Columbia Law School

Self-Guided Tour
We are delighted that you have chosen to visit Columbia Law School. Touring our campus offers more than a sense of how to make your way from the classroom to the library; you will also see how you could, as a student, engage with faculty, your peers, and our community.

Our main Law School building is Jerome L. Greene Hall. Classrooms there are entirely refurbished and multimedia-equipped for everything from audiovisual presentations to video conferencing. A recently-completed expansion added an entire floor, providing space to support the Dean’s initiative to significantly increase the Law School’s faculty.

Two of our newer buildings, William C. Warren Hall and William and June Warren Hall, provide additional classroom, meeting, and administrative space. Lenfest Hall offers apartment-style living exclusively for our law students.

The current generation of Columbia Law School students now benefits from facilities whose quality matches the excellence of our renowned faculty, and from amenities and services as innovative as the Law School’s pioneering legal programs.
THIS TOUR BEGINS at the Law School’s newest building, William and June Warren Hall (WJ). Located on the northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue at 115th Street, WJ includes amphitheater-style classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art teaching resources, a center for the Law School’s international programs, and conference facilities. The building’s fifth floor houses services crucial to every law student, including the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Registration Services, and Student Services. You are encouraged to stop by any of these offices, where staff members will be happy to speak with you. Note that a visitor’s pass, which is necessary to tour Diamond Law Library, is available in the Office of Admissions.

From WJ, head uptown one block to the Law School’s main building, Jerome L. Greene Hall, which is located at 435 West 116th Street, just east of Amsterdam Avenue. As you enter the lobby on the first floor — graced with a 37-foot-high ceiling — notice the wall of plaques to your left, which honors many of the School’s alumni/æ and friends.
This floor of Greene Hall is also home to most of the Law School’s core classrooms. To the right of the main entrance area are Classrooms 102A and 102B. Turning left as you face Classrooms 102A and 102B will take you down the east corridor, which is lined with bulletin boards for student organizations (there are more than 70), as well as entrances to Classrooms 104 and 106.

From here, take the hallway lined with student lockers across to the west corridor, which runs parallel to this one. Along that corridor are more bulletin boards; display cases featuring publications of professors and alumni/ae; and Classrooms 101, 103, 105, and 107.

Proceed to the elevator bank to the left as you pass Classroom 103. Take an elevator, or the Skadden Staircase ahead in the east corridor, to the third floor. As you arrive at the top landing, you will see the library entrance across from the third floor elevators.

Columbia’s Diamond Law Library, which occupies space on the second through fourth floors of Greene, is home to one of the richest collections in the nation, boasting over 400,000
titles in 65 different languages. The glass-enclosed room that cantilevers over the staircase is the Milton Handler Rare Books and Manuscripts Room, in which scholars examine the Law School’s many historical treasures, including original documents from the Nuremberg Tribunal and the South African Treason Trials.

To your left as you face the library’s entrance, you will notice Charles H. Revson Plaza — an outdoor common area and sculpture garden that bridges Amsterdam Avenue to connect the Law School with Columbia’s main campus. In good weather, many students find this to be one of the best places for studying or taking a break between classes.

Across from the library entrance is the Alan N. Cohen Student Information Center, a computer lab for students. Proceed down the steps to the right of this room to the commons area. (There is also a handicapped-accessible lift on the other side of the bank of elevators.) The commons area is where students often congregate to study and socialize. Power outlets and wireless coverage are available throughout.
To your right is the Donald G. Drapkin Student Lounge, a place for quiet reading that also serves as one of our popular event spaces. Follow the commons gallery along the lounge area facing 116th Street. Adjoining this space is a small dining room for private functions and, next to it, the Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest Café, a convenient option for students, faculty, and staff to grab a bite to eat.

Turning left from the commons area while facing the café, you will find a staircase leading up to the third floor landing. At the top of this staircase is the Class of 1970 classroom and a study group space, adjacent to a handicapped-accessible restroom. (Other restrooms are located in the middle of the east corridor on the first floor.)

The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth floors of Greene Hall house faculty and administrative offices and seminar rooms. The recently-added ninth floor houses a conference room with sweeping views of Manhattan, as well as offices for 38 faculty members.
The Law School is also housed in other buildings nearby. The Jerome Greene Annex is home to the Office of Career Services on the second floor. To reach the Annex, walk along the east corridor on the first floor of Greene until you reach the end. Turn right, go up the steps and outside. Walk straight ahead about 75 feet. The Annex is located on your right.

Across the street from Greene Hall’s main entrance on 116th Street is a small red-brick building known as the Greenhouse. It contains offices for several of the Law School’s academic journals (there are currently 14, including the American Review of International Arbitration, the Journal of Law and Social Problems, and the Columbia Business Law Review).

Just to the left of the Greenhouse is a modern, 10-story building known as William C. Warren Hall, home to the Columbia Law Review and Morningside Heights Legal Services, one of the Law School’s clinics serving our local community. Warren Hall also houses the Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) office, which includes the Center for Public Interest Law. SJI presents lectures and other programs on public interest issues and connects students with jobs and pro bono opportunities in the public service sector.

Also located in Warren Hall, on the top floor, is the Francis S. Levien Lounge, a conference and reception area with stunning views of New York’s east side.
Columbia Law School traces its beginnings back to King’s College, as Columbia University was called at its founding in 1754. As the 18th century progressed, society came to recognize the wisdom of teaching law in a university setting, as opposed to solely through an office apprenticeship. In 1793, James Kent was named the first professor of law at King’s college, and his lectures were eventually published as the classic *Commentaries on American Law*.

Columbia Law School was officially founded on November 1, 1858, as a two-year program under the leadership of our first dean, Theodore Dwight. He continued to advocate the superiority of academic training over office instruction, which prevailed as the norm at the time. The early years of the 20th century saw a growing sophistication of legal scholarship, and Columbia expanded its curriculum to meet those needs. Today, Columbia Law School offers a very broad curriculum to meet the demands of a changing society, but continues to emphasize the fundamentals of law.
The Office of Admissions is located on the fifth floor of William and June Warren Hall, situated on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 115th Street, and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A schedule of law classes you may visit can be obtained there or by consulting our website: www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/ jd/visit.