill Adams, managing director of ABA accreditation and legal education.



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Public service salaries rise

"This is encouraging, given there was also a 3.8% increase in the total number of graduates."

The most coveted jobs are long-term positions where bar passage is required. Among 2021 graduates, 74% landed such gigs. For the Class of 2020, the number was 69.9%.

More than 50% of 2021 grads found work in law firms, compared to 48% from the Class of 2020.

Reuters did an analysis of the Class of 2021 and found that generally the top-rated law schools fared best, which is not particularly surprising. Columbia Law School in New York had the highest graduate employment rate, with nearly 96% landing full-time, bar-passage-required jobs.

However, the analysis did find some interesting outliers, such as Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, where more than 89% of grads landed those highly prized jobs.

"Two primary factors spurred the high employment of Texas Tech Law's Class of 2021: a strong legal job market and high-quality graduates," said Paula Smith, the school's assistant dean for career & professional development. "While 80% of our graduates stayed in Texas, a strong 20% joined organizations from California to Washington, D.C."

Smith said highly motivated students were also key to the school's high employment numbers.

"They took action to advance their individual career-launch strategies, electing to apply earlier and with more confidence than other classes," she said.

A 2021 NALP study found that 53% of law schools saw increases of 10% or greater in the number of employers who came to their campuses to recruit students for summer associate positions.

In fall 2021, 58% of callback interviews resulted in summer job offers. Coming close to a historic high, 97% of second-year summer associates received job offers. The acceptance rate of 89% was an all-time high.

The offer rate for first-year summer associates to return for a second summer was 93%, the highest ever.

Salaries for public service lawyers have been rising since 2018, particularly for attorneys working in civil legal services and public interest organizations, according to research from the National Association for Law Placement (NALP).

The association's Public Service Attorney Salary Survey shows that median entry-level salaries for civil legal services and public interest organizations increased by \$9,500 and \$12,700, respectively, since the last survey was conducted in 2018.

That is up from increases of about \$1,000 per year during the period between 2004 and 2018. Increases in public defender salaries were more modest, with entry-level salaries only growing by \$1,400 since 2018.

The 2022 Public Service Attorney Salary Report is based on a nationwide survey of civil legal services organizations, offices of public defenders, and public interest organizations.

It provides salary information for both entry-level and experienced attorneys working in these organizations as of Jan. 1, 2022. A total of 197 organizations participated in the survey.

The median entry-level salary for a legal

services attorney is \$57,500. Among those with 11 to 15 years of experience, the median is \$78,500. Pay for public defenders is higher, with a median of \$59,700 for entry-level jobs and \$100,500 for those with 11 to 15 years of experience. For public interest organizations, the corresponding figures are \$63,200 and \$95,000.

Within the public interest category, salaries were broken down by type of organization. Entry-level median salaries in public interest organizations ranged from \$60,000 at organizations dealing with immigration issues to more than \$70,000 at organizations dealing with women, children and domestic violence issues.

Salaries at civil legal services organizations are notably higher in the West, with a median entry-level salary of approximately \$64,600. Among specialty public interest organizations, salaries were also higher in the West.

Median salaries for public service attorneys by type of organization and years of experience, 2004-2022

Years of Experience	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2018	2022
Civil Legal Services								
Entry Level	\$34,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$42,000	\$42,800	\$44,600	\$48,000	\$57,500
5 years	\$40,000	\$43,300	\$48,000	\$49,400	\$50,200	\$51,000	\$54,800	\$67,100
11-15 years	\$51,900	\$55,000	\$60,000	\$62,500	\$64,900	\$65,000	\$69,400	\$78,500
Public Defenders								
Entry Level	\$39,000	\$43,300	\$47,400	\$47,500	\$50,500	\$50,400	\$58,300	\$59,700
5 years	\$50,000	\$54,700	\$60,000	\$60,300	\$62,800	\$63,000	\$68,000	\$75,700
11-15 years	\$65,000	\$65,500	\$75,000	\$76,200	\$78,600	\$84,500	\$96,400	\$100,500
Public Interest Organizations								
Entry Level	\$36,700	\$40,000	\$41,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$46,000	\$50,300	\$63,000
5 years	\$46,300	\$52,000	\$53,800	\$53,600	\$56,300	\$59,000	\$65,000	\$78,700
11-15 years	\$64,000	\$65,000	\$69,200	\$70,900	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$80,500	\$95,000
Total Number of Responses	415	430	658	572	423	362	347	197

Source: NALP's Public Service Attorney Salary Survey, 2004-2022

Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest \$100

LAW SCHOOLS IN THE NEWS

Vermont Law reinvents itself

Vermont Law School changed its name on July 1 to Vermont Law and Graduate School as part of a long-term growth plan that will see the institution encompass two distinct schools. It is being made possible by an anonymous \$8 million donation.

Vermont Law is one of only 15 stand-alone law schools and has been looking for ways to strengthen its financial footing. Faculty and staff had been working on a plan for the past 18 months.

Along with the name change, the school is adding three new degrees: Master of Climate and Environmental Policy; Executive Master of Environmental Policy; and Master of Animal Protection Policy.

Creation of the graduate school necessitated dividing the previous president/dean position into two separate jobs because of the increased workload. Rodney Smolla was named president and began his tenure on July 1.

Each school also has its own dean. Beth



McCormack continues as interim dean of the law school, and Jennifer Rushlow has been named interim dean of the graduate school. Both will serve through the 2022-23 academic year.

The school is known for its strength in environmental law and policy and justice reform.

The \$8 million donation is the largest gift in the school's history and will be apportioned over three years to help support existing programs and a new strategic plan.

UC Berkeley offers free tuition to Native Americans

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law has announced it will pay full tuition for all Native American students enrolled now and in the future. Qualifying students must be California residents as well as members of federally registered tribes.

The goal is to make the school a destination for Native American students, and the school plans to increase its offerings in the area of Indian law.

Berkeley Law joins Yale Law School and

Stanford Law School in waiving tuition fees for students from some underrepresented groups. ABA data shows that Native American students currently make up less than 1% of all first-year law students across the country. ABA data also shows that Native Americans account for only 0.4% of lawyers nationwide.

"Chipping away at the barriers to attendance is one part of changing this," said Kristen Theis-Alvarez, Berkeley Law's dean of admissions and financial aid.

The school will pay about \$14,000 of the expected \$59,000 cost per student and will use financial aid to cover the rest. Berkeley Law hopes to expand the program to non-California residents in the future. The program will begin this fall and is expected to cover the tuition of 15 to 18 students during the next few years. The cost of running the program is expected to be between \$300,000 and \$500,000 annually.



LSAT may no longer be needed

The Law School Admission Council is working on a program that will allow students to bypass the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

Here's the reasoning: The council has determined that its iconic, decades-old test may not be the best option for all prospective students, and it wants to become more innovative. The new program will be more holistic in nature and will target students who are interested in law early in their undergrad

education. It will help those students gain skills and develop networks that prepare them for law school.

In short, with all of the tools provided by this new program, the LSAT is expected to become less necessary for judging law school aptitude.

"We spend a lot of time thinking how we can help people who are interested in law school," said Kaitlynn Griffith, LSAC's vice president for product development and business intelligence. "We don't view this as competitive with the LSAT, but another pathway."

The program is in the early stage of development. In fact, it's so early that it doesn't have an official name yet. For now, it's being called LSAC's Legal Education Program.

The pilot program starts this fall.

The goal is simple, Griffith said: LSAC wants to meet law school candidates where they are, not just where they will be. It wants to tap into the energy and excitement of young students and help propel them into law careers. They may not be looking at law school as an option when they enter college, she said. It may be something they begin to consider after a year or so.



82% of young attorneys happy with career

Forget COVID. Recent law school graduates are happy with their career.

A recent joint survey by the NALP Foundation and NALP called the “Law School Alumni Employment and Satisfaction, for the Class of 2018,” found that 82% of those surveyed were satisfied with their legal careers.

But the survey showed that all members of the class did not fare equally. Students of color had significantly more debt — \$123,336 — compared to white students who reported \$85,397. Nearly all of it was law school related.

Also, women reported that the pandemic and economic crisis affected their mental health at much higher rates than men — 46% compared to 31%.

“While the good news is that employment satisfaction remains high overall for these recent law school graduates, the

ongoing impact of the pandemic and the differentiated experiences of graduates of color and women both in law school and as they launch their careers merit specific attention as the legal ecosystem grapples with the future of work and the profession’s diversity,” said NALP Foundation President & CEO, Fiona Trevelyan Hornblower.

One aspect of the survey seems vague to some legal education experts, and that is the satisfaction measurement. What exactly does satisfaction mean? Lawrence Krieger is a professor of law at Florida State University College of Law, who with social scientist Ken Sheldon did a study called “What Makes Lawyers Happy? A Data-Driven Prescription to Redefine Professional Success.”

He found that things such as autonomy and forging deep personal relationships —

not necessarily money or prestige— were keys to happiness in the profession. And he wonders if a satisfied lawyer is also a happy one.

“We might assume that career satisfaction also means happy, but we know there are so many lawyers substantially satisfied with their jobs (they are successful and could leave or change but they don’t) who nonetheless are very unhappy and/or unhealthy.”

Krieger challenges the assumption that career satisfaction means well-being and says more research is needed.

A different study by Krill Strategies found that 1 in 4 women is contemplating leaving the legal profession due to mental health problems, burnout, or stress. 17% of male attorneys report the same thoughts.

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Maureen Onyelobi

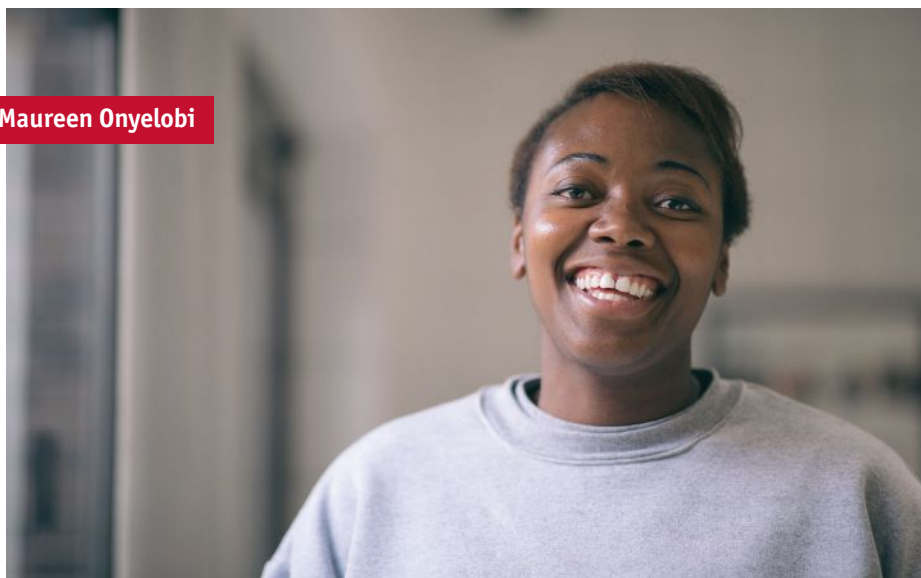


PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Inmate will attend law school from prison

Maureen Onyelobi, who is serving time in Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee, a women's state prison, will attend law school this fall. She is enrolled at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, which will become the first ABA-approved school in the country to educate a currently incarcerated individual.

It's a moment nearly three years in the making and part of a collective effort by the Prison-to-Law Pipeline and the school. The Prison-to-Law Pipeline is a program of All Square and its newly formed subsidiary, The Legal Revolution.

The partnership with the Prison-to-Law Pipeline is an extension of an existing partnership between Mitchell Hamline and All Square. They have collaborated since 2018 to provide civil legal services to individuals returning home from prison.

"Mitchell Hamline has a long history of looking for ways to expand the idea of who gets to go to law school," said Dean Anthony Niedwiecki. "It's important for people who are incarcerated to better understand the criminal justice system, and this is one important way to do that."

"Our students will also benefit from having Maureen in class with them."

Mitchell Hamline currently runs two clinics, led by professors Brad Colbert and Jon Geffen, that work with those currently incarcerated or recently released.

A series of factors made Onyelobi's acceptance to law school possible. The American Bar Association recently granted a variance allowing her to attend classes entirely online, which she will do from prison. The variance will allow Mitchell Hamline to admit up to two incarcerated students each academic year for five years.

Onyelobi's tuition will be paid through private fundraising and the same scholarship assistance available to all Mitchell Hamline students.

The project has the support of Commissioner Paul Schnell of the Minnesota Department of Corrections, who approved the J.D. program as well as The Legal Revolution's undergraduate paralegal program, which launched in 2021 in partnership with North Hennepin Community College.

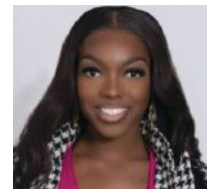
FACES IN THE CLASSROOM

■ **Katharine Nakaue** and **Greg Newman-Martinez**, evening students at New England Law | Boston, have co-founded the Identity Affirmation Project under the Center for Law and Social Responsibility. The project aims to assist transgender, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people in Massachusetts with the process of legally



changing their names or gender markers. It also includes help with probate court filings.

■ **Jada Monet Davis**, a student at Marquette University Law School, is the first Black woman to win the title of Miss Milwaukee. Davis was chosen for the title on March 19 during a virtual competition held online. Davis graduated from University of Wisconsin – Green Bay with a degree in democracy & justice studies. She hopes to become an entertainment lawyer after finishing law school.



■ **Jess Errico**, a student at University of North Carolina School of Law, put her legal education to work last spring so she could watch the Tar Heels take on the Duke University Blue Devils in the Final Four.



She had a capstone project due the day after the game was scheduled. The project amounted to 65% of her final grade. It would need to be completed before the game, or it would require an extension from the professors. Errico put on her lawyer hat and came up with a third solution: She filed a motion to extend the project's deadline by 24 hours and included an addendum for another 24 hours in the event that UNC won the game. Errico's professors were extremely receptive of her argument. After meeting with the associate dean for academic affairs, all eight professors teaching the course voted to grant the request.

■ **Hannah Valente**, a 2022 graduate of Elon University School of Law, received certification from the National Basketball Players Association in April to represent players during contract negotiations. This made her one of the youngest sports agents in the country. Valente took the required test in January, rather than wait until after graduation, so it wouldn't interfere with her studying for the bar exam.





Dan Markel's mother, father and sister in courtroom.

Creighton student kicked out of bar exam

A Nebraska woman was removed from her bar exam because she had a fever.

Alaina Arroyo, a graduate of Creighton University School of Law, said she arrived at the exam site at 7:15 a.m. Because no health official was yet onsite to take her temperature, per the prescribed COVID-19 safety plan, she was directed to a private room, where she would take the test as a medical accommodation for ADHD.

Arroyo said she was 20 minutes into the exam when a health official entered the room and took her temperature. When the reading showed 101 degrees, Arroyo was removed from the room and forced to abandon her exam.

Four hours later, Arroyo's temperature registered 98 degrees, and she produced a negative at-home COVID-19 test.

She expressed dismay that the state didn't require negative COVID-19 tests of all participants.

"I think that would have prevented a lot of problems," she said. "There are plenty of reasons why someone might have a low fever when taking a test. If we could have eliminated the possibility it was COVID, that probably would have saved my entire situation."

Now, she must wait until the next testing cycle to take the exam.

N.C. Central dean dies

The Law School Admission Council's annual conference is usually an opportunity to get away, enjoy good food and drink and talk law school admissions. But this year Browne Lewis, the dean of North Carolina Central University School of Law, died in her Denver hotel room while attending the event. Her death was said to have been from natural causes.

Lewis was named dean two years ago and was focused on making the school a better, more inclusive place for students.

During her tenure, the school received multiple gifts from corporations and foundations, including a \$5 million contribution from Intel that helped create the NCCU-Intel Tech Law and Policy Center.

JD CONFIDENTIAL

Arrest in FSU law professor's 2014 murder

Authorities have arrested the brother-in-law of Dan Markel, a Florida State University law professor who was shot and killed in his driveway in 2014.

Charlie Adelson has been arrested on charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and solicitation of murder.

Investigators have long suspected that the killing was a murder-for-hire bankrolled by Markel's in-laws. Markel and his wife, Wendi Adelson, were separated at the time and fighting over custody of their children.

Police earlier arrested two men, one of whom became a state's witness and testified that they killed Markel. The shooter was sentenced to life in prison in October 2019. And police had previously arrested Katherine Magbanua, who investigators believe was the connection between the Adelson family and the killers.

But the police didn't have enough evidence to arrest Adelson until new evidence surfaced from an enhanced recording of a conversation he had with Magbanua. FBI agents recorded a conversation in which they allegedly discussed undercover agents speaking to his mother about the killing, as well as details that connected others to in the murder.

Texas Southern replaces dean

Texas Southern University replaced Joan Bullock as dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. After three years at the helm, she was not popular with the student body, primarily because of the school's low bar passage rate — only 33% to 50% for first-time test-takers.

Bullock was brought in to address the school's pass rate, but she had to battle other matters first. At her first new student orientation in 2019, she saw students in attendance who were not formally enrolled. That led to an investigation that discovered an assistant dean had been illegally receiving money to admit students while the school had not reviewed more than 500 applications. Bullock acted quickly, and within a year the ABA announced the school was in full compliance with admission standards.

But the school still struggled with bar passage rates, and its ultimate pass rate dropped to 77%. Law schools must have an ultimate pass rate above 75% to retain accreditation.

Professor Okezie Chukwumerije was named interim dean.



Best legal job markets

We look at where legal jobs are clustered and where recent law grads are in short supply to identify the best job markets for entry-level attorneys. New York and the Mountain region lead the pack. **BY MIKE STETZ**

The pandemic may have opened new doors regarding how lawyers work, but it didn't seem to affect where they want to work or where job numbers are flourishing. The hottest legal markets remain hot, even after the worst of COVID-19 and the Zoom mania it wrought.

The Big Apple remains king. The New York/New Jersey region carries on as the nation's hottest job market for new law school graduates, according to a recent analysis by The National Jurist. Legal work in that market continues to be robust and coveted.

We have done this analysis four times, and that region — powered mostly by metropolitan New York — has topped the list three times. Its position may seem obvious, given how many law firms are based there. But it continues to absorb many newly minted law grads, even as other factors could be affecting its strength.

Meanwhile, other parts of the nation are becoming more muscular economically. For example, Southern California now stands as the eighth hottest legal market. In 2014, when we did our first analysis, Southern California was dead last — 20th out of 20.

To rank the regions, we looked at two data points: percent of graduates in each region who were employed 10 months after graduation, and ratio of jobs to graduates in each region.

For the employment percent, we used job placement data from the American Bar Association (ABA), using a weighted average based on quality of job.

But not every law grad stays in the region where they attended law school. To account for this, we weighed the employment percent with the ratio of graduates to jobs, using data from the National Association for Law Placement (NALP).

A ratio greater than 1.0, for instance, means there are more jobs than graduates. The ratio for the New York/New Jersey



region is 1.31. Not only is it the nation's highest but it came in even higher this time around than it did in our 2018 and 2016 analyses.

While that's encouraging for job hunters, it also means the region will attract graduates from other parts of the country. So, just because you graduated from a New York law school won't guarantee you a New York job. Candidates are coming from all around.

In short: Shore up that resume.

The good news is that every region has improved, according to the latest analysis. In addition to Southern California's improvement, the Carolinas have shown a significant rise. That region went from 18th to 12th in just four years.

The Washington, D.C./Maryland region rose to fifth, five spots up from its ranking in 2018. The D.C. market is always strong for lawyers, given its role in, well, just about everything. Indeed, the D.C. bar is the largest unified bar in the nation, with 100,000 members.

The Mountain region finished second for the third straight time, fueled by population growth and thriving economies. In

2021, the nation's fastest growing states were Idaho, Utah, Montana and Arizona. And, more people mean more legal jobs.

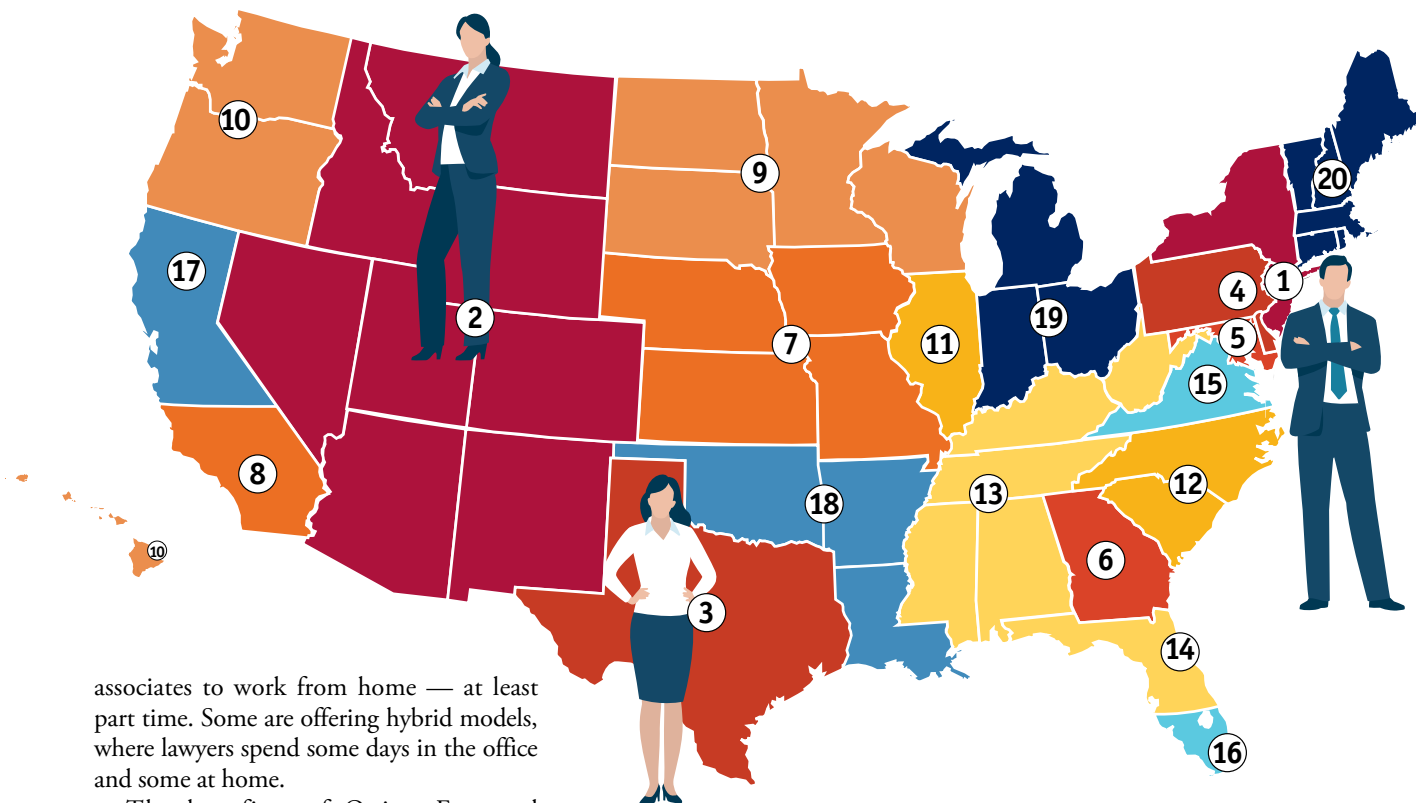
New York State? It was the nation's biggest population loser in 2021, with COVID-19 believed to be the primary blame for the drain. But it would be hard for young lawyers not to be wowed by New York's legal scene when it comes to power, prestige and money. First-year associate pay continues to climb at prestigious Big Law firms. It's now at \$215,000.

Jason McCann is a legal recruiter who champions New York City as a great place to practice.

"There is no place like New York City to practice law," he wrote in a LinkedIn post. "You can have the hustle and bustle of Manhattan at your fingertips — the culture, the entertainment, the restaurants, the nightlife and more. At the same time, you will be working on some of the most sophisticated legal cases and transactions in the world."

But how has the pandemic changed office habits, and how will things continue to change moving forward?

Many New York law firms are allowing



associates to work from home — at least part time. Some are offering hybrid models, where lawyers spend some days in the office and some at home.

The law firm of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, which has 300 lawyers in its New York office, recently announced that all of its U.S. attorneys can work from home, including first-year associates.

“Our lawyers should work from wherever they do their best work,” chairman and founder John Quinn said in making the announcement. “We want to invite the best litigators to join our firm, wherever their desks are.”

But do new graduates find this an attractive option? Isn’t part of the thrill of working in a hot market actually living and working in that market?

Jayne Schreiber, assistant dean for career planning at Fordham University School of Law in New York, hasn’t noticed significant interest in remote options, at least among the students she works with.

“I think most of our law students are excited about working in an actual office,” she said. “I think the ability to run into a partner in the hall and get a last-minute invitation to sit in on a deal call, or go with a partner to court, makes the idea of actually being in an office exciting to students.”

Law students who spent their summer jobs in offices told her they had a more positive experience than students who worked remotely.

“Flexibility may be more important down the line, but for now, most students want to be in an office and soak in all that an in-person experience can offer,” she said.

While it might not be the most attrac-

tive option, working remotely could help young lawyers who live in tight job markets and don’t want to move.

Law grads looking for jobs in regions that produce more grads than jobs could be behind the job market eight ball. New England is an example. It finished last in our analysis this year, as well as in 2018.

One New England state, Massachusetts, does particularly poorly because it has a high number of law schools — nine in all — but not a correspondingly strong job market. According to NALP, just 45.8% of Massachusetts law grads got jobs in the state.

It’s hardly dire for Harvard Law School grads, who go in droves to New York; Washington, D.C.; and California for jobs. However, it’s a tougher road for grads from less prestigious schools.

California may have a lot of law schools — a total of 20 — but its job market is robust enough to handle it. More than 80% of California law grads landed jobs in the Golden State, according to NALP.

It’s important to note that most graduates end up working in the regions where they went to law school. According to NALP’s 2020 report, that figure was nearly 76%. However, that still means one in four grads is looking outside their region

	Region	Employment %	Job Ratio
1	New York/New Jersey	86.1%	1.31
2	Mountain	87.0%	1.04
3	Texas	85.1%	1.05
4	Pennsylvania/Delaware	85.7%	0.96
5	Washington, D.C./Maryland	81.6%	1.06
6	Georgia	84.7%	0.92
7	West North Central (IA, NE, KS, MO)	87.0%	0.8
8	Southern California	84.0%	0.9
9	Upper Midwest	83.3%	0.91
10	Pacific	82.4%	0.93
11	Illinois	83.5%	0.85
12	Carolina	85.4%	0.7
13	East South Central (TN, KY, AL, MS)	85.0%	0.74
14	Northern Florida	80.2%	0.9
15	Virginia	84.2%	0.65
16	Southern Florida	78.8%	0.93
17	Northern California	78.1%	0.93
18	West South Central (LA, AR, OK)	81.7%	0.72
19	East North Central (MI, IN, OH)	83.1%	0.61
20	New England	78.9%	0.66

for work.

In some regions, the challenges are great. In New England, for example, just 51% of local grads got jobs in their region, according to NALP.

Can remote opportunities help? Well, the Internet offers some clues. A host of legal jobs are offered, with catch words such as “work from home,” “100% remote,” “anywhere” and “flexible remote options.” Hottest job markets?

One of them may be your kitchen table.

What to expect with the new bar exam

A brand new bar exam is slated to launch in 2026. And it's expected to better judge a test-taker's worthiness to practice — all completely done online.

BY MIKE STETZ

The Class of 2026 is yet to be determined. Those students won't enter law school until next year. However, we can already offer them both good news and bad news.

The bad? Most of them will still have to take the bar exam. It doesn't appear to be going away any time soon. Barbri, Kaplan, Quimbee, et al. await . . .

The good? A brand new bar exam is slated to launch in 2026. And it's expected to better judge a test-taker's worthiness to practice.

It's a pretty big deal. This new bar exam — called NextGen Bar — will have been eight years in the making when it debuts, and arguably it will be revolutionary. It will test only eight subject areas — down from 12 — and will have a greater focus on skills.

It will also be administered on a computer. Goodbye, paper and pencil.

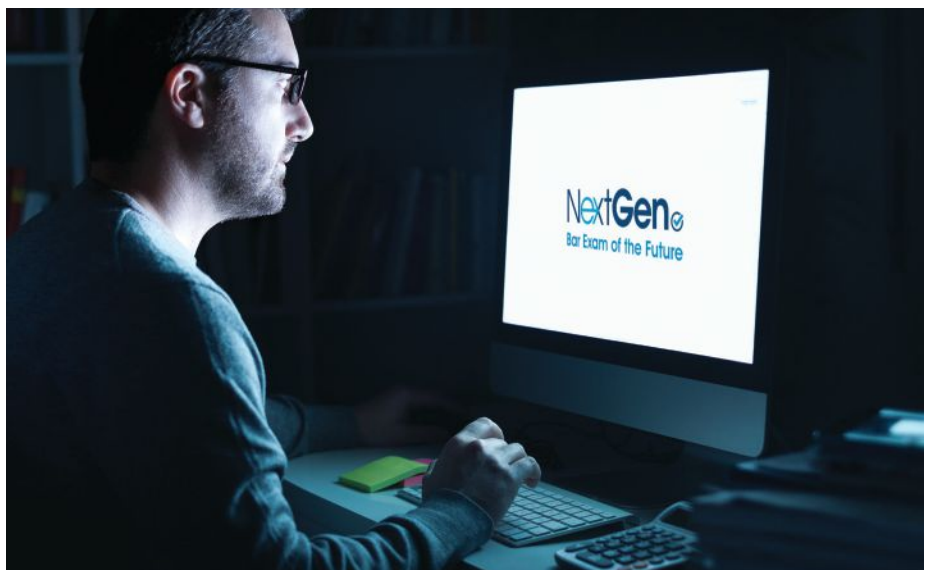
The big question for future law school grads: Will it be easier? That's unknown. It may require just as much prep and cause just as much anxiety as the current test.

However, the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), which administers the exam, has been working diligently to create a test that will be more progressive and relevant to today's lawyering.

Last spring, it released and sought public comment on the preliminary "Content Scope Outlines" for the new exam, which offered a look at how the test will be reconfigured.

The shift to a more skills-based exam has been championed by many for some time. The current exam, critics argue, is too focused on subject matter that fails to address real-life lawyering acumen.

"One of the goals is to make it more



realistic to what lawyers do in practice," said Kellie Early, NCBE's chief strategy officer, at the time of the release.

So the new exam is being designed to test future lawyers on real-life skills. It's a work in progress, mind you, which will require significant pilot testing and analysis. But a framework is now very much a reality and has received input from a wide range of legal influencers.

"It's a very big and very important project," Early said. "It's taken a huge amount of work."

While the current bar exam does test skills, this one will focus more on that area. It will include legal research, investigation and evaluation, client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, and client relationship and management, according to an NCBE news release.

A computer-based test will be necessary to accommodate the changes.

"The expansion of skills testing will require development of new question types," the NCBE said. "As a result, the current bar exam format will be retired in the coming years, and a new format featuring integrated sets of questions (likely a combination of short-answer, multiple-choice and longer legal drafting questions) is in development."

The bar exam has many critics, some of whom argue that it should be done away with entirely. They say it has evolved into a nonessential rite of passage. After three years of law school, graduates should not have to prove their muster to practice law by passing yet another exam, critics say.

Secondly, law students who are members of minority groups do worse on the exam, which hurts efforts to diversify the legal profession.

A growing number of legal experts wonder if other pathways to licensure

should be explored.

However, many in the legal field argue that the bar exam is incredibly important because it provides a benchmark for competence. They say that if that benchmark didn't exist, the quality of legal representation could be compromised.

And there has been growing momentum for change.

Brian Gallini, dean of Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Ore., sat on a task force that looked at possible options for licensure in the state of Oregon. The task force came up with two recommendations, which the Oregon Board of Examiners advanced to the Oregon Supreme Court.

One option focuses on more experiential work during law school, while the other suggests apprenticeships with working lawyers after graduation. The task force did not call for abandonment of the bar exam, just these new options.

Gallini supports the additional skills testing that the new bar exam proposes. However, the details remain fuzzy, he said.

"The Content Scope Outlines tell us nothing about how, with precision, the exam itself will be administered or, for that matter, how much it will cost," he said.

And content is just one issue. Individual states can do as they please with the exam, he noted.

"The creation of content for a new bar exam tells us nothing about whether and how each jurisdiction will react," he said. "Will state supreme courts jump to adopt this new exam? Relatedly, how will the new exam impact established cut scores?"

While the bar has faced criticism for years, the critiques ramped up dramatically during the pandemic. In many jurisdictions, the bar had to be delayed and/or moved online.

Students were among the most vocal opponents of the test, with many saying they should not have to take the bar, given all the other stressors they were facing. A few states did agree and went with diploma privilege during the pandemic, meaning graduates could start practicing immediately. The only state that had diploma privilege prior to COVID-19 was Wisconsin. That's been the case for more than a century.



"Our role is to ensure the exam is the best it can be, that it's valid, reliable, fair and defensible to use."

—KELLIE EARLY, NCBE, FORMER CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

But it wasn't just students questioning the bar exam's relevancy. Top legal educators such as Gallini began pushing for reform.

One of the big reasons was that more affluent law grads may have an advantage. If they don't have to work or provide for a family, they likely have more time and money to devote to preparing for the exam.

It's also not a level playing field nationally. Some states, such as

California, demand a higher score to pass.

NCBE's Early said the organization's mission is to create a fair and balanced exam. What state jurisdictions do with it is beyond NCBE's control.

Yes, the performance gap when it comes to minorities continues to be a concern. But performance gaps exist on a host of other tests, including the LSAT.

"Our role is to ensure the exam is the best it can be," Early said, "that it's valid, reliable, fair and defensible to use."



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5 simple tips for excelling in law school

Want to do well?
Follow these
easy steps.

BY NATIONAL JURIST EDITORS

The first few weeks of law school can be confusing, and there's a good chance that you're feeling overwhelmed. Welcome to the club.

Law school is a new experience and not one that students adapt to easily. Your professors are trying to teach you to think differently, and for many students it's a shock to the system. But don't fret. Instead, focus on the basics and be OK with feeling a little lost.

Here are five simple tips to help you navigate the first semester.

1. Go to your classes, get there on time and be prepared

For the first month, you are succeeding just by showing up — prepared. This is your time to build good study habits: reading all assignments, showing up to class, taking notes and reviewing the class afterward.

Andrew McClurg, a professor at The University of Memphis - Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and author of the book "1L of a Ride," said students need to be consistent about reading assignments, briefing cases and attending class. He said professors can't test on everything they teach, so they focus on a handful of issues. You never know when those issues will be covered in class.

McClurg did a comparison of grades versus class attendance and found that of the top seven students in a class, six had perfect attendance and one missed a single day. The bottom seven students missed a combined 23 days.

At the end of the semester, you will look back and realize that the professor covered very little ground in the first few weeks. In October, your classwork will speed up and the material will get harder. The study habits you develop in the first month will prepare you for that.



2. Take notes

Research shows that people forget 40% to 70% of what they learn after one day. So write it down. But don't write down every word your professor says.

When preparing for class, focus on the basic principles and don't get caught up in the details of cases, warns Joseph Glannon, a law professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston. Law school exams are critical thinking exams that test the law. Regurgitating facts will not help your grade.

Studies show that taking notes on paper is more effective than using a computer. When you're typing, you are tempted to write down much more than you need.

3. Embrace the Socratic method

The Socratic method might seem like torture, but professors say it will develop critical thinking skills, which will help future lawyers approach the law intellectually.

Law students have to get used to justifying why they believe something is right or wrong, said Nancy Rapoport, one of the authors of "Law School Survival Manual: From LSAT to Bar Exam" and a professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law.

"We're not doing it to humiliate [students]," Rapoport said. "We're really, really, really not. We're doing it because if they draw bad conclusions, they're going to give bad advice to their clients."

She remembers being terrified when

professors called on her at Stanford University Law School. But over time, it got easier.

“They should prepare to be uncomfortable, and they should prepare to get things wrong, and that is OK,” she said. “No one has ever, ever died from being wrong in class.”

“They should prepare to be uncomfortable, and they should prepare to get things wrong, and that is OK. No one has ever, ever died from being wrong in class.”

—NANCY RAPOPORT, PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

After a few classes, you might start to pick up on what types of questions certain professors like to ask. Think about that while doing your reading.

You can also practice with friends. Ask questions of each other, and try to reason out your answer the way your professor would expect you to.

While class discussion is rarely part of your grade, don't underestimate the value of participation, McClurg said. Not only will it make the law school experience more enjoyable but also it's the easiest way to become known to your professors.

4. Write case briefs

Writing case briefs is essential during your first semester. It can be frustrating, time consuming and repetitive, but you need to take the Nike approach here and “Just do it.”

Writing case briefs is an arduous process, but it helps students get a feel for case structure and reading the law. While it may take a while to learn the process, by your second year you'll be able to glance over a case and quickly pull out the essential pieces.

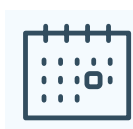
5. Outline your classes, but not until October

Wait a while before you start outlining your classes and drafting summaries. This will give you time to adjust to the subject matter and the professor. But it's not so late that you won't be able to get everything done before finals.

Basic organizational tools

BY ALISON MONAHAN

For a law student's life to run smoothly, certain fundamental things need to be under control. If you want to make life — and law school — easier, consider trying out some of these tech wonders.



Online Calendar

In order to be organized, you need to know what's happening and when. Obvious, right? Well, as it turns out, lots of law students don't

use a calendar consistently to track their many activities. If you're one of them, create a Google Calendar account right now and start using it. You can access it from all of your devices, so you'll always know what's coming up. The calendar is simple to set up and easy to run.



Cloud Storage

There's nothing more frustrating than losing all of your hard work in a computer crash.

Fortunately, there's a way to ensure that this never happens. Various cloud backup options exist, and you should absolutely set one

up and use it consistently.

One good system is Dropbox. You can set up a folder on your computer and save documents there. They'll be uploaded automatically for safekeeping, and they can be accessed from anywhere. It couldn't be easier.



Project Management

For any legal research project, it's critical to keep track of the cases you've consulted and the research you

want to use. Here, Trello is a lifesaver. You can create new “cards” for each source and easily sort them as you decide how to use each one.

Trello also is an excellent to-do list manager, and it's invaluable for any projects requiring collaboration with other people. Just set up a board and share it, and everyone on the team will be able to see at a glance what's been completed and who is responsible for each task. It's perfect for organizing journal assignments, or even your study group.

Alison Monahan is the founder of The Girl's Guide to Law School and co-founder of Law School Toolbox and Bar Exam Toolbox.

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Best Study Aids

We identify the 10 most popular study aids and explain what makes them stand out. **BY MIKE STETZ**

Studying can be tough, demanding and tiring. Many of us will even go to great lengths to avoid it. Yes, some have been known to clean a bathroom rather than prep for classes or exams.

But good study habits are essential if you want to excel in law school, and there is something that can make it a lot easier

— study aids. As the name implies, the right study aid makes studying easier.

Mind you, study aids are not designed to replace your classroom work or casebook reading. But they can assist you in understanding the subject material.

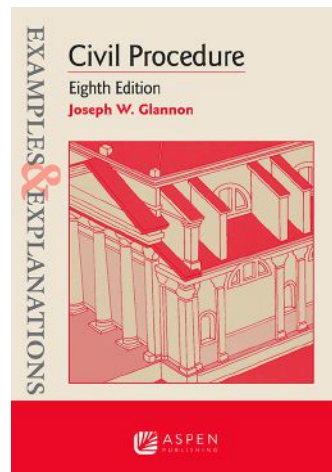
To identify the best, we asked law students to rate study aids based on quality and value. Here's the skinny on

the 10 most popular study aids, ranked in order.

Of course, what works best for one student may not be the best for another. So do your own research and find what will help you the best.

No. 1 Examples and Explanations

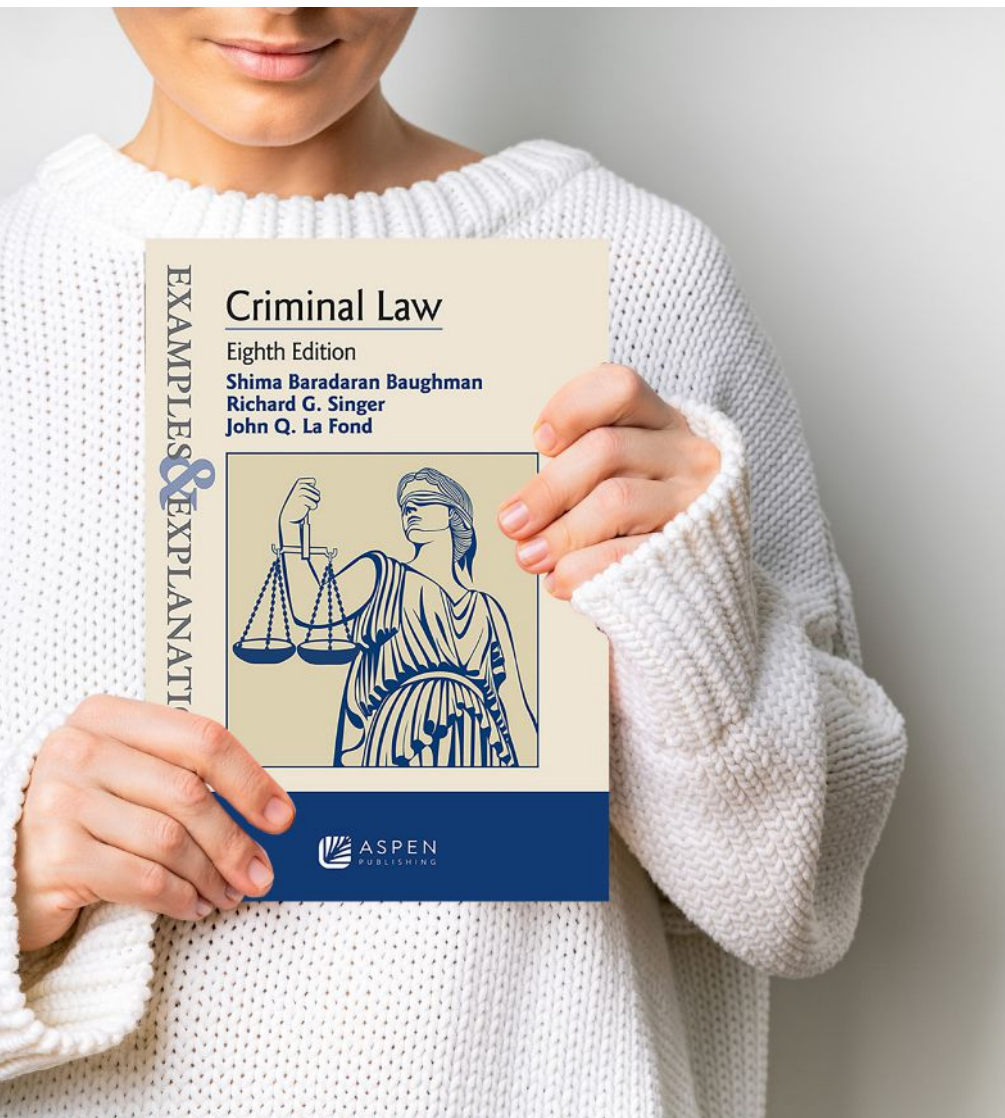
This one locked up first place, according to our survey respondents. Commonly known as E&E, this popular study aid is published by Wolters Kluwer. It hits on just about every subject imaginable, from criminal law to partnerships. Each E&E offers hypothetical questions and — no big surprise, given its name — explanations.



No. 2 Quimbee

This online offering boasts the world's largest case briefs database. The study aids include not only case briefs but also professionally designed case brief videos, full-length courses, essay practice exams, flash cards, outlines, thousands of multiple choice questions, key terms and more.

More than 20 law schools, including Yale Law School, provide their students with free access to the site. If your school doesn't subscribe, you can subscribe on your own starting at \$19 a month.



No. 3 Emanuel Law Outlines

These outlines were created by Steve Emanuel when he was a Harvard law student in the 1970s. He had trouble understanding his civil procedure professor, so he created a course outline.

He rocked it. It was so good that his fellow students were interested in buying it, and a law school study-aid powerhouse began.

Emanuel eventually sold the company to Aspen Publishing, which is now Wolters Kluwer. But he is still the primary editor of the outlines.

The Emanuel outline series covers more than 20 subjects, including civil procedure, property, contracts and torts. Students say the outlines are concise and easy to follow.

Emanuel Law Outlines get higher ratings than their primary competitor, Gilbert Law Summaries.

Emanuel also offers other study aids, such as the Emanuel flash cards. They're also on this list, as well as Emanuel CrunchTime, which goes to show you the power of this lineup.

No. 4 CALI Lessons

These computer-based, interactive tutorials cover narrow topics of law as well as all first-year subjects. For example, there are tutorials on acceptance, conditions and fraud for contracts. The series offers more than 1,000 lessons, which are short and interactive.

CALI, the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, is a non-profit, and most law schools are members, meaning students

can access the tutorials for free. If not, an annual subscription is \$250.

No. 5 Nutshells

These books are the opposite of a long treatise. Published by West Academic, they boil down various areas of the law to their most important issues. The preface of one Nutshell book explains: "Nutshell focuses on the key features of statutes and cases, leaving the nuances to casebooks, treatises and law review articles."

No. 6 Law in a Flash

Law in a Flash flash cards by Emanuel are popular because they're easy to use. You can take them just about anywhere to do some quick studying. (Might not work in a pool, though...)

Each card has a question on one side and the answer on the back.

The Barrister Books website notes that it alone has sold 10,000 sets since 1999. So a lot of working lawyers likely have these in their basements/garages/attics. Wolters Kluwer publishes Law in a Flash, which was the first flash card series to hit the market back in the 1980s.

No. 7 Emanuel Law CrunchTime



Yep, Emanuel again. The CrunchTime series helps prepare students for exams. The books include easy-to-understand flow charts, capsule summaries, essay questions with answers and mul-

tipple choice questions with answers.

Again, these study aids tackle many subjects, so when you hit, well, crunch time, you'll have a proven resource.

No. 8 Glannon Guides

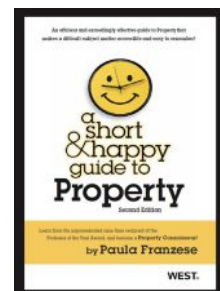
These guides have been described as mirroring the classroom experience. Indeed, one Amazon reviewer said he missed seven or eight classes in civil procedure but used the Glannon Guide to catch up. He got an A.

Still, they seem to fly a bit under the radar.

They, too, are published by Wolters Kluwer.

No. 9 Short & Happy Guides

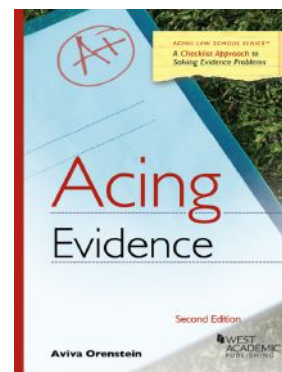
The Short & Happy Guides aim to make the law accessible and easy to remember by focusing on key points and breaking black-letter laws into manageable pieces. Published by West Academic, some of the guides include flowcharts and graphics, and most have some humor thrown in.



No. 10 Acing Series

The books in this series rely on a checklist method, which leads students through a series of questions to get to the root of a legal question. As one book in the series notes: "Other study aids provide sample problems, but none offers the systematic approach to problem-solving found in this book."

The Acing Series is published by West Academic.





MOST LIBERAL & MOST CONSERVATIVE LAW SCHOOLS

Are Law Schools Too **Li**BERAL?

With almost 80% of law schools classified as liberal, conservatives worry that the ideological imbalance could have a negative effect on legal education.

By Mike Stetz

When the American Bar Association first surveyed law students about ideology and freedom of speech back in 1991, it was a bit damning. The results revealed that conservative students at some schools were apprehensive about sharing their views in class.

“To express conservative political beliefs in my school would be to commit academic suicide,” one student wrote. “One professor in particular has taken it upon himself to lower the grades of people who disagree with him in or out of class.”

Another student’s comments called another school “a bastion of ‘political correctness’ enforced by a coterie of self-appointed professors kowtowing to this fascism of the left.”

Now, some 30 years later, the apprehensiveness has turned to scorn. Conservatives don’t just complain that law schools are too liberal. Today they go a step further and label them “woke.”

“Are Law Schools Now Woke Factories?” asked a commentary on the Heritage Foundation’s website.

“Why the Lawyers Cartel is Pushing for Woke Law Schools,” an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* explores.

For conservatives, the concern has reached a critical point. Studies show that 89% of law schools fall on the liberal side of the divide.

Critics argue that this imbalance has created serious problems. Conservative law professors rarely get hired and are often discouraged, or even prevented from sharing their views, they say.

Meanwhile, some argue that conservative law schools get penalized in *U.S. News & World Report*’s annual rankings. And others say the lack of balance is not good for conservative or liberal law students.

But is legal education really this out of balance with a nation that polls 36% conservative, 25% liberal and 35% moderate?

The *National Jurist* reviewed two studies and a survey to place law schools into

one of six categories: most conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, very liberal and most liberal. The two studies — “The Political Ideologies of American Lawyers” and “The Legal Academy’s Ideological Uniformity” — looked at the political ideologies of alumni (in 2016) and professors (in 2018), then ranked schools on an ideological continuum. The survey, by The Princeton Review, asked students to rate their schools on a similar liberal-to-conservative continuum. We compiled the results of these studies and, including anecdotal evidence as well, categorized the 193 schools for which we felt we had enough data.

In the end, only four law schools placed in the very conservative category. They were Ave Maria School of Law, Brigham Young University – J. Reuben Clark Law School, Liberty University School of Law and Regent University School of Law. All four schools have strong religious affiliations and typically place at the top of preLaw magazine’s Most Devout Law Schools ranking.

Another 14 law schools placed in the conservative category. Ten of them are in the deep south or Texas.

These totals show that only 9.3% of law schools are conservative or very conservative, compared to slightly more than one-third of the U.S. population.

As for holding moderate views, 11.9% of the law schools fell into this category, while more than 30% of the U.S. population tends to identify as moderate.

That leaves 152 law schools, or 78.8%, on the liberal side, which is far higher than the national average of 25%. This includes three schools that The Princeton Review listed as the most liberal: Northeastern University School of Law, City University of New York School of Law and New York University School of Law. All three of these schools typically rank high in preLaw magazine’s survey of best schools for public interest law.

Are law schools getting more liberal?

The Princeton Review has been ranking the most conservative and most liberal law schools since 2004. Interestingly, the list of conservative schools has not changed dramatically since then. On the liberal side, there has been more movement.

“Overall, since 2004 only 25 schools have appeared on the Most Conservative Students list, while 37 schools have appeared on the Most Liberal Students list,” said David Soto, senior director of data operations for The Princeton Review. “Seven of the top 10 schools in our inaugural Most Conservative Students ranking in 2004 remain on the list in 2022. On the other side, four of the schools on the first Most Liberal Students list appeared on the 2022 list.”

Liberalism among all Americans has inched up from 17% in 1991 to 25% today. But evidence shows that people are more liberal in their youth and more conservative in their later years.

Conservatives are more concerned about law school faculties and how a school’s liberal leaning may affect hiring and promotion.

“We find that approximately 15% of law professors are conservative and that only approximately one out of every 20 law schools have more conservative law professors than liberal ones,” says the 2018 study, “The Legal Academy’s Ideological Uniformity.”

The study was compiled by Adam Bonica, a political scientist at Stanford University; Adam Chilton and Kyle Rozema, law professors at The University of Chicago; and Maya Sen, a professor at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Bonica, Chilton and Sen also compiled a 2016 study called “The Political Ideologies of American Lawyers.”

Both studies tracked political donations by alumni and faculty to determine political leanings and then rated each law school with a numerical score. The lawyer study found that 35% of lawyers are conservative, which tracks closely with the national average.

The law professor study found that only 15% of law professors are conservative and only a handful of faculties are ideologically balanced. Only 13 out of 179 law schools had faculties that were more conservative than their alumni. And only three of those 13 schools are ranked as conservative: Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law and Regent University.

George Mason University is named after the late conservative Supreme Court Justice,



CONSERVATIVE ALUMNI, LIBERAL FACULTY
University of Wyoming
The University of Mississippi
University of Idaho
Mercer University
Texas A&M University
Samford University
Oklahoma City University
University of Dayton
SMU Dedman

MOST CONSERVATIVE	CONSERVATIVE	MODERATE	LIBERAL	
Ave Maria S.O.L.	Appalachian S.O.L.	Campbell University	Albany Law School	University of Akron
Brigham Young Univ.	Baylor University	Capital University	Arizona State University	U.Arkanasas, Fayetteville
Liberty University	Birmingham Law	Chapman University	Atlanta's John Marshall	U.Arkanasas Little Rock
Regent University	Charleston S.O.L.	Indiana U. Indianapolis	Barry University	University of Baltimore
	Faulkner University	Loyola New Orleans	California Western	University of Cincinnati
	George Mason Univ.	Mercer University	Case Western Reserve U.	University of Detroit
	Louisiana State Univ.	Northern Kentucky	Catholic University	U. District of Columbia
	Mississippi College	Ohio Northern Univ.	Cleveland-Marshall	University of Florida
	Samford University	Oklahoma City Univ.	College William & Mary	University of Georgia
	Texas Tech University	Pepperdine Caruso	Creighton University	University of Houston
	University of Alabama	South Texas C.O.L.	Penn State - Dickinson	University of Kansas
	University of Idaho	SMU Dedman	Drake University	University of La Verne
	Univ. of Mississippi	St. Mary's University	Drexel University	University of Louisville
	Univ. of North Dakota	Stetson University	Duquesne University	University of Miami
		Texas A&M University	Emory University	University of Missouri
		University of Dayton	Florida International U.	Univ. of Missouri, KC
		University of Kentucky	Florida State University	University of Montana
		University of Memphis	Georgia State Univ.	University of Nebraska
		University of Oklahoma	Gonzaga University	U. Nevada Las Vegas
		Univ. of South Carolina	Hofstra Univ. (Deane)	U. New Hampshire
		Univ. of South Dakota	LMU Loyola Law	Univ. of North Carolina
		U. St. Thomas - Mn.	Marquette University	Univ. of Notre Dame
		University of Wyoming	Michigan State Univ.	University of Pittsburgh
			North Carolina Central	University of Richmond
			Nova Southeastern U.	University of San Diego
			Ohio State University	Univ. of Tennessee
			Pace University	University of Texas
			Penn. State University	University of Toledo
			Quinnipiac University	University of Tulsa
			Roger Williams Univ.	University of Utah
			Seton Hall University	University of Virginia
			Southern University	Vanderbilt University
			St. John's University	Villanova University
			St. Louis University	Wake Forest University
			St. Thomas University	Washburn University
			Syracuse University	Washington and Lee U.
			Thomas Jefferson	Wayne State University
			Thomas M. Cooley	West Virginia University
			Touro Law Center	Western State C.O.L.
			Tulane University	Widener University



and is the most conservative faculty in the U.S. But that doesn't mean the law school operates differently, said Dean Ken Randall.

"The Antonin Scalia-George Mason Law School's reputation does not fully reflect what and who we are," he said. "Our law school welcomes all points of view, and our students tell us that they are free to express their views, whether they're liberal or conservative."

In fact, the school's alumni rank as moderate with a leaning toward the left. Additionally, it would be hard to argue that the law school is some sort of outlier in regard to its class offerings, Randall said.

"About 30% of our students are employed in public service or government every year, and we have clinics in mental health, immigration and poverty law, just as we provide first-rate education in areas often labeled as conservative, such as Law and Economics and Antitrust," he said.



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY has the most conservative law faculty in the nation.

Liberal bonus in U.S. News ranking?

George Mason University is one of only a handful of schools with a predominately conservative faculty. The majority of law schools are firmly entrenched in the liberal

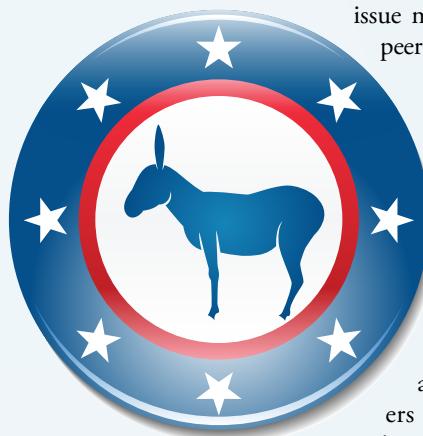
category, and some critics argue that this has negative implications.

Michael Conklin, a business law professor at Angelo State University in Texas, used The Princeton Review's results to

determine if law schools get penalized and boosted by U.S. News & World Report based on ideology.

His study, "Law School Ranking and Political Ideology: Measuring the

VERY LIBERAL		MOST LIBERAL
Boston College	Suffolk University	American University
Boston University	Temple University	CUNY School of Law
Brooklyn Law School	Texas Southern University	George Washington Univ.
Cardozo School of Law	University at Buffalo	Howard University
Chicago-Kent C.O.L.	University of Arizona	Lewis & Clark Law School
Columbia Law School	UC Davis School of Law	New York University
Cornell Law School	UC - Irvine	Northeastern University
DePaul University	UCLA Law	Northern Illinois Univ.
Duke University	University of Chicago	Seattle University
Florida A&M University	University of Connecticut	UC Berkeley
Fordham University	University of Denver	UC Hastings
Georgetown University	University of Hawaii	University of Colorado
Golden Gate University	University of Illinois	University of Maine
Harvard Law School	Univ. of Illinois Chicago	University of Oregon
Indiana U Bloomington	University of Iowa	Univ. of San Francisco
Loyola University Chicago	University of Maryland	Washington University
McGeorge School of Law	Univ. of Massachusetts	
Mitchell Hamline S.O.L.	University of Michigan	
New England Law	University of Minnesota	
New York Law School	University of New Mexico	
Northwestern University	Univ. of Pennsylvania	
Rutgers University	USC Gould School of Law	
Saint Louis University	University of Washington	
Santa Clara University	University of Wisconsin	
Southern Illinois Univ.	Vermont Law School	
Southwestern Law School	Western New England U.	
Stanford University	Willamette Law	
	Yale Law School	



Conservative Penalty and Liberal Bonus,” also says that the political divide may be getting greater.

Two years ago, his initial study claimed that law schools with liberal reputations got rewarded with higher U.S. & World Report rankings, while schools with conservative reputations were being punished and pushed down the rankings.

His latest report shows the disparity is getting more pronounced and may have been exacerbated by such things as the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol uprising and the political differences that erupted over COVID-19.

“The disparity is so big that the odds that it’s random are too small,” Conklin said.

The gulf seems to be caused by the fact that U.S. News uses peer review as part of its ranking formula, Conklin said. This

subjective measurement is given the most weight in the ranking, at 25%. This gives it more influence than bar passage rates and other objective measuring sticks.

U.S. News says law school deans, deans of academic affairs, chairs of faculty appointments and the most recently tenured faculty members are surveyed for that peer assessment.

Conklin said it does not come as a shock that liberal legal educators might rank liberal schools higher. And the inverse is just as true. However, there are a lot more liberal law schools than conservative ones.

In his 2020 study, Conklin found that liberal schools received a 12-point bump in the U.S. News rankings, while conservative schools were penalized nearly 16 points — a 28-point swing. In the most recent study, the liberal schools got nearly a 13-point

boost, and conservative schools were penalized more than 19 points, for a 32-point net difference.

In his study, Conklin notes that the differences are so great that “there is little room for any legitimate, non-discriminatory explanation.”

U.S. News defends its use of peer review, noting that academic reputation matters because it factors things that cannot be easily captured elsewhere.

“For example, an institution known for having innovative approaches to law school education may perform especially well on this indicator, whereas a school struggling to keep its law school accreditation will likely perform poorly,” said Robert Morse, chief data strategist, in an email response. “U.S. News does not, however, ask participants why they rate certain law schools higher than others. Therefore, there’s no way of measuring the impact any given issue may have on any law school’s actual peer score.”

George Mason University’s Randall has issues with U.S. News, but not because of any ideological bias.

“The issue, as we see it, is not liberal/conservative but qualitative/quantitative in the U.S. News ranking data,” Randall said. “Forty percent of the ranking score is based on what is essentially a popularity contest among the schools, because the rankers often lack enough information to assign an accurate score and because they may assign low numbers to their close competitors.”

Conservatives in a liberal world

Critics have long argued that conservative faculty at liberal schools pay a price.

James Philips, then a doctoral student at University of California, Berkeley, examined the credentials and publication rates of faculty at America’s 16 most prestigious law schools in 2016. He found that conservative scholars not only published more and were cited more than their peers but also had “more of the traditional qualifications required of law professors than their peers, with few exceptions.”

In other words, conservatives needed better credentials to get hired.

Critics say that a more balanced faculty could blunt episodes of intolerance, which some say are increasing. Conservative speakers have been heckled at law schools and forced to flee events to which they had been invited.

For example, former Georgetown University Law Center professor Ilya Shapiro had criticized President Biden for limiting his choices for a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy to Black women. Shapiro was to speak at University of California Hastings College of the Law in March, but a group of students at the San Francisco school stopped it.

“It’s clear that a vocal minority of Hastings students wanted to hear neither my reasoning about Mr. Biden’s selection criteria nor my broader analysis now that there is a nominee,” he wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. “They screamed obscenities and physically confronted me, several times getting in my face or blocking my access to the lectern, and they shouted down a dean.”

Shapiro was suspended by Georgetown University for a tweet he sent out regarding Biden’s decision — a tweet he conceded was poorly worded. He was later re-instated but then quit.

Shapiro said he believed he would be fired sooner or later for his views.

“I would have to be constantly walking on eggshells,” he said.

Earlier this year at Yale Law School, students disrupted a panel on civil liberties. They focused their ire on Kristen Waggoner, a controversial anti-LGBTQ speaker, who had to be escorted out by cops.

Meanwhile, Harvard Law School — in quite the twist — featured a conservative student, Jacob Richards, the outgoing president of the school’s Federalist Society chapter. Harvard’s communications department wrote an article in which Richards said the school was welcoming, even to someone with his viewpoints.

“I came into law school wondering if I’d get shunned for voicing conservative views,” Richards said. “Instead, I’ve found that most of my peers are eager and willing to engage.”

That article was promoted on the school’s Instagram account soon after a draft opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* was leaked. Coincidence? Liberal students did not think



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY is categorized as liberal, but is the most conservative law school in Washington, D.C.

so. They thought it was timed so that the school would appear tolerant of differing mindsets at a very contentious moment, according to The Washington Free Beacon, a conservative news website.

When liberal students began complaining and demanding that the post highlighting Richards be removed, Harvard didn’t roll.

The Free Beacon published an email sent to Richards from the school’s communications dean, noting support: “I am very sorry that you have received such critical comments. We were pleased to share your story.”

Is this really a problem?

While many feel the number of liberal-fueled dustups is increasing, Conklin said the leftward movement is more troubling for left-leaning students than for anyone else.

Interacting with people with differing viewpoints is thought to help law students become better lawyers. Some believe it’s harmful to hear only opinions and views that you already agree with.

As Conklin notes in his study, a lack of exposure to conservative ideas could hurt young lawyers’ careers. Many judges are conservatives because conservative politicians have appointed like-minded people to local, state and federal benches.

But do liberal law professors really have that much impact on political thought?

It’s hard to say.

On Reddit, one student noted: “The best part about law school is that you’ll find that political conservatism and liberalism do



HARVARD LAW is very liberal, but still trails NYU, UC Berkeley and Yale among the nation’s most prestigious law schools.

not map onto legal conservatism or liberalism.”

And this: “I’ve had liberal professors that have favored liberal students and conservative professors that have favored conservative students. I’ve also had professors all across the political spectrum that don’t really seem to care that much. I myself just don’t bother with voicing political opinions. I want to get a good grade and then get the hell out of school.”

It’s not as if law schools don’t have their share of odd mixes, faculty-wise. University of California, Berkeley, School of Law is one of the nation’s most liberal law schools. However, one of its professors, John Yoo, is among the nation’s most conservative legal scholars. He wrote the book, “Defender in Chief: Donald Trump’s Fight for Presidential Power.” He also sought to legitimize the use of torture when working for the Bush administration.

He told the Los Angeles Times about his relationship with the school: “I think of myself as being West Berlin during the Cold War, a shining beacon of capitalism and democracy surrounded by a sea of Marxism.”



THE JOB INTERVIEW CRIB SHEET

Interviews can lead to great opportunities if you conquer your nerves and focus on your strengths. Here are 20 tips to help you stand out.

By National Jurist editors

Fall is interview season, filled with on-campus interviews for anyone hoping to work for a leading law firm or another large employer.

An impressive resume and good grades will only get you a foot in the door. The real success comes from the interview, so it's essential to be prepared and confident.

We've put together this interview crib sheet to help prepare you for this rite of passage and bolster your confidence. We cover it all, from pre-interview research, to handling hard questions, to appropriate follow-up.

—Hillary Mantis contributed to this article.

IT STARTS WITH RESEARCH

The more you know about a potential employer, the more you can demonstrate interest and impress the interviewer. And that starts with research.

1. Consult with your school's career advising center or your assigned career counselor.

Knowing the details about employers, employment trends and interviewing techniques is all part of a career counselor's job. They should be able to tell you what the firm specializes in, who it has hired and other insider tips.

2. Study the firm's website.

Know the firm's mission statement, get familiar with its primary practice areas, and learn a little about the attorneys there (how many, areas of practice, backgrounds, etc.). There are also law firm guides — Vault

(recently renamed FirstHand) and Chambers Associate — that have insider information on what various firms are like.

3. Search online.

Finally, search for news stories, blogs and social media. This will tell you a lot about a firm's current cases, objectives and challenges. Your goal is to become as knowledgeable about the firm as possible.

When interviewers see that you have put time into researching their firm, it will show them that you are passionate about working there. But your preparation should not stop there. We also offer advice on interview do's and don'ts designed to help you get an edge on the competition and land your first legal job.



3 THINGS TO ALWAYS DO IN INTERVIEWS

1. Come prepared with short but concrete examples of your accomplishments.

Explain how you initiated a new project, received a promotion or were otherwise commended. Don't passively wait to be asked. Find a way to insert your past successes into the conversation. While you don't want to be overly rehearsed, you should be prepared with key points you want to make.

2. Come with questions for the interviewers.

You may be interviewed by more than one person; make each person count. Treat each interview as if it were your first; show the same enthusiasm. Include questions for each interviewer. Telling someone that other interviewers have already answered your questions about the job, does not convey strong enthusiasm to that person.

Focus your questions on the work, training and support — not on the benefits. You can research pay and benefits on your own, or ask detailed questions after you get an offer.



3. Be very familiar with every job, internship and course you have listed on your resume.

If an interviewer chooses to go to the bottom of the page and ask you about an internship from your freshman year of college, you should be as enthusiastic about that experience as you are about the internship you had last summer. Explain how that experience helped prepare you to work for their firm. You never know what will interest an interviewer, so be prepared to explain how each item on your resume helped you grow as an employee and a person.

HOW TO HANDLE THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Here are some tips for answering those really tough interview questions. If you are prepared, these questions will be opportunities and not challenges. They also will give you a chance to share information that might not come up otherwise.

1. Tell me about yourself.

The interviewer is likely trying to get an idea of how you see yourself. Use this opportunity to share your greatest strengths and interests. You may want to start with when and why you decided to go to law school, then summarize internships and law-related jobs that have helped prepared you for this position. Give a short example from each experience that illustrates how you accomplished or initiated something positive. Bring the story up to the present, and explain why you are now applying for this specific position.

As you answer this question, be prepared for interruptions. Your answer may bring up things that the interviewer wants to know more about.



2. Where do you see yourself in five or 10 years?

The interviewer wants to understand your long-term goals and whether employment with their firm fits those goals. This does not mean that you should tell them you want to work at their firm for the rest of your life. But, they do want to see that you are committed to the type of law they practice, and their geographic location. You can also express other long-term objectives, such as being respected as an attorney and feeling appreciated for your contributions.

3. What are your weaknesses?

The interviewer wants to assess how well you understand yourself and whether you have enough humility to learn. It is best to share a real weakness, but one that you have taken active steps to improve. Take public speaking, for example. Give an example of how you have improved in this area. For example, you could say you participated in moot court, you went out

3 THINGS TO NEVER DO IN INTERVIEWS

1. Never ask about salary right away.

You certainly have a right to know, understand and even negotiate your salary and benefits. But first, you need to impress the interviewers and show that you are motivated by factors other than money. Wait until they bring up salary, or wait until you have an offer. At that point, feel free to ask all of the questions you want.

2. Never let disorganization add to your stress.

Interviews are stressful. So don't be late or do anything beforehand that will cause you to arrive at the interview feel-

ing even more stressed.

Being organized and prepared reduces stress. Arrive early. Be confident about your interview outfit, and come with extra resumes in hand. Then you will start the interview on a positive note.

3. Never leave an interview without asking about the next step.

If you ask the interviewers about their hiring timeline, you will know when to expect to hear from them, and when to follow up. It will also show that you are organized and detail-oriented — two positives for any attorney.



of your way to take a trial advocacy course, or you increased your class participation.

4. Why is there a gap on your resume?

The interviewer wants to understand your commitment and career path. If you took a year off between college and law school and didn't work, don't dwell on the bad job market or the fact that you were aimless. Find something positive that you did during the time (volunteer work, helping your family) and then shift to what motivated you to apply to law school. For example, "That was a difficult year, but one that helped me understand why I wanted to go to law school."

5. What is your class rank?

Unless you are at the top of your class, you might not be too thrilled with this question. Answer the question succinctly, making good eye contact and sitting up straight. Then shift the conversation to one of your strengths. For example, "The thing I have enjoyed the most about law school is moot court."

HOW TO HANDLE A LONG-DISTANCE INTERVIEW

If you search for a job out of state, chances are you will be offered a phone or video interview. Here are some tips on how to handle them without stressing out.

1. Set up your interview space.

Find a quiet room for the interview, preferably one with white walls or a neutral background. Ask the career services office at your school if they have a room you can borrow if you don't have an appropriate space at home. And always, always test the sound and video connection in the room you will be using. Your voice needs to be clear during a phone or video interview. Plus, smile — even during phone inter-

views. It makes a difference in your tone.

2. Act like you are in the same room.

Dress up, or at least dress business casual if it's a phone interview. You will feel more professional, which will boost your confidence. Also, have your resume and cover letter in front of you for reference.

3. Remember to make your key points.

Just because you aren't there in person, don't forget the key points you would make if you were in the room with the interviewer. People sometimes tend to be too casual during phone interviews and forget to sell themselves.



THE INTERVIEW IS OVER. NOW WHAT?

Tips for closing the deal

You rocked your interview, but the process isn't over. To keep up your momentum, here are a few things you can do.

1. Thank-you notes

Yes, you should always send a thank-you note. Send it out quickly, within 24 hours of the interview. Email is fine, but print is better, as it will stand out. It should be short, positive and free of typos. You can re-emphasize your interest in the position and reiterate why you would be the perfect fit. It's also nice to reference something you talked about during the interview that seemed to be of interest to the interviewer. If you were interviewed by a group, send a thank-you to each interviewer.

2. Follow-up (after an interview)

Following up is key. You must tread carefully, though. Too much follow-up and you risk becoming a nuisance. Too little and they may think you're not seri-

ously interested in the job. A polite email two weeks after the interview is appropriate if you have not heard back from them. You can write that you are checking in on the status of the position and that you are still interested and available.

If you have checked in politely and a few more weeks go by, what should you do? Another follow-up email or call is fine at this point. Ideally, you will have something new to tell them. For example, if you placed in a moot court competition, wrote in to a journal or have some other new activity or honor, let them know.

3. Follow-up (after a networking meeting)

Networking's a little different. You meet with someone for advice, and naturally you would like to stay in touch with them. You never know when they might

hear of a great job for you. As with follow-up after an interview, you should send a brief thank-you note right away. Then, a follow-up email about once a month is a good general guideline.

If you read an article you think would be of interest to them, send them the link. If you find out that you are getting an award at graduation, or that you just passed the bar exam, let them know. People genuinely want to help, but they often need to be reminded that you are still looking for a job.





How an LL.M. can ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Getting an advanced degree can make a difference, especially if you want to focus on a specialty area, such as tax or cybersecurity.

BY MIKE STETZ



With apologies to Sir Isaac Newton, we offer the first law of a successful legal career: A lawyer in motion stays in motion. (That's less chilling than, say, "Adapt or die.")

It would be hard to find attorneys who have not upped their game by remaining intellectually curious, either through their daily legal practice, networking, outside engagement or more schooling. Remaining static is not an attractive option, because an object that's static stays so.

That's where an LL.M. comes in. It can be a true game changer, particularly for mid-career attorneys. It can jump-start their current professional status or even help propel them into a whole new field. That's why The National Jurist annually offers a guide to the nation's LL.M. offerings, which are

growing more robust all the time.

Not only are more schools creating new programs but some are offering them online. So the options are expanding in both variety and accessibility.

Having that added degree can help job candidates stand out, particularly in fluid legal specialties, such as tax and compliance.

"It's like adding tools to the tool belt," said Robert "Joey" Dormady, director of graduate programs at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

He noted that over time, practicing lawyers hone certain skills — from litigation to legal writing to client engagement— and an LL.M. allows them to build on that very significant base. Having specialized knowledge can make them more valuable in their current roles or make them more attrac-

(Continued on page 28)

Guide to LL.M. Programs

Our guide includes programs open to U.S. law students. Programs are listed by subject and then alphabetically by school name.

KEY: Tuition is for residents and is listed per credit hour, unless otherwise noted. **DL** = Distance learning. A check mark denotes it is a distance learning

program. **P** = Partial, meaning the program is part online and part on campus. **PT** = Part-time program offered. Ext = Externships available.

Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
Admiralty & Maritime							
Tulane University	Admiralty & Maritime Law	June 15	\$60	\$64,868/yr		✓	
University of Miami	Maritime Law	Rolling	\$50	\$2,429	P	✓	✓
Animal							
Lewis & Clark Law School	Animal Law	Feb. 1	\$0	\$1,982	✓	✓	✓
Air & Space							
University of Mississippi	Air & Space Law	Rolling	\$50	\$940	P	✓	
Arbitration							
American University	International Arbitration & Business Law	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141	P	✓	✓
Georgetown University	International Arbitration with Tsinghua	Feb. 6	\$90	\$2,877			✓
Pepperdine University	International Commercial Arbitration	Rolling	\$0	\$2,340		✓	✓
University of Miami	International Arbitration	Rolling	\$50	\$2,429	P	✓	✓
Asian Law							
Temple University	Asian Law	Fall: June 1	\$50	\$1,500			
University of Washington	Asian & Comparative Law	May 1	\$90	\$28,701/yr		✓	
Biotechnology & Genomics							
Arizona State University	Biotechnology and Genomics	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Business: Banking							
Boston University	Banking & Financial Law	Fall: July 31; Sp: Oct. 31	\$85	\$61,160/yr	✓	✓	✓
Fordham University	Banking, Corporate & Finance Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
Texas A&M University	Wealth Management	Rolling	\$65	\$1,375		✓	
Business: Bankruptcy							
St. John's University	Bankruptcy Law	Rolling	\$0	\$2,183	P	✓	✓
UCLA Law	Business Law: Bankruptcy Track	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
Business: Corporate & Finance							
Chicago-Kent College of Law	Financial Services Law	April 1	\$75	n/a		✓	
Fordham University	Corporate Compliance	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664	✓	✓	✓
George Washington University	Business & Finance Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370		✓	✓
Indiana McKinney	Corporate & Commercial Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,503	P	✓	✓
New York University	Corporation Law	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a			
University of San Diego	Business & Corporate Law	Fall: Jun 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
Wayne State University	Corporate & Finance Law	Fall: June 1; Win: Dec. 1	\$0	\$1,097		✓	✓
Western Michigan University	Corporate Law & Finance	Rolling	\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	✓
Widener University Delaware	Corporate Law & Finance	Rolling	\$60	\$1,793		✓	✓
Business: Entrepreneurship							
Arizona State University	Entrepreneurship Law & Strategy	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
University of Colorado	Entrepreneurship & Business Law	Rolling	\$65	\$1,153			✓
Business: General							
Arizona State University	Business Law	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Emory University	Transactional Law	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			✓
George Mason University	Global Antitrust Law & Economics	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 1	\$0	\$826.50	P	✓	
Florida State University	Business Law	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 1	\$0	\$688.11	✓	✓	✓
Loyola University Chicago	Business Law	July 1	\$0	\$1,645		✓	✓
UCLA	Business Law	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
University of Maryland	Business Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of Texas	Business Law	March 1	\$75	\$31,728/yr			✓
University of Washington	Global Business Law	May 1	\$90	\$28,701/yr	P	✓	
USC Gould School of Law	Business Law	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
Business: Securities							
Georgetown University	Executive Securities & Financial Regulation	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
UCLA	Business Law: Securities Regulation Track	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓

tive candidates if they're looking for jobs at more lucrative firms.

An LL.M. also helps if they're considering new practice areas, Dormady said. Some lawyers graduate from law school not knowing exactly where their passions lie. So they take jobs to establish themselves and — this is important — pay the bills. Mid-career, they may realize they are not working in an area that truly speaks to them. Getting an LL.M. in a practice area they feel passionate about can make a positive transition possible.

Some LL.M. students come from Big Law firms, Dormady said. They have sig-

nificant experience but want to transition to a different kind of legal career.

Now is an opportune time to make a lateral career move. The lateral market has been off-the-charts hot, according to the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). Lateral hiring increased by 149% in 2021, NALP reported. That was partly because the pandemic had slowed such movement the year before.

But still . . .

"The fact that the lateral hiring market was red hot in 2021 does not come as a surprise to anyone working in the industry," James Leipold, executive director of NALP,

said in a press release at the time. "Even so, it is startling to see these numbers."

Dormady noted that Arizona State University looks to help its law graduates well past graduation. Indeed, it has a program called Law for Life, which offers alumni additional educational opportunities, including discounted tuition for LL.M. degrees and Master of Legal Studies (MLS) programs.

The school consistently looks for innovative ways to help graduates be successful well into their careers.

"We try to stay abreast of trends and help students accordingly," Dormady said.

A promotional banner for the USC Gould School of Law. The top half features a blue sky background with palm trees and the text "Redefine your legal career at USC Gould School of Law". The bottom half has a dark background with a building and lists program options. The URL "gould.law/LLM" is in the bottom left, and the "USC Gould School of Law" logo is in the bottom right.

Redefine your legal career
at USC Gould School of Law

Master of Laws (LLM) Degree
On-campus or online, with the option to extend to 2 years with English studies

Specialized LLM Certificates
Further your skills with a specialized law certificate as part of your USC LLM at no additional cost.

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Business Law
Media & Entertainment Law
Technology & Entrepreneurship Law
Transnational Law and Business

gould.law/LLM

USC Gould
School of Law

A range of offerings

It would be hard not to find an LL.M. program that resonates with your goals, given the range of offerings. Once mostly limited to foreign students seeking the degree to be eligible for the U.S. bar, the LL.M. is now available in a host of specialties.

A growing number of schools offer LL.M. degrees in trending fields such as intellectual property, health and environmental law. Tax continues to be one of the most popular LL.M. degrees, with more than 30 schools offering it.

Some schools focus on the strengths of their existing curriculums when they create their LL.M. programs. UCLA School of Law, for instance, offers the nation's only LL.M. in Critical Race Studies. The school has a long history in that subject area. Two years ago, it celebrated the 20th anniversary of the program and noted that it "remains unparalleled in legal education, is a key area of renown for UCLA Law, and ranks among our most popular centers of scholarship and specializations for students."

Fordham University School of Law has an LL.M. in Fashion Law. The school is based in New York, the nation's fashion capital.

Fordham officials note that the fashion industry incorporates numerous legal threads: "The diverse categories of law that affect the business of fashion include intellectual property, business and finance, international trade and government regulation, and consumer culture and civil rights."

While choices are plentiful, knowing which LL.M. programs could be most beneficial can be vexing. While it's common knowledge which law schools have the most prestigious J.D. programs — Yale, Harvard, Stanford, et al. — there's limited information about the quality of LL.M. programs. Just because a school has a laudable J.D.

(Continued on page 30)

A promotional banner for the Texas A&M University School of Law. It features a photo of two women in business attire talking. The text includes the school's name, program details, and contact information. A QR code is in the bottom left, and the address is in the bottom right.

ATM LAW

Master of Laws
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Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
UCLA	Business Law: Taxation Track	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
Widener University Delaware	Global Financial and Cyber Crimes	Rolling	\$60	\$1,793	✓	✓	
Comparative							
Cardozo School of Law	Comparative Legal Thought	Fall: June 15; Sp: Dec. 1	\$50	\$67,792/yr		✓	
Howard University	Comparative Intl. Law or Social Justice	March 15	\$60	\$32,000/yr	P	✓	✓
Louisiana State University	Comparative Law	March 31	\$0	\$10,000/yr			✓
Compliance, Ethics, Risk Management							
Albany Law School	Financial Compliance & Risk Management	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700	✓	✓	
Drake University	Compliance & Risk Management	Fall: April 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$0	\$1,538		✓	
Loyola University Chicago	Compliance & Enterprise Risk Management	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$1,645		✓	
Seton Hall University	Financial Services Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$1,653		✓	
Texas A&M University	Risk Management	Rolling	\$65	\$1,410	✓	✓	
University of Connecticut	Governance, Risk Mgmt. & Compliance	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 15	\$75	\$1,276	P	✓	
University of St. Thomas-MN	Ethics & Compliance	July 15	\$0	\$1,530	P	✓	✓
USC Gould	Financial Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
USC Gould	Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
Criminal							
Arizona State University	Criminal Law Emphasis	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr	✓	✓	✓
LMU Loyola	Criminal Justice	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	✓
University at Buffalo	Criminal Law	March 1	\$85	\$25,410/yr		✓	
University of San Diego	Criminal Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
Crisis Management							
University of Maryland	Crisis Management Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
Cybersecurity							
Albany Law School	Cybersecurity & Data Privacy	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700	✓	✓	
Drexel University	Cyber Law & Data Privacy	Rolling	\$0	\$30,600		✓	
George Mason University	Cyber, Intelligence & National Security	Dec. 21	\$0	\$924	P	✓	
LMU Loyola	Cybersecurity & Data Privacy	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	✓



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Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University is supporting tribal-driven initiatives with two of its LL.M. programs in Indian Gaming and Tribal Self-Governance Law. The programs build on the law school's Indian Legal Program.

program doesn't mean it has a stellar LL.M. program. It might track that way, or it might not.

The American Bar Association does not closely oversee LL.M. programs the way it does J.D. programs. A school only needs to gain consent from the accrediting body to start one.

As the ABA notes on its website: "ABA accreditation does not extend to any program supporting any other degree granted by the law school. Rather, the content and requirements of those degrees, such as an LL.M., are created by the law school itself and do not reflect any judgment by the ABA accrediting bodies regarding the quality of the program."

So schools have carte blanche in regard to how they design and manage their LL.M. programs.

How to choose an LL.M. program

If you're going after an LL.M., you need to pursue one that will make a serious difference in your career future. After all, who wants to go back to law school? Who wants to study, take copious notes, prime for exams?

Right. It better be worth it.

Tom Warschefsky wanted to pursue an LL.M., but he wanted to be sure it was the right move. He recently got his LL.M. in cybersecurity from University of Texas

School of Law in Austin because he hopes it will enhance his career. Warschefsky has been practicing law — his area is national defense — since graduating from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School in Lansing in 2009. However, he wanted to gain knowledge in cybersecurity, a specialty that's experiencing a huge increase in demand.

"I didn't know a ton about it," he said. "It impacts every aspect of our lives."

It was a mid-career move that made perfect sense, he said. His previous work was more client-focused. This would offer a different and broader perspective.

"If I would have done it right out of law school, I wouldn't have gotten the same kind of benefit," Warschefsky said. "It would have felt like another year of law school."

So how did he choose University of Texas?

Not many schools offer an LL.M. in cybersecurity, so that narrowed his search, but Warschefsky still did considerable research. Even though the cost was being paid by his employer, he still wanted to make sure he found the right fit. After all, he was going to be spending nearly a year on campus. He lives in North Carolina, and no law schools in his state offer an LL.M. in the specialty.

It turned out to be a win-win, he said.

Some LL.M. programs have been criticized for being too large, impersonal and revenue-driven. The most damning description? They're sometimes called "cash cows," meaning the law schools aim to supplement their budgets with money from LL.M. tuition.

Students looking to maximize their LL.M. experience might want to focus on programs with smaller class sizes.

The most recent University of Texas LL.M. class totaled 35 students. The class size is limited to allow the program to stay very much in tune with student needs, said Mauricio Pajón, director of graduate and international admissions.

"We want students to get what they came for and succeed academically and professionally," he said. "Our mission is to keep [the LL.M. program] diverse, selective and small and give each and every student the care and attention they need to be successful here."

One strength of the program is that LL.M. students can participate in all facets of the law school, from clinics to journals to student organizations, Pajón said. Experiential learning and extracurricular

(Continued on page 32)

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Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
University of Maryland	Cybersecurity Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	
University of Nebraska	Space, Cyber & Telecommunications Law	Rolling	\$50	\$28,104/yr			✓
University of Texas	Cybersecurity Law	March 1	\$75	\$31,728/yr			✓
USC Gould	Privacy Law & Cybersecurity	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	✓
Dispute Resolution							
Cardozo School of Law	Dispute Resolution	Fall: June 15; Sp: Dec. 1	\$50	\$67,792/yr		✓	
Pepperdine Caruso	Dispute Resolution	Rolling	\$0	\$2,340	P	✓	✓
University of Maryland	Dispute Resolution	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of Missouri	Dispute Resolution	Rolling	\$65-90	\$814.20	P	✓	✓
USC Gould	Alternative Dispute Resolution	Rolling	\$75	\$72,798/yr		✓	
Washington University	Negotiation & Dispute Resolution	Rolling	\$0	\$2,687		✓	✓
Elder, Estate Planning							
Stetson University	Elder Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Dec. 1	\$0	\$1,400	P	✓	
University of Miami	Estate Planning	Rolling	\$50	\$1,943		✓	
Western New England Univ.	Elder Law & Estate Planning	Rolling	\$0	\$1,600	✓	✓	
Employment, Labor							
University of Illinois Chicago	Employee Benefits	n/a	\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	
University of San Diego	Employment & Labor Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
USC Gould	Human Resources Law & Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
Wayne State University	Labor & Employment Law	Fall: June 1; Win: Dec. 1	\$0	\$1,097		✓	✓
Entertainment, Media, Sports							
LMU Loyola	Entertainment & New Media Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	✓
Pepperdine Caruso	Entertainment, Media & Sports	Rolling	\$0	\$2,340		✓	
Southwestern Law School	Entertainment & Media Law	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15; Sum: April 15	\$60	\$1,871	P	✓	✓
UCLA	Media, Entert. & Techn. Law & Policy	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
University of Miami	Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law	Rolling	\$50	\$2,429		✓	✓
USC Gould	Entertainment Law & Industry	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
Environmental, Energy, Natural Resources							
Florida State University	Environmental Law & Policy	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 1	\$0	\$688.11	P	✓	✓

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Nirmaleswar Thirunavukarasu, LLM
Class of 2022

Nirmaleswar Thirunavukarasu—Nirmal to his classmates—chose Emory Law because of its well-regarded reputation nationally and within the state of Georgia and a generous scholarship offer. He focused on foundational courses, including Civil Procedure, Contracts, and Constitutional Law, and appreciated the legal writing, research, and analysis he developed during his study.

“The LLM degree allows you to get acclimated with how the judiciary and the legal profession function in the US.”

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Pepperdine University Rick J. Caruso School of Law, located in Malibu along the Southern California coastline, offers an LL.M. program in dispute resolution, anchored by the renowned Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution.

opportunities abound.

The students are also given considerable support, including alumni mentors. The school has an LL.M. career services advisor as well.

For U.S. students, the primary reasons for seeking an LL.M. are to boost their careers or to pivot to a new specialty, such as energy, which University of Texas capitalizes on, given that Texas is the nation's largest energy producer.

Signature programs

Schools' signature programs can be quite a draw. Prospective students seek out such LL.M. programs because of their strengths and the possible career enhancement they can provide.

Pepperdine Caruso School of Law is an example. It offers more than a sweet location in Malibu along the Southern California coastline. Its dispute resolution program, anchored by the renowned Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, is one of the best — if not the best. So it should come as no surprise that Pepperdine offers an LL.M. in dispute resolution with three concentrations: mediation, arbitration and litigation.

"Dispute resolution is growing in demand all of the time," said Sukhsimranjit Singh, director of the school's LL.M. program. "It saves both time and money compared to a traditional litigation," he said. Additionally, it's less combative and helps preserve relationships. And it crosses borders, meaning it's accepted and practiced by many different

nations.

"It's a worldwide phenomenon," he said.

Pepperdine is at the forefront of helping lawyers develop these skills via its LL.M. programs. Most of the students are foreign attorneys who are attracted to the program because of its reputation. However, just like University of Texas, Pepperdine is very selective and keeps its LL.M. classes small.

An important key to a successful LL.M. program is catering to student wants and needs. This is not a one-size-fits-all kind of program, Singh said. The range of specializations offered is critical to meeting students' goals, he said.

Having stellar faculty is another vital element. When it comes to dispute resolution, each and every faculty member has practiced in that area of law, so their knowledge expands way beyond the textbooks, Singh said.

Students are drawn to the dispute resolution LL.M. because of its star power. Many are mid- or late-career lawyers. One student in Pepperdine's current class is a recently retired judge. Another is a current family court judge. Both are looking to become arbitrators, Singh said.

The school aims to help all students reach their career goals. It offers externship opportunities, and it is nothing if not focused on student success, Singh said.

Not only does the program owe that to students, he said, but it has a reputation to maintain.

"We're a leader," Singh said.

And LL.M. students are well aware of that rep.

Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
George Washington University	Energy, Envir. & Natural Resources	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370		✓	✓
Georgetown University	Environmental & Energy Law	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
Georgia State University	Environmental & Land Use Law	Fall: July 1	\$50	\$657	P	✓	
Lewis & Clark Law School	Environmental Law	Rolling	\$50	\$1,915	✓	✓	✓
Loyola Univ. New Orleans	Environmental Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$1,471		✓	✓
McGeorge School of Law	Water & Environmental Resources Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,411	✓	✓	✓
New York University	Environmental & Energy Law	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a		✓	✓
Pace University	Environmental Law	Rolling	\$60	\$1,875		✓	
Tulane University	Energy & Environment	June 15	\$60	\$60,720/yr		✓	
UCLA	Environmental Law	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
University of Colorado	Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law	Rolling	\$65	\$1,153			✓
University of Connecticut	Energy & Environmental Law	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 15	\$75	\$1,276		✓	✓
University of Denver	Environmental & Natural Resources	Rolling	\$65	\$1,796	P	✓	
University of Houston	Energy, Environment & Natural Resources	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$70	\$1,230 (approx.)	P	✓	✓
University of Maryland	Environmental Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of Oklahoma	Energy & Natural Resources	Rolling	\$50	\$524			
University of San Diego	Environmental & Energy Law	Fall: Jun 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: Apr 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
University of Texas	Global Energy, Intl Arb. & Environmental	March 1	\$75	\$31,728/yr			✓
Vermont Law School	Energy Law	Rolling	\$60	\$1,400	✓	✓	✓
Vermont Law School	Environmental Law	Rolling	\$60	\$1,400	✓	✓	✓
Family & Child							
Emory University	Child Law & Policy	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			✓
Hofstra University	Family Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$32,011		✓	
Loyola University Chicago	Child & Family Law	July 1	\$0	\$1,645	P	✓	
Fashion							
Fordham University	Fashion Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
Food & Agriculture							
University of Arkansas	Agricultural & Food Law	Rolling	\$0	\$497.60	✓	✓	✓
Vermont Law School	Food & Agriculture Law	Rolling	\$60	\$1,345	✓	✓	✓

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Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles

Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
Gaming							
Arizona State University	Indian Gaming	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr	P	✓	
University of Nevada	Gaming Law & Regulation	Rolling	\$100	\$1,450		✓	✓
Gender							
American University	Gender, International & Comparative Law	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
Government							
Albany Law School	Government Affairs and Advocacy	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700		✓	
American University	Law & Government	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
George Washington University	Government Procurement Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370	P	✓	
Health							
Albany Law School	Health Law and Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700	✓	✓	
Arizona State University	Health Law and Policy Emphasis	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
DePaul University	Health Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: Apr. 1	\$40	\$1,655	P	✓	✓
Drexel University	Health Care & Pharmaceutical Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$30,600		✓	
Georgetown University	Global Health Law & Governance	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098			✓
Georgetown University	National & Global Health Law	Feb. 6	\$90	\$2,877		✓	
Georgia State University	Health Law	Fall: July 1	\$50	\$657	P	✓	
Hofstra University	Health Law & Policy	Rolling	\$25	\$1,344	✓		
Indiana McKinney	Health Law Policy & Bioethics	Rolling	\$0	\$1,503	P	✓	✓
Loyola University Chicago	Health Law	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$1,645	✓	✓	✓
Loyola Univ. New Orleans	Healthcare Law & Administration	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$1,471		✓	✓
Northeastern University	Health Policy & Law	April 1	\$0	\$58,648/yr			✓
Saint Louis University	Health Law	Feb. 1	\$0	\$44,680	P	✓	✓
Seton Hall University	Health Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,653		✓	
University of Houston	Health Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$70	\$1,230 (approx.)		✓	✓
University of Maryland	Health Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of Washington	Health Law	July 1	\$90	\$1,076		✓	
USC Gould	Health Care Compliance	Rolling	\$0	\$2,815	✓	✓	
Human Condition							
Emory University	Vulnerability & the Human Condition	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			✓
Human Rights							
American University	Derechos Humanos y Derecho Humanitario	Dec. 1	\$55	\$2,141	P	✓	✓
Emory University	Human Rights Law	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			✓
Northeastern University	Human Rights & Economic Development	April 1	\$0	\$58,648/yr			
Regent University	Human Rights	Fall: Feb. 15; Sp: June 15	\$50	\$670	✓	✓	
St. Thomas University	Intercultural Human Rights	Rolling	\$50	\$1,230	P	✓	
UCLA	Human Rights	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			
University of Connecticut	Human Rights & Social Justice	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 15	\$75	\$1,276		✓	
University of Texas	Human Rights & Comparative Con. Law	March 1	\$75	\$31,728/yr			
Immigration							
Loyola Univ. New Orleans	Immigration & Citizenship Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$1,471	P	✓	✓
Texas Southern University	Immigration & Naturalization	July 15	\$55	\$9,705.84	P	✓	
Indigenous							
University of Arizona	Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy	Fall: July 1; Sp: Dec. 31	\$0	\$26,000/yr		✓	
University of Colorado	Indigenous Peoples Law	Rolling	\$65	\$1,153			
University of Oklahoma	Indigenous Peoples Law	Rolling	\$59	\$524	P	✓	
Innovation							
New York University	Competition, Innovation & Information	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a		✓	
Insurance							
University of Connecticut	Insurance Law	Fall: July 15; Sp: Dec. 15	\$75	\$1,326	P	✓	✓
Intellectual Property							
Albany Law School	Intellectual Property Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700		✓	
American University	Intellectual Property Law	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
Cardozo School of Law	Intellectual Property	Fall: June 15; Sp: Dec. 1	\$0	\$67,792/yr	✓	✓	
DePaul University	Intellectual Property Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: Apr. 1	\$40	\$1,655	P	✓	✓
Fordham University	Intellectual Property & Info Technology	Fall: March; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
George Mason University	Intellectual Property	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 15	\$0	\$905.50		✓	
George Washington University	Intellectual Property Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370		✓	✓

Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
Georgia State University	Intellectual Property Law	Fall: July 1	\$50	\$657	P	✓	
Indiana McKinney	Intellectual Property Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,503	P	✓	✓
LMU Loyola Law School	Intellectual Property Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	✓
Northeastern University	Intellectual Property & Innovation	April 1 for priority consideration	\$0	\$58,648/yr			✓
Nova Southeastern University	Intellectual Property, Cybersecurity & Technology Focus	Fall: Jun 1; Win: Nov. 1; Sum: March 1	\$0	\$1,494	✓	✓	
Seton Hall University	Intellectual Property Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,653		✓	
Texas A&M University	Intellectual Property	Rolling	\$65	\$1,274		✓	✓
University of Akron	Intellectual Property	Rolling	\$50	\$712.53	P	✓	✓
University of Colorado	IP, Technology & Telecommunications	Rolling	\$0	\$1,153	P		✓
University of Houston	Intellectual Property & Information Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$70	\$1,230 (approx.)		✓	✓
University of Illinois Chicago	Intellectual Property Law		\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	
University of Maryland	Intellectual Property Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of New Hampshire	Intellectual Property	Fall: Aug 1; Sp: Dec. 15	\$0	\$1,130	✓	✓	✓
University of San Diego	IP, Technology & Telecommunications	Fall: Jun 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
University of San Francisco	Intellectual Property & Technology Law	Rolling	\$70	\$1,995	P	✓	✓
University of Washington	Intellectual Property Law & Policy	July 1	\$90	\$1,076		✓	
Washington University	Intellectual Property & Technology Law	Rolling	\$0	\$2,687		✓	

International

Albany Law School	International Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700		✓	
American University	International Business & Trade Law	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
American University	Intl Human Rights & Humanitarian	Dec. 1	\$55	\$2,141	P	✓	✓
American University	International Legal Studies	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
Arizona State University	International Law	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Arizona State University	International Rule of Law & Security	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Chicago-Kent College of Law	International Intellectual Property Law	April 1	\$75	n/a			
DePaul University	International Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: Apr. 1	\$40	\$1,655	P	✓	✓
Fordham University	International Business & Trade Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
Fordham University	International Dispute Resolution	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓

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Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
Fordham University	International Law & Justice	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
George Washington University	International & Comparative Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370		✓	✓
Georgetown University	International Business & Economic Law	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
Indiana McKinney	International & Comparative Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,503	P	✓	✓
Indiana McKinney	International Human Rights Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,503	P	✓	✓
Liberty University	International Legal Studies	Rolling	n/a	\$565	✓	✓	
LMU Loyola Law School	International Business Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	✓
Loyola University Chicago	International Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Dec. 1.	\$0	\$1,645	P	✓	✓
New York University	Intl. Bus. Reg., Litigation & Arbitration	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a			
New York University	International Legal Studies	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a		✓	✓
Northeastern University	International Business Law	April 1	\$0	\$58,648/yr			✓
Northwestern University	International Human Rights	Jan. 15	\$0	\$74,736/yr	P		✓
Notre Dame Law School	International Human Rights Law	March 15	\$0	\$63,840/yr			✓
Pepperdine University	Intl. Commercial Law and Dispute Res.	Rolling	\$0	\$2,340		✓	
St. Mary's University	International & Comparative Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,450	P	✓	
St. Mary's University	International Criminal Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,450	P	✓	
Stetson University	International Law	Rolling	\$0	\$2,347	P	✓	✓
Texas A&M University	International Taxation	Rolling	\$65	\$1,410	✓	✓	
Tufts University	International Law	Rolling	\$80	\$50,280/yr			
UCLA	International & Comparative Law	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
University of Arizona	International Trade & Business Law	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 30	\$0	\$26,000/yr	✓	✓	✓
University of Arizona	Global Mining Law	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 15; Sum: April 20	\$0	\$650			
University of Colorado	International Law and Human Rights	Rolling	\$65	\$1,153			✓
University of Denver	International Business Transactions	Rolling	\$65	\$1,796	P	✓	
University of Florida	International Taxation	July 1	\$30	\$815.81		✓	
University of Houston	International Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$70	approx. \$1,230	P	✓	✓
University of Maryland	International & Comparative Law	July 1	\$70	\$1,109.20		✓	✓
University of Miami	International Law	Rolling	\$50	\$2,429	P	✓	✓
University of Michigan	International & Comparative Law	Jan. 15	\$75	\$31,840			
University of New Hampshire	International Criminal Law & Justice	Fall: Aug 1; Sp: Dec. 15	\$0	\$1,130	✓	✓	✓
University of San Diego	International Law	Fall: Jun 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
University of San Francisco	Intl. Transactions & Comparative Law	Rolling	\$70	\$1,995	P	✓	✓
University of Texas	Latin American & International Law	March 1	\$75	\$31,728/yr			
University of Washington	Sustainable International Development	May 1	\$90	\$28,701/yr		✓	✓
USC Gould	International Business & Economic Law	May 1	\$75	\$72,798/yr			✓
Legal Studies							
Albany Law School	Advanced Legal Studies	Rolling	\$0	\$1,700		✓	
American University	Legislation	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
Arizona State University	Law & Sustainability Emphasis	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Drake University	Individualized Legal Studies	Fall: April 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$0	\$1,538		✓	
Emory University	Law & Religion	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			
George Mason University	Law & Economics	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 15	n/a	\$826.50	P	✓	
Georgetown University	Law & Technology	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
Georgia State University	Legal Analytics & Innovation	Fall: July 1	\$50	\$657	P	✓	✓
Loyola University Chicago	Rule of Law for Development	July 1	\$0	\$1,645			✓
Hofstra University	American Legal Studies	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$0	\$32,011		✓	
New York University	Legal Theory	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a			
Seattle University	American Legal Studies	June 30	\$65	\$1,772	P	✓	
UCLA	Critical Race Studies	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			
UCLA	Law & Philosophy	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
UCLA	Law & Sexuality	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			✓
University at Buffalo	Cross-Border Legal Studies	March 1	\$85	\$25,410/yr		✓	✓
University of Denver	American Law Practice	Rolling	\$65	\$1,796	P	✓	
University of Kansas	American Legal Studies	April 1	\$55	\$751	P	✓	
University of Michigan	American Legal System	Jan. 15	\$75	\$31,840			✓
Litigation, Trial Advocacy							
American University	Trial Advocacy	Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$55	\$2,141		✓	✓
Baylor University	Litigation Management	Rolling	\$0	\$1,471	P	✓	✓
George Washington Univ.	Litigation & Dispute Resolution	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370		✓	✓
LMU Loyola Law School	Civil Litigation & Advocacy	Fall: March 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$59,990/yr		✓	
Loyola University Chicago	Trial Advocacy, Appellate & ADR	July 1	\$0	\$1,645		✓	
Stetson University	Advocacy	Aug. 1	\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	
Temple University	Trial Advocacy	June 1	\$50	\$27,500/yr	P	✓	✓

Law School	Subject	Application Deadline	App Fee	Tuition (resident)	DL	PT	Ext
National Security							
George Washington Univ.	National Security & Cybersecurity Law	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370	P	✓	
George Washington Univ.	National Security & U.S. Foreign Rel.	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$80	\$2,370	P	✓	✓
Georgetown University	National Security Law	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
Western Michigan University	Homeland & National Security Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	
Patent							
Arizona State University	Patent Practice	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	n/a		✓	✓
University of Minnesota	Patent Law	Rolling	\$75	\$43,700/yr	P	✓	
Practice Skills							
Thomas Jefferson S.O.L.	Practice Skills	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$0	\$1,340		✓	
Public Interest							
Emory University	Public Law & Regulation	Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov. 15	\$85	\$2,498			✓
UCLA	Public Interest Law & Policy	Feb. 1	\$0	\$67,248/yr			
Real Estate							
Fordham University	Real Estate Law	Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$70	\$2,664		✓	✓
University of Illinois Chicago	Real Estate Law	n/a	\$0	\$1,200	✓	✓	✓
University of Miami	Real Property Development	Rolling	\$50	\$1,943	✓	✓	
Taxation							
Boston University	Taxation	Fall: July 31; Sp: Oct. 31	\$85	\$29,690	✓	✓	
Chapman University	Taxation	Rolling	\$15	\$1,920		✓	✓
DePaul University	Taxation	Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Su: Apr. 1	\$40	\$1,655	P	✓	✓
Georgetown University	Taxation	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	✓
Georgetown University	Executive Taxation	Feb. 3	\$90	\$3,098		✓	
LMU Loyola Law School	Taxation	Fall: May 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: March 1	\$0	\$1,970	✓	✓	✓
Loyola University Chicago	Taxation	July 1	\$0	\$1,645		✓	✓
New York Law School	Taxation	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 1; Sum: April 30	\$0	\$1,500	P	✓	✓
New York University	Taxation	Sp: Nov. 1; Fall: June 1	\$85	n/a	✓	✓	
New York University	Taxation	Fall: April 1	\$85	n/a		✓	
Northwestern University	Taxation	June 1	\$75	\$71,432/yr	P	✓	
Southern Methodist University	Taxation	Fall: April 1; Sp: Oct. 1	\$0	\$52,514	P	✓	
Suffolk University	Taxation	Rolling	\$60	\$2,275	P	✓	
Taft Law School	Taxation	Rolling	\$75	\$495	✓		
Temple University	Taxation	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 15; Sum: May 1	\$50	\$874	P	✓	✓
University of Alabama	Taxation	Aug. 1	\$50	\$1,822	✓	✓	
University of Baltimore	Taxation	Fall: Aug. 1; Sp: Dec. 1; Sum: May 1	\$0	\$1,019	✓	✓	✓
University of Denver	Taxation	Rolling	\$65	\$1,796	✓	✓	✓
University of Denver	Taxation	Rolling	\$65	\$1,796	P	✓	✓
University of Florida	Tax Law	July 1	\$30	\$815.81		✓	
University of Houston	Taxation	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15	\$70	\$1,230 (approx.)	P	✓	✓
University of Miami	Taxation	Rolling	\$50	\$2,242	P	✓	✓
University of Missouri-K.C.	Taxation	Rolling	\$60	\$789.80	P	✓	✓
University of San Diego	Taxation	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1; Sum: April 1	\$0	\$2,025		✓	✓
University of San Francisco	Taxation	Priority (Spr: Nov. 1; , Sum: April 1; Fall: June 1), then rolling	\$75	\$2,050	✓	✓	
University of Washington	Taxation	July 1	\$90	\$925		✓	
Washington University	Taxation	Rolling	n/a	\$2,687	✓	✓	✓
Wayne State University	Taxation	Fall: June 1; Win: Dec. 1	\$0	\$1,097		✓	✓
Western Michigan University	Taxation	Rolling	\$0	\$1,200		✓	
Technology							
Arizona State University	Science & Technology Law	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	
Chicago-Kent College of Law	Legal Innovation & Technology	April 1	\$75	\$43,000/yr			✓
Seattle University	Techn. Innovation & Entrepreneurship	June 30	\$65	\$1,772	P	✓	
Suffolk University	Global Law & Technology	Fall: May 15; Sp: Oct. 1	\$60	\$2,275	P	✓	
University of New Hampshire	Commerce & Technology	June 1	\$0	\$35,420/yr	P		✓
Transnational							
McGeorge School of Law	Transnational Business Practice	Rolling	\$0	\$1,411	P	✓	✓
Temple University	Transnational	Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1	\$50	\$1,500		✓	
University of Dayton	American & Transnational Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,237	✓	✓	✓
Willamette University	Transnational Law	Rolling	\$0	\$1,922		✓	✓
Tribal							
Arizona State University	Tribal Self-Governance	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr		✓	✓
Arizona State University	Law & Religion	Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 27	\$0	\$29,664/yr	P	✓	✓

4 things I wasted money on in law school

BY ALEXANDRA SUMNER

When you're in law school, struggling to get by on a part-time job and purchasing textbooks that can cost as much as \$300 each, every dollar counts.

While law school might seem like the place to go all out financially, you're basically shooting yourself in the foot if you do. There's nothing worse than getting your first adult job and being unable to treat yourself because you are too focused on paying off the credit card you used during law school at 21% interest.

Not that I know that from experience or anything...

Below are four things I wasted money on in law school. And as they say: Caveat emptor.

1. The newest version of a textbook

Every semester, books get more and more expensive. And some professors require that you purchase not only the textbooks but also supplemental guidebooks and codebooks.

These books can add up quickly. In my case, the average cost of books per semester was about \$800.

You do not need to buy the latest version of the textbook, which often costs significantly more than the previous one. For the most part, the material is the same, and if the book is missing a recent case or legal principle, you can always ask to borrow a classmate's book for the reading.

However, you might run into trouble if the book has undergone a significant overhaul between versions. In some cases, the formatting, page numbers and general organization of the book may be completely different. So, spend some time comparing the two versions before buying.

2. Food

I was pretty good in this area. I packed my lunch (and sometimes dinner) and only stopped in at our school's cafe for an emergency cup of coffee or one of their loaded baked potatoes. But I noticed that many of my classmates purchased all their food from the cafe, ordered DoorDash (yes, I'm serious) or purchased drive-thru food to bring to class.

The person who sat behind me in Civil Procedure brought in a fast-food breakfast every day — and I mean every, single, day.

He could afford to do that because his father owned a law firm, but for those of us without that kind of financial support, buying fast food daily is just stupid. It's bad for your body and bad for your wallet, and you're going to need both of those things to pass the bar exam and become a successful lawyer.

3. A high-tech laptop

Repeat after me: You do not need an expensive laptop to be successful in law school.

Honestly, you don't. You don't need a MacBook Air, Alienware or anything other than a simple, down-to-earth piece of tech. The only reason to consider a MacBook Air is that you can type messages to other Apple users during class, and that can be quite distracting.

All you need your computer to do is run Google Drive (or some other cloud storage service), Microsoft Word, the internet and maybe Microsoft PowerPoint. It should have a webcam and microphone for online classes, and that's it.

All you'll be doing is reading cases and writing notes. No need to get fancy.

4. A briefcase

When I was accepted to an externship with my state's Supreme Court, I freaked out. I needed new clothes. And a new haircut. And a briefcase.

I was about to be surrounded by some of the top legal minds in the state. I certainly couldn't show up with my Michael Kors tote and be considered a professional.

So I searched and searched online until I finally found it: a real leather messenger brief-

case with the option of having my initials embossed on the side in gold. Perfect!

First of all, I spent way too much money on it, and second, I haven't touched the thing in years. It's been in the back of my closet since my externship was completed.

Sure, I have a beautiful bag that looks like something Atticus Finch would carry, but I'm not even a litigator.

Save your money. Buy a regular briefcase if you feel you need one, but a nice tote bag will work just as well.

Take my advice: Law school isn't a competition about who has (or will make) the most money. It's a serious, grueling, emotionally taxing three years of studying.



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