There may be no other law school that brings together people of such intellectual talent and uncommon commitment, from such a remarkable diversity of cultural backgrounds and perspectives, in such an invigorating place to live and learn, as Columbia Law School.

To study law at Columbia is to be a member of an exceptional community that provides students with an education long renowned for its intellectual rigor and high standards. Columbia law students are enriched by learning from an eminent faculty and by collaborating with remarkable classmates, stimulated by immersion in their distinctive environs, supported by abundant resources, and inspired by the Law School’s tradition of leadership in shaping world events and human affairs.
Welcome to the Columbia Law School community. We appreciate your interest in our Law School and look forward to assisting you as you plan your legal career. Columbia is a very special place to pursue a legal education; I would like to share three factors that make it a privilege for me to have attended and, now, work at the Law School—they are the exceptional legal training we provide, our remarkable students, and our incomparable location.

Throughout its storied history, Columbia Law School has remained committed to the pursuit of excellence and its command of academic vitality. Columbia offers a challenging, yet supportive environment where theory and practice converge; where coursework is both vast in scope and substantive in depth; where teaching by renowned scholars is the very cornerstone of the academic experience; and where opportunities to become immersed in the legal intricacies affecting our local neighborhood or the far reaches of the globe abound equally.

Our students are the perfect complement (and, perhaps, compliment) to our esteemed faculty—they are bright, engaged, and widely talented. Their varied backgrounds are the veritable hallmark of our Law School’s institutional character. Though the nature of each student's journey to Columbia is unique, a genuine sense of community is nevertheless engendered on our campus from the moment our entering class arrives in the fall. Equipped with the shared goals of engaging in superior legal scholarship and training, while also developing close friendships and professional relationships along the way, our students pride themselves on the reciprocal, dynamic process of learning from one another.

The Law School campus provides a comfortable and lively atmosphere for students, faculty, and administrators alike. But the larger campus extends beyond the immediate environs of Columbia to the broader setting of New York City—the international center of both public service and private interests. What an incredible opportunity to have the United Nations, Wall Street, Harlem, Broadway, and Greenwich Village as a backdrop for learning.

We invite you to learn more about the Law School by perusing our website, creating a personalized online “My Columbia Law” account, and, if you are able, touring our campus, attending classes, talking to our students, or attending one of our admission seminars offered throughout the fall and early winter.

As you complete our application, I encourage you to also use this process as an opportunity to learn something about yourself—your strengths, your character, your ideals; you might even surprise yourself! We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm wishes,
Nkonye Iwerebon ’93
Dean of Admissions
A PROUD TRADITION

Columbia Law School was formally established in 1858 after more than sixty years of law instruction at Columbia College. From its inception, the Law School encouraged its students and faculty to mold the law, not merely convey it. Today, more than 150 years after Columbia Law School was founded, this philosophy is reflected in the contributions our graduates have made—not only to the legal profession but also to government and politics, business, education, philanthropy, and the arts—shaping culture and human progress throughout the world.
The development of the law, Columbia, and the nation have progressed together over the past two centuries. Columbia Law School, one of the first law schools in the United States and a charter member of the American Association of Law Schools, evolved from the teaching of law in King’s College, as Columbia was called during the colonial period. Early students included Alexander Hamilton, author of The Federalist Papers, and John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States. In 1793, James Kent was named the first professor of law at Columbia College, and he lectured until he was appointed to the Supreme Court of New York in 1798. After his retirement from the bench, Judge Kent returned to Columbia, and his lectures were eventually published as the classic Commentaries on American Law.

Columbia Law School’s first dean, Theodore William Dwight, did much to establish the superiority of academic training over office instruction, the norm at the time, to a skeptical legal profession. William A. Keener, who succeeded Dean Dwight in 1891, spread the use of the case teaching method, revamped the entire curriculum, extended the period of study to three years, enlarged the faculty, and elevated admission standards.

The early 1900s saw a growing sophistication in legal research and thought. The Columbia Law Review was established in 1901 to disseminate some of this new scholarship. Harlan Fiske Stone, who became dean in 1910 and was later Chief Justice of the United States, strove to help students recognize that the law is adaptable to changing conditions in society. In 1911, the Legislative Drafting Research Fund was established to improve federal, state, and municipal lawmaking. In 1928, the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law was formed, strengthening Columbia’s leading role in the study of international law.

Columbia’s reputation as an innovator among American law schools in legal scholarship and curricular reform strengthened in the succeeding decades. Continuing the pioneering tradition were Professor Wálter Gellhorn ’31, who codified the body of knowledge that now constitutes American administrative law; Professor Herbert Wechsler ’31, who drafted the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Model Penal Code; and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg ’59, who, as a Columbia professor in the 1970s, advanced women’s equality rights through her scholarship, teaching, and advocacy in the United States Supreme Court, where she now sits as Associate Justice.

Columbia continues to pioneer programs to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. At the same time, it has retained its historic commitment to provide a rigorous legal education and to serve as one of the world’s leading centers for legal scholarship, innovation, and excellence. Following in that tradition, the Center for Law and Economic Studies was founded in 1975, and in 1984 the Law School established the Human Rights Internship Program, which offers students an opportunity to work as summer interns with human rights organizations in the United States and throughout the world. More recently, the Center for Contract and Economic Organization was created to engage the University’s leading scholars in contract theory in better understanding and improving real-world transactions and institutions.

NOTEWORTHY

1754: Columbia University, formerly known as King’s College, was founded near the present site of New York’s City Hall.

1858: Columbia Law School was founded as one of the first law schools in the United States.

1860: The Law School’s first commencement, graduating 28 students, took place at the New-York Historical Society.

1896: Columbia University moved to its current location in Morningside Heights.

1901: The Columbia Law Review was established.

1910: Harlan Fiske Stone, who later was Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, became dean of the Law School.

1927: The first women were enrolled at the Law School.

1954: Jack Greenberg ’48, in his capacity as counsel for the NAACP, argued Brown v. Board of Education before the U.S. Supreme Court.

1994: Columbia Law School was the first U.S. law school to establish a double-degree program, providing its participants with both a U.S. Juris Doctor and a foreign law degree.

2006: Columbia Law School established the first study-abroad program of any U.S. law school with Chinese universities—Fudan and Peking.

2006: Columbia Law School created the nation’s first sexuality and gender law clinic.

2009: Columbia Law School introduced the Center for Climate Change Law.

2010: Columbia introduced the Federal Government Externship Program in D.C., giving students hands-on experience in government law offices.

2010: Columbia launched the three-year J.D./M.B.A. dual-degree program.

2011: Columbia inaugurated the Center for Public Research and Leadership, playing an important role in preparing leaders to promote public-sector change.

2012: Columbia reinforces teaching, scholarship, and resources in the field of international arbitration with the Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration Law.
Worthy successors to earlier architects of American law teach at Columbia today. Prominent among them are legal scholars who have influenced the development of domestic and international law. James S. Liebman, the Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Law, for example, has led advancements in the areas of education, habeas corpus, and capital punishment, having argued several appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court. Similarly, Trevor Morrison, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, has been crucial to the exploration and progression of executive branch legal interpretation, as well as habeas corpus and executive detention, as evidenced by his service as Associate Counsel to the President.

Columbia faculty members are also advancing the frontiers of knowledge in intellectual property law, corporate law, feminist jurisprudence, and critical race theory. Among a network of scholars pursuing intellectual property issues posed by new technologies is Professor Jane C. Ginsburg, co-author of the casebooks *Cases and Materials on Copyright* and *Trademark and Unfair Competition Law*, and author of numerous articles. Her colleague, Professor Timothy Wu, is known in the world of technology for making popular the phrase “network neutrality”—the idea that all Internet content should be carried equally by all information providers. Professor Wu’s newest book, *The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires*, examines how mass media technologies have historically succumbed to corporate consolidation and the consequences if such a fate befalls the Internet.

Professor Patricia J. Williams, one of the most provocative intellectuals in American law, is widely published in the areas of race and gender law. Her book *The Alchemy of Race and Rights* has earned international praise for redefining the debate about the relation of law to complex social problems. Professor Williams’ memoir, *Open House: Of Family, Friends, Food, and the Search for a Room of My Own*, was published to critical acclaim in the fall of 2004.

Another Columbia tradition—the study and development of corporate law—dates back to the classic survey of the American corporation undertaken by Columbia Professors Adolf Berle and Gardiner Means in the 1930s. Today, innovative scholarship is advanced by Columbia’s Center on Corporate Governance, comprised of Professor Harvey J. Goldschmid, a longtime commissioner of the SEC, and John C. Coffee Jr., Berle Professor of Law and the current director of the Center. Intent on rethinking the legal structures underpinning corporate America, these scholars address such topics as bankruptcy, securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, white collar crime, and antitrust law, among others. Recently, several of Columbia’s corporate law professors have been among our nation’s most prominent scholars advocating for reform of corporate governance structures and practices that culminated in the recent series of corporate scandals. For generations now, Columbia professors have led the examination of how markets may work more effectively and how corporate governance affects national well-being.

Today, Columbia’s programmatic initiatives extend beyond corporate law and include the establishment of the Centers for Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Legal Studies; the Center on Global Governance; the Kernochan Center for Law, Media, and the Arts; and the European Legal Studies Center. Columbia has also built upon its strength in human rights by establishing the Human Rights Institute in 1998 and has expanded its commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship by inaugurating the Center for Law and Philosophy; the Center on Crime, Community, and Law; and the Center for the Study of Law and Culture. In 2006, Columbia created the nation’s first clinical program in sexuality and gender law to provide students cutting-edge training in impact litigation, legislative work, and community advocacy. In 2009, Columbia launched the Center for Climate Change Law, directed by Professor Michael B. Gerrard—often cited as one of the world’s leading environmental lawyers.

“Over the past two centuries, Columbia Law School has trained many great legal minds, among them scholars, practitioners, public servants, and political leaders. Our faculty and alumni are engaged in identifying solutions to many of humankind’s most urgent concerns. Today, this need is greater than it has ever been, and Columbia Law School is proud to answer the call.”

David M. Schizer, Dean of the Faculty
AN EMINENT UNIVERSITY

One of the many advantages enjoyed by Columbia law students is participation in the life of a great university. Renowned worldwide for its academic standards and abundant resources, Columbia University is a distinctive and distinguished seat of higher learning.

To meet the needs of a legal profession that has become increasingly interdisciplinary, the Law School’s professors and students collaborate with Columbia’s many schools, colleges, and institutes. They draw heavily on the expertise and knowledge of the University’s leading authorities in economics, international relations, religious studies, social theory, history, and other academic disciplines. Now, more than ever before, the Law School serves as a resource to other scholars throughout the University who are examining the legal issues raised by rapid advancements in science, medicine, technology, and communications.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

• Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Ph.D. in selected programs)
• Graduate School of Business: 3- and 4-year programs (M.B.A.)
• School of International and Public Affairs (M.I.A., M.P.A., and special programs through the East Asian Institute and the Harriman Institute)
• Graduate School of Journalism (M.S.)
• School of the Arts (M.F.A. in Theatre Management and Producing)
• Mailman School of Public Health (M.P.H.)
• School of Social Work (M.S.W.)
• School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (M.S. in Urban Planning)
• Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government (M.P.P.)*
• Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (M.P.A.)
• Tufts University’s Fletcher School of International Affairs (M.A. in Law and Diplomacy)*
• Johns Hopkins University’s Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (M.A. in International Relations)*

*Joint programs approved on an ad hoc basis by a committee of Law Faculty

“If you think of Columbia as Ivy and a world unto itself, which it is, and as one of America’s oldest and most venerable institutions, which it is, you also have to think of it as an eclectic, profoundly democratic university connected to the essential pluralism of American life.”

Carol Gluck
George Sansom Professor of History
Columbia University

With approximately 200 institutes and centers engaged in specialized research, Columbia University offers students the opportunity to develop an unusually broad perspective on the world. By allowing Law School students to apply up to 10 credits from any other part of the University toward their J.D. degree, the Law School presents students interested in international law, for example, the opportunity to take classes and attend lectures given by leading scholars from Columbia’s Harriman Institute (which focuses on Russia), the Center for the Study of Human Rights, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Institute of African Studies, the Middle East Institute, the East Central European Center, and the Graduate School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). University-sponsored lectures, seminars, and brown bag lunches regularly feature heads of state, ambassadors, authors, and scholars from around the world.
A compelling reason to study law at Columbia is the opportunity to learn with the exceptional individuals who comprise its community. In selecting students and appointing faculty, Columbia chooses men and women with extraordinary intellectual gifts and outstanding academic credentials. Fired by a sense of pride and a spirit of service, the men and women of Columbia Law School consider themselves to be hands-on participants in building legal systems and social organizations that protect justice and promote opportunity for all.
In a period marked by significant changes in the demand for legal education, Columbia continues to attract one of the very largest and most highly qualified applicant pools in the country. As evaluated by the principal criteria used to measure admissions selectivity—application volume, acceptance rates, yield ratios (the percentage of accepted applicants choosing to enroll), median LSAT scores, and undergraduate performance—Columbia continues to stand among the most highly selective law schools in the United States. Columbia has also renewed its intellectual excellence by recruiting outstanding teachers and scholars from other leading law schools, the legal profession, and other university faculties. In selecting students and faculty, however, Columbia has long considered it essential to go beyond outstanding academic credentials. In fact, one would be hard pressed to identify a leading law school more diverse than Columbia. With a truly national and increasingly international student body (representing approximately 200 colleges and universities and hailing from 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 39 countries); with more students of color than other leading law schools and almost half of its students women; with two-thirds of its entering law students returning to school from a wide range of academic and professional experiences; and with a student community noted for its religious and political diversity, Columbia is a distinctive place to learn law.

Younger Columbia law students are among the brightest and most accomplished members of their undergraduate institutions. Older students are accomplished professionals across a wide range of fields—the arts, sciences, publishing, politics, human rights, banking, to name but a few. Columbia attracts students from every conceivable place and background: the industrial corridors and Ivy halls of the Northeast, the small towns, farms, and suburbs of the Midwest and South, the inner cities of America, and the far reaches of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The mixture of interests and experiences found in the Columbia J.D. student body is enriched further by the presence of foreign-trained lawyers, drawn to Columbia from around the world, from both civil and common law traditions. Many of these candidates for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree have held important positions in their countries’ governments, corporations, or in political or human rights organizations. Columbia is among a small handful of law schools that integrates its LL.M. students in both first-year and upper-year J.D. courses, providing an intellectual cross-fertilization that adds an international dimension to a Columbia Law School education.

In both traditional and emerging fields of law, Columbia professors are at the forefront of developing and interpreting legal issues and precedents that stand as great consequence to society. But the Law School’s overriding commitment continues to be as a teaching institution. Faculty members, including the most senior professors, are accessible to students within and beyond

“We have been taught by some of the most brilliant and distinguished professors and have been guided by caring administrators. Our professors have prompted us to think in new ways by pushing us to ask the most critical questions about the norms and laws that shape our society and ourselves.”

Jessica Isokawa ’10

“I’ve taught at four other law schools and there is just no question in my mind that Columbia’s student body brings to the educational experience a great deal more diversity, initiative, energy, ambition, confidence, and individuality. There is a kind of toughness and independence about people who choose to attend Columbia that I think adds a lot to my education year by year.”

Vincent Blasi, Corliss Lamont Professor of Civil Liberties
the classroom, and a considerable portion of a student’s learning at Columbia takes place on a small scale. At least one substantive course in the first semester is limited to approximately 32 students. During their upperclass years, students choose from a broad array of small seminars (numbering about 158), averaging 14 students. The student-faculty ratio is even lower in the Law School’s clinics, with one faculty member for every eight to ten students. Beyond the classroom, students work with professors as research assistants, participating in theoretical and practical endeavors that advance legal scholarship and the practice of law.

The Law School also makes special efforts to bring first-year students together socially. In addition to orientation activities, the academic year begins with a dinner for first-year students and faculty members. Faculty also take first-year students out to dinner or lunch in the fall. And throughout the year, students gather in small groups with faculty for receptions and breakfasts with prominent alumni through the popular Dean’s Breakfast series. In addition to the relationships fostered between students and faculty, the Peer Mentoring Program provides first-year students the opportunity to engage with second- and third-year students.

Columbia further supports the development of community within the student body. Students work in teams on classroom and extracurricular projects. There are journals and a growing number of clubs and interest groups to join. Students also organize study groups throughout the year for mutual support and learning. More importantly, while celebrating individual achievement, the Law School does not issue class rankings; all graduates of Columbia are considered highly qualified to enter the legal profession.

The world in which lawyers now practice is a professional global village. Some of the major changes in the past decade include increased internationalization, technological progress, and the continuing movement in value creation toward intellectual property. Based on its long-standing commitment to constant evolution and responsible innovation, Columbia Law School’s faculty and students are prepared to respond to such societal changes through the innumerable educational opportunities and by producing important scholarship in fields of interest and in how law affects society.

“Columbia Law School has a long tradition of graduating students unwilling to sit on the sidelines of history or miss an opportunity to work toward, and fight for, justice.”

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. ’76

Eric Holder Jr.
AN INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL

The pulse of the city is interwoven in a Columbia education, and Columbia occupies a central and influential position in the life of New York. It is no accident that the University’s full name is “Columbia University in the City of New York.” Indeed, New York City is Columbia’s laboratory, offering students the abundant cultural, intellectual, and experiential riches of one of the world’s most exciting cities.
Columbia law students benefit in innumerable ways from their immersion in the vibrancy of one of the world’s most important cities. New York is the world’s center of law practice. The sophistication and expertise of its practitioners not only add resources to the Law School but also make available a wide variety of career choices to those who remain in the city and become part of a career-expanding background for those graduates choosing to live and work elsewhere. New York is also the world capital of publishing, international finance, culture, the arts, and communications. Yet as an urban center, it is representative of the many problems, hopes, challenges, and opportunities facing individuals and societies around the world.

As such, New York provides a vast living laboratory for students’ personal and professional growth. Living and studying in New York, students find their intellectual assumptions and cultural preferences examined and challenged as never before.

Columbia law students do not learn in a vacuum. They see legal theories tested and validated in the halls of the United Nations, in the offices of human rights organizations, and in the conference rooms of leading corporations. The world’s most accomplished litigators, corporate lawyers, judges, legal scholars, human rights advocates, and international political figures are part of the fabric and daily life of the city, and many are familiar figures at Columbia Law School as adjunct professors, visiting scholars, and lecturers.

With their many strengths and abilities, Columbia law students contribute to the life of New York City as much as they draw from it. The Law School actively encourages students to delve into the surrounding metropolis and contribute their talents to the city through internships, clinics, pro bono work, and community service. Columbia Law School maintains an extensive network of support systems for these activities.

Beyond the study and practice of law, New York City offers unparalleled opportunities for personal growth, enrichment, and just plain fun. This is a city of mind-boggling scope and variety, where no fewer than 80 languages are spoken and where an Italian deli, an Ethiopian restaurant, and a Chinese noodle shop share the same block. It is a city with hundreds of museums, art galleries, and theaters. Music lovers can choose from major venues such as Lincoln Center to small clubs in Greenwich Village to improvisational jazz in Central Park. For sports enthusiasts, whether athletes or fans, the city provides an exciting array of opportunities for exercise, competition, and enjoyment. Much of what the city offers is available to students at reduced or no cost and but a brief bus or subway ride away.

New York City attracts a certain type of person—curious, adventurous, and open to new challenges and experiences. And Columbia Law School abounds with this type of individual: students and teachers who are independent, energetic, open-minded, and eager to be nourished by the variety of life in the world’s greatest city.

“A key factor that drew me to Columbia was the opportunity to live and teach in a city that brings together some of the most innovative legal talent. Scholars are more useful the closer they are to the facts of the world, and a lot of the facts that help shape the law are in New York.”

Timothy Wu, Professor of Law
The Columbia experience is characterized not only by the students and faculty but also by the nature of the campus community, an abundance of informational resources, and exemplary and innovative disciplines. The sense of community at Columbia is real. It is quite different from other neighborhoods in New York—more spacious, less crowded, more collegiate, more reflective, less hectic. The programmatic offerings at the Law School are stunning, due in large part to the variety and depth of courses available. Columbia’s reputation for scholarship and training in commercial, corporate, and securities law; international and comparative law; public interest and human rights law; and intellectual property are but a few areas that contribute to the vibrancy of the community. Studying in such an environment is facilitated by the Law Library and Information Technology at Columbia, transforming a special community into an extraordinary place to learn the law.
Making its home in Morningside Heights on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, only a few blocks northwest of Central Park, bordering Riverside Park and the Hudson River, Columbia benefits from a culturally diverse neighborhood with a spirit all its own. Within a several-block radius, students can sample at least 15 different cuisines, browse in seven bookstores, and share park benches with retired physics professors. Turn-of-the-century brownstones and beautifully ornamented apartment buildings; the verdant landscaping of Riverside Park and the children who frequent its playgrounds; the nearby Buddhist temple and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine (the largest Gothic cathedral in the Western hemisphere); the refurbished Grant’s Tomb national memorial; the historic Riverside Church with its soaring arches and its 20-ton Bourdon bell (the largest in the world)—all give Columbia’s neighborhood an unmistakable personality.

Columbia faculty and students value highly the diversity, the unpretentiousness, and the safety of Morningside Heights. Some visitors and newcomers to Columbia who had envisioned faculty and students commuting an appreciable distance to the University are surprised to discover how family-oriented the Morningside Heights neighborhood is. In reality, it’s a small college town nestled within an international capital.

The atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and nourishment at Columbia is enhanced by the presence of many other educational institutions that share its Morningside Heights neighborhood. It is a neighborhood where street book vendors attract crowds and where discussion at a sidewalk café is as likely to delve into the philosophy of Kierkegaard as the latest Academy Award–winning feature film or documentary.

Columbia Law School has a home worthy of its academic excellence and professional renown. Following the completion of a $140 million expansion and renewal project to ensure that our facilities are among the finest of any law school in the country, the Law School’s physical transformation has provided students with a legal community that facilitates innovative teaching approaches, high-technology tools, traditional amenities, and student-faculty interaction.

The Law School’s main building, Jerome L. Greene Hall, features a three-story skylit lobby, where the main staircase leads to an upper-level student commons with a café. Here, students can find lounge areas, private corners, and other spaces to accommodate anything from a student-faculty debate to a few minutes alone with a book or newspaper. The Law School also expanded its computer infrastructure by installing dozens of terminal ports and wireless access points throughout the building—including Lenfest Café and the outdoor terrace—enabling students to connect to research databases at the Law School and around the world.

Across the street from Jerome L. Greene Hall, William C. Warren Hall is home to the Columbia Law Review, Morningside Heights Legal Services (a Law School clinic), and Social Justice Initiatives. The top floor, offering spectacular views of midtown Manhattan, is used for seminars and receptions. William and June Warren Hall, opened in 1999, includes amphitheater-style classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art teaching resources, a center for the Law School’s international programs, a center for student services, and conference facilities.

In 2003, Lenfest Hall, a luxury Law School residence for students, couples, and families, opened, comprising 24 one-bedroom apartments and 181 studio apartments, greatly strengthening Columbia’s commitment to provide its students quality housing.

The renovation and expansion of the Law School’s facilities have greatly enhanced life and learning at Columbia. Students have a superb academic environment conducive to community-building and social and intellectual engagement that continues to reflect the changing nature of legal education in the twenty-first century.

“Columbia Law School welcomes its students not only into an extraordinary world of scholarship but also into a vibrant and diverse community.”

Nate Cross ’13

Nate Cross
Columbia Law School has been “internationalizing” U.S. legal education since its inception and has long been on the cutting edge of international and comparative legal scholarship. Columbia was among the first law schools to offer courses in foreign law and comparative legislation, to create joint-degree programs with law schools overseas, and to encourage the enrollment of foreign students. Beginning with Francis Lieber, whose work formed the basis of the modern laws of war, and Lou Henkin, the widely regarded father of modern international human rights law, Columbia continually develops new, innovative courses in international and comparative law to keep pace with the rapidly growing set of laws in all fields, especially in the nascent areas of terrorism, intellectual property, and international communications.

Today, Columbia Law School’s commitment to international and comparative law is primarily reflected in the breadth and depth of its permanent faculty and visiting professors, its centers and programs, and the expansive study-abroad programs, foreign dual-degree opportunities, and innovative global alliances, which have no peer among U.S. law schools. The Law School is further distinguished by the scope of its international curriculum and Law Library collections.

**COURSE OFFERINGS AND FACULTY**

Columbia’s established role in fostering the development of international and comparative law is reflected in the strength of its curriculum. Honed by continuous innovation, the Law School’s curriculum offers the most extraordinary array of international, comparative, and foreign law courses of any law school in the United States.

Law students at Columbia are able to choose from approximately 70 international, foreign, and comparative law courses and seminars, ranging widely from a course in international environmental law or the law of the WTO to a seminar on contemporary issues in international criminal law.

Columbia also offers a remarkably diverse set of related hands-on experiences: from term-length externships at the UN or UN missions to a clinical experience involving human rights.

International and comparative law at Columbia draws its law faculty from a wide array of fields, including practitioners in the world’s leading law firms, key government policymakers, and professors and researchers from other preeminent law schools. Professor George A. Bermann is a prolific scholar on the European legal system who, in addition to instructing upperclasses, co-teaches a very popular first-year elective on the applicability of international law to American law. Professor Bermann is the director of the European Legal Studies Center and co-author of the leading textbook on European Union law. Professor Philip C. Bobbitt is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a leading constitutional theorist, and an expert on international security. His work on terrorism and security strategy demonstrates the significance of international law and policy in an increasingly interdependent and global society.

As part of Columbia’s historical and continuing commitment to the study of human rights, Professor Sarah H. Cleveland joined the faculty as the Louis Henkin Professor in Human and Constitutional Rights. Professor Cleveland’s areas of expertise are not limited to human rights but also include foreign affairs and the Constitution, international trade and labor rights, and international law and U.S. courts. She is the co-director of the Human Rights Institute and recently returned to Columbia after serving a stint as a Counselor on International Law with the Office of the Legal Adviser to the U.S. State Department for two years.

Columbia professors bring their dynamic, diverse, and far-reaching international research and public service activities into the classroom, successfully bridging the gap between theory and practice for our students. The Law School’s international reach, therefore, is not limited to the classroom but stretches farther than the boundaries of our campus.

**INTERNATIONAL LAW CENTERS AND PROGRAMS**

- Center for Chinese Legal Studies
- Center on Global Governance
- Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration Law
- Center for Japanese Legal Studies
- Center for Korean Legal Studies
- Center for the Study of Law and Culture
- Columbia Program on International Investment
- European Legal Studies Center
- Human Rights Institute
- Human Rights Internship Program
- Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law
- Program of International Migration: Economics, Ethics and Law
- Social Justice Initiatives
INTERNATIONAL STUDY

More than one in five of our students come from abroad, creating a truly international exchange that extends far beyond the classroom. Students interested in international study as a complement to exceptional legal training will find that Columbia offers a broad array of double degree and semester-abroad opportunities, with 29 programs in 12 countries. At Columbia, many of our students take advantage of the unique opportunity to learn various aspects of international law, while also immersed in what is often a different culture. Most of our partner schools offer instruction in English, but others still will teach in the native language. Because a substantial number of our students come to Columbia already versed in multiple languages, the study-abroad programs afford them an exciting opportunity to sharpen their language skills. In any given year, 40 to 45 students will spend a semester or two abroad.

In keeping with our long-standing leadership in comparative and international programs, Columbia once again set the standard for the study of international law in 2008 with our groundbreaking Global Alliance Programs by partnering with preeminent law schools—the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and the University of Paris I, France. These are one-year integrated programs with distinct focuses in such areas as global business law and governance, international criminal law, and international security law. All programs feature high levels of faculty involvement and experiential opportunities for participating students. Over the next few years, the Law School plans to extend global alliances to include programs in other regions of the world.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS AND CLERKSHIPS

Columbia is among a small handful of law schools that consistently places students in international internships and clerkships, ranging from clerkships with constitutional courts in South Africa and Israel to internships at The Hague and private law firms in Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Columbia remains the only American law school to have an arrangement with the International Chamber of Commerce, under which it designates a candidate every year for a clerkship with the International Court of Arbitration.

MOOT COURT

Currently, Columbia students participate in three international moot court programs: Jessup International Law Moot Court, the premier international moot court; Willem C. Vis International Moot Court Competition, recognized as the world’s leading law school competition in private law; and WTO Moot Court Competition, a competition that delves into various issues concerning international trade. Involvement in a moot court is commonplace at Columbia and is yet another excellent means for students to get experiential training in international law subjects that often complement their course work in international law, human rights, international arbitration, international trade, and WTO law. Faculty members teaching within these respective fields are closely involved in each moot court competition.

JOURNALS

Six of the 14 student-run journals identify, to varying degrees, as publications that engage in international issues. For example, the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law publishes material on any aspect, public and private, of transnational, international, and comparative law, while the Journal of European Law focuses on broader questions concerning the development of law and legal institutions in Europe as a whole. In addition to publishing articles, the journals also engage in the international community discourse on topics of significance by participating in or sponsoring international conferences, symposia, and speaker series.

DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMS
• J.D./LL.M.: London School of Economics, University College London, King’s College, and School of Oriental and African Studies
• J.D./LL.B.: London School of Economics, University College London, King’s College, and School of Oriental and African Studies

SEMESTER-ABROAD PROGRAMS
• University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)
• Fudan University (China)
• Peking University (China)
• University of Paris II (France)
• Humboldt University (Germany)
• University of Frankfurt, Institute for Law and Finance (Germany)
• Central European University (Hungary)
• Hebrew University (Israel)
• European University Institute (Italy)
• University of Rome (Italy)
• Kyushu University (Japan)
• Waseda University (Japan)
• University of Luxembourg
• University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
• University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland)
• Independent study abroad

GLOBAL ALLIANCES
• J.D./LL.M. in International Criminal Law: University of Amsterdam
• Program in Law and Finance: Oxford University
SOCIAL JUSTICE AT COLUMBIA

At Columbia, the social justice experience is part of the professional life of every Columbia student and graduate. The Law School has developed an exceptional social justice program through courses, innovative clinics, and opportunities for hands-on experience in the field. Students continuously create new organizations and journals devoted to public interest issues. Columbia is also among the few law schools in the country that require pro bono service before graduation. To help facilitate the path into a public interest or government career, the Law School has one of the country’s most generous loan repayment assistance programs. Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) advises students and graduates on career, summer, and pro bono opportunities and how to become attractive candidates. It also has made the Law School’s commitment to its community more tangible by developing pro bono projects with legal organizations in New York City, particularly in Harlem and Washington Heights, as well as throughout the U.S. and the world. The Law School also benefits from strong ties to other organizations and lawyers who confront the tremendous need for legal assistance in New York City and elsewhere. To facilitate students’ experiences, SJI brings leading social justice advocates to campus and provides practical assistance to students committed to service in the public interest.

CLINICAL PROGRAM
Clinical legal education is the study of law and lawyering in context. Engaging with real clients with real problems allows Columbia law students to begin the lifelong process of becoming thoughtful, responsible, and reflective lawyers. The clinical program at Columbia Law School is open to all second- and third-year students. Clinics test our students’ strengths as they take on increasing responsibility for client casework, feeling the profound weight of representing clients in important, and often personal, matters. Under the watchful supervision of experienced professors, Columbia law students become counselors, mediators, litigators, and educators as they learn to apply the knowledge they have gained in law school to their clients’ diverse concerns in such areas as child advocacy, environmental law, human rights, law and the arts, mediation, prisoners and families, mass incarceration, community enterprise, and sexuality and gender law.

EXTERNSHIPS
SJI implements and oversees Columbia’s externship program, through which students receive academic credit for a substantive seminar and a closely related field experience at a not-for-profit organization or governmental agency. The United Nations externship provides students with tangible insight into public international law at the premier international organization. Students in the Externship on the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., have an intensive, semester-long education working full time in federal government agencies in the nation’s capital and taking seminars designed for them. Other externships offer experiential learning opportunities in criminal justice ranging from state and local prosecution to constitutional issues in capital punishment defense; supporting community-conceived policy initiatives at the city and state level; the law affecting low-income artists and writers; immigrant representation; and many other areas.

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE
Founded in 1998 at Columbia Law School, the Human Rights Institute (HRI) serves as a focal point for Columbia Law School’s human rights curriculum, programs, and research. HRI leverages these academic resources in its work to encourage compliance with human rights, both domestically and abroad, through targeted research and advocacy, strategic litigation, and expert meetings. HRI currently focuses its work in the following substantive areas: Human Rights in the United States; Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights; and Human Rights and the Global Economy. Through the affiliated Human Rights Clinic, a summer internship program, independent study and research opportunities, and a robust speakers and events program, Columbia Law students are able to engage with and contribute directly to the work of the Institute.

PRO BONO PROGRAM
Columbia’s Pro Bono Program helps students use their skills and knowledge outside the classroom to serve real needs. Many Columbia students perform pro bono service in their first year, and most exceed the mandatory 40 hours to be completed by graduation. Whether their interests lie in community economic development, immigration, children’s rights or education law, women’s rights, environmental law, international human rights, criminal law, management of a not-for-profit organization, or any other field, SJI helps students find meaningful projects at public interest law organizations or government agencies. One example is through our Spring Break Pro Bono Caravans, which takes students across the nation to work with lawyers on Indian reservations and in other communities with limited legal resources.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
The public interest community at Columbia thrives through the work of the many student organizations and journals that focus primarily on human rights and public interest issues. Spring Break Caravan pro bono projects, speakers series, conferences, mentoring programs, prison visits, and more are organized by students for other students. Numerous student groups provide pro bono opportunities for students in such areas as immigration, civil rights, domestic violence, and youth advocacy.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CAREER SERVICES AND PROGRAMS
There is no one true path to a social justice career. Our graduates pursue many different avenues to social justice work, including entering the public sector directly after graduation, pursuing a judicial clerkship before entering the field, or working in a law firm that supports a strong pro bono practice. SJI has primary responsibility for professional development and career services for students and graduates interested in pursuing public interest, government, and legal volunteer work. Columbia law students are usually among the few who are selected for entry-level positions in the government, including the Department of Justice Honors Program and at the State Department. They also often receive the prestigious public interest law fellowships that are available to recent law graduates. The National State Attorneys General Program, a research, education, and policy center that works closely with attorneys general, can constitute one of the most competitive organizations for the summer as a legal intern at a human rights or social justice organization or government agency. Students are able to select from a broad range of areas (both domestic and international), including not-for-profit organizations, criminal prosecution and defense work, and federal, state, and local agencies. Other opportunities include internships at leading private law firms—created exclusively for Columbia students—focus on workers’ rights, civil rights, environmental justice, and employment discrimination.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Through the Guaranteed Summer Funding Program, Columbia provides funds for every first- and second-year J.D. student to work for the summer as a legal intern at a human rights or social justice organization or government agency. Students are able to select from a broad range of areas (both domestic and international), including not-for-profit organizations, criminal prosecution and defense work, and federal, state, and local agencies. Other opportunities include Arts Law Fellowships, which allow students to intern in legal departments of leading performance and visual arts institutions. Internships at leading private law firms—created exclusively for Columbia students—focus on workers’ rights, civil rights, environmental justice, and employment discrimination.

The Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP) provides selected students with training in international human rights law and funding to work in internships with advocates all over the world. Columbia faculty members and leading human rights advocates provide intensive training and orientation to prepare interns for their summer placements. The most competitive organizations around the world welcome Columbia interns because of HRIP’s long history and reputation.

POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
Successful Columbia graduates and faculty, and their law firms, families, and friends, have created fellowships exclusively for Columbia graduates that allow them to pursue careers in human rights and public interest law. Some are earmarked for work at a particular organization or location. Others encourage graduates to do public interest or human rights work at an organization of their choice. For example, the Sandler Fellowship allows a Columbia graduate to work at Human Rights Watch for one year, while the Leebron Fellowship allows a graduate to design a two-year project of his or her choosing with human rights organizations in the United States or abroad. Landes Women’s Land Rights Fellows work for two years to protect women’s rights to land, while the Chadborne & Park Fellowship at The Door focuses on the legal rights of New York City youths. Cochran, Neufeld & Scheck in New York City and Goldstein, Demchak, Baller, Borgon & Dardarian in Oakland, California, each fund two-year fellowships for work on civil rights litigation at their respective law firms. The Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellowship provides a Columbia student the opportunity for a year of postgraduate public service at an organization of the student’s choice that meets serious human needs in New York City.

DEBT MANAGEMENT
Understanding the financial difficulties of earning far less than a corporate salary in the face of the high costs of a legal education, Columbia has made it a priority to assist its graduates to realize their career goals by establishing a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) that will pay most of the law school debt for students who devote their careers to serving the public interest. Columbia’s LRAP has been recognized as among the five best in the nation. All Columbia J.D. graduates in qualifying employment are entitled to its generous assistance and there is no salary cap. In some cases, graduates who demonstrate exceptional dedication and potential for contribution to the public good are awarded public interest fellowships, which provide enhanced loan repayment assistance to the fellows.

LRAP SUMMARY*
- Graduates may join the program up to 7 years after graduating.
- Participants are not expected to contribute to annual loan payments if calculated income is less than $50,000.
- LRAP loans are partially forgiven in years 3 to 5 and fully forgiven on an annual basis in years 6 to 10.
- Spousal educational debt service up to $10,000 may be included in repayment formula.
- Program eligibility provisions are available for graduates on parental leave or in part-time employment.
- Graduates may elect to participate in both the Columbia Law School LRAP and the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

* All terms apply to Class of 2008 and beyond. Please consult with the LRAP administrator for terms and limitations.
INFORMATION RESOURCES

THE LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Arthur W. Diamond Law Library is one of the most comprehensive law libraries in the world. At its core are more than a million volumes and volume equivalents, and subscriptions to 7,000 journals and other serials. The Law Library also provides access to hundreds of databases of legal and related information. Those resources alone make it one of the best law libraries in the world. But the Diamond Law Library is much more than its books and databases. Columbia’s massive collection is complemented by service of the highest quality. The reference librarians are unsurpassed in skill and knowledge and are dedicated to making each student an expert in legal research. The collection development staff makes sure that key works from all over the world are added to the library as they become available. The technical services staff ensures that records for these materials are in the computer catalog and the items are available to the user as quickly as possible.

The range of materials held in the Library is enormous. It contains the statutes, cases, and administrative codes from each of the 50 states, and it is a depository for United Nations documents. It has books from more than 100 countries written in more than 80 languages. The international and foreign law sections are outstanding and include one of the best collections of Japanese law outside Japan. The extraordinary rare books collection contains legal manuscripts, both medieval and modern, and a vast array of early printed books.

ARTHUR W. DIAMOND LAW LIBRARY

- A collection of 1,200,000 volumes representing 450,000 titles
- Extensive wireless network coverage throughout
- The Toshiba Library for Japanese Legal Research
- At least one book published in every year since 1517
- Free walk-up digital scanners
- Subscriptions to 7,100 paper journals and other serial titles and access to thousands more through digital services
- A law firm document delivery service
- One of the finest manuscript copies of Bracton’s De legibus extant
- More than 20,000 rare books and other unique materials
- More than 20 miles of books
- The professional papers of Telford Taylor, prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials
- Original documents from the South African Treason Trials
- The professional papers of Herbert Wechsler, primary author of the Model Penal Code

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) Department of Columbia Law School is committed to supporting, improving, and enriching the academic quality of the Law School. Columbia prioritizes information technology and effectively integrates it into the Law School’s operations. One of the IT Department’s primary goals is to provide exemplary service and support to all of our students by offering a wide portfolio of leading-edge technologies.

The IT Department offers a vast range of Web-based services—including online registration tools, course Web pages, and network storage—that affords students the freedom to learn and work from anywhere in the world at any time. The virtual academic community allows professors and students alike to share ideas and information.

Information technology at Columbia is supported not only by a team of dedicated and knowledgeable professionals but also by a robust network of wired and wireless classrooms. Knowing that students may wish to connect to resources with their laptops or our institutional computing facilities, nearly every classroom is either wireless or wired, as is the majority of public space at the Law School. Networked computers, with access to secure file storage space and high-speed laser printers, are conveniently located throughout the Law School campus. Furthermore, many of the computer labs and kiosks designated exclusively for students are accessible 24 hours a day.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Extensive wireless network coverage
- Nearly 5,000 Ethernet data connections
- 600+ networked computer workstations
- 2 computer laboratories
- 10 dedicated printers
- 21 dedicated email terminals
CAREERS AFTER COLUMBIA

Columbia Law School is proud of its ability to provide students with a wide variety of employment possibilities across various segments of the legal industry and beyond. Students are placed in all fields, including private sector law practice; the judiciary; government sector; human and civil rights; business; and academics. The process of exploring where they will work after law school begins on their first day of class and, whatever their interest, the Law School has a team of professionals whose primary focus is to assist and facilitate their employment aspirations.
AN INTRODUCTION
COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Columbia’s Office of Career Services and Professional Development offers a number of invaluable resources to students interested in practicing in the private sector. The Office’s recruitment program is one of the largest and most successful in the country.

Individualized Career Counseling
Collectively, the counselors on the Office’s staff have decades of counseling as well as practice experience and a wealth of resources to help students create their own career paths. Among other things, counselors help students develop job search strategies, assist in preparing their résumés and cover letters, and conduct interview training.

A Vast Network of Employers
Through the Early Interview Program and other recruitment programs, students have the opportunity to meet and interview with a large number of employers in both the private and public sectors. Nearly 700 interviewers, from almost every large urban center around the world and more than 70 cities within the United States, conduct approximately 12,000 interviews with Columbia’s law students during these programs.

A Wealth of Resources
Students have access to an extensive information database to help them identify and target specific employers. The Office website contains podcasts, webinars, articles, and useful links to give students easy-to-access information about the job market, professionalism, alternative careers, and similar topics. The Office also participates in career programs with law firms, bar associations, and fellowship organizations throughout the country to provide a wider variety of employment opportunities for students.

Summer Opportunities
Ninety-nine percent of Columbia’s second-year students seek and find summer employment in a legal environment worldwide. Varied experiences are available, depending on students’ interests. They include human rights and government internships, as well as public interest and corporate in-house opportunities. No matter what a student’s interests, summer positions provide the chance to enhance research, writing, and practice skills while learning about different legal work settings.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES
Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) assists students individually in exploring the role of a public interest lawyer in nonprofit organizations, government agencies, international human rights organizations, academia, and other areas, including pro bono service in private law firms. With an ever-expanding list of pro bono and internship placements and resources to help students identify emerging nongovernmental organizations throughout the world, SJI can advise students no matter what their individual interests.

CLERKSHIPS
The Law School consistently places its students in federal and state court clerkships, ranging from the U.S. Supreme Court and federal circuit and district courts to an array of state and specialty courts. Traditionally, approximately 15 percent of the graduating class secures judicial clerkships.

Clerkships are also strongly supported and encouraged as summer and term-time opportunities. The Law School has several judicial externship programs that provide students with opportunities to intern with federal district court and appellate judges. Students are invited to apply for state court opportunities as well.

At Columbia, there are four offices that assist students in their employment search for summer and long-term opportunities. While there is some overlap and collaboration between and among the offices, each is tasked with a primary function. They are the Office of Career Services and Professional Development, which provides individualized career planning, career counseling, professional development programming, and a wide array of resources for students interested in acquiring positions in the corporate sector; Social Justice Initiatives, which deals primarily with externships, internships, and permanent positions within the not-for-profit and government sectors; the Judicial Clerkship Program, which helps secure clerkships across all levels of the judiciary; and the Program on Careers in Law Teaching, a program that successfully guides our students toward highly competitive academic positions.
The Law School has a director of judicial clerkships who, in collaboration with a Faculty Clerkship Committee, develops programs in which judges, faculty, and alumni/ae help educate students about clerkship opportunities and experiences. The Judicial Clerkship Program also conducts workshops to help students navigate the clerkship application process. The Law School provides individualized clerkship counseling for students and maintains a large library of clerkship-related resources as well as extensive online services to further aid students in the application process.

**PROGRAM ON CAREERS IN LAW TEACHING**

Columbia Law School ranks third among the nation’s law schools in the number of its graduates who have become members of the legal professoriate. The faculty and Law School alumni in teaching are enthusiastically committed to continuing this long tradition.

Through an array of year-round activities, Columbia’s Program on Careers in Law Teaching encourages and facilitates current students and Columbia graduates in their efforts to join the legal academy. Activities range from opportunities to develop scholarship to ensuring that students know the mechanics of the hiring process.

Beginning in the summer of each year, attention is devoted to those Law School graduates currently in the teaching market. Support includes counseling sessions, assistance in preparing application materials, and individualized advice at every point in the process, including moot job talks.

During the spring semester, the Program turns its attention to current students. More than half the faculty participate in weekly lunchtime workshops on selected topics aimed at introducing students to short- and long-term strategies for preparing for the law school teaching market. Sessions include such subjects as developing a scholarly agenda, pedagogy, dual career couples, the J.D./Ph.D. path, and the transition from practice to the academy (in both public and private law). Students are also encouraged to work closely with faculty in their efforts to develop as scholars.

The Program also offers semester- and yearlong fellowships for graduates who want to transition from practice to teaching but who have not had the time to develop their scholarship. Each year several Teaching Program Fellows are in residence at the Law School, working with faculty on their research projects and participating in the ongoing intellectual life of the Law School through such activities as presentations at workshops by faculty and fellows. Members of the 2012–2013 Teaching Program Committee include Professors Carol Sanger, Vince Blasi, Sarah Cleveland, Katherine Franke, Philip Hamburger, Barbara Schatz, and Peter Strauss.

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**PLACEMENT SUMMARY: CLASS OF 2011**

- 98% of the class was employed 9 months after graduation
- 10% of the graduating class received judicial clerkships
- 69% went into private practice
- 6% entered public interest positions
- 9% entered government positions
- 1% entered academic positions
- 5% entered the business sector

“Columbia Law School faculty provided wonderful mentoring and opportunities to work closely together on scholarship when I was a law student, encouraged me to enter the academic job market, and provided careful advice and counseling throughout the process.”

Brandon Garrett ’01, Professor of Law
University of Virginia Law School

Brandon Garrett
THE CURRICULUM
FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATION CURRICULUM

Fall Semester

Legal Methods: This three-week intensive course, which typically begins in mid-August, serves as an introduction to legal institutions and processes and the skills necessary in the professional use of case law and legislation. Incoming law students are indoctrinated into the sources, forms, and development of Anglo-American law, the analysis and synthesis of judicial precedents, the interpretation of statutes, the coordination of judge-made and statute law, and the uses of legal reasoning.

Legal Practice Workshop I: Taken in conjunction with Legal Methods, this course provides intensive training in the research, writing, and analysis skills needed in legal practice through written assignments placed in practice contexts, seminar discussions, and personal conferences.

Civil Procedure: Students learn the principal elements of the civil litigation process, including elements of a fair procedural system, jurisdiction over parties, phases of a lawsuit with an emphasis on pleadings, discovery and pre-trial adjudication, subject matter jurisdiction, the effects of prior adjudication, complex litigation, and alternatives to formal adjudication.

Contracts: An introductory course in contract law, this course focuses on consideration and other bases for enforcing promises, the bargaining process including precontractual liability, the requirement of a writing (statute of frauds), policing the bargain for unfairness, remedies for breach of contract, performance and breach, and failure of basic assumptions (mistake, impracticability, frustration). Other topics that are explored are within the context of construction contracts, contracts for the sale of goods, contracts for the sale of land, employment agreements, family agreements, and other significant types of agreements.

Torts: An introduction to the different bases of tort liability, the various functions of tort law, and the relationship of tort law to other legal areas, students investigate noncontractual wrongs for which private compensation is sought under the common law, including negligence, strict liability, intentional torts, defamation, and the right of privacy.

Spring Semester

Required Courses

Constitutional Law: This course introduces students to constitutional law, providing a foundation for more specialized courses on the Constitution and for public law courses generally. It explores the theory of the Constitution and its antecedents; judicial review, its justification and development, and its legal and political significance; the nature of our federal system, the growth of national power and of limitations on state authority, and the abiding significance of the states; the separation of powers and varieties of checks and balances in the U.S. government; and the theory and content of individual rights under the Constitution, the development of the principal rights during 200 years by Constitutional amendment and judicial interpretation, and the jurisprudence of the judiciary in its role as the guardian of rights under the Constitution and under civil rights acts.

Criminal Law: Often viewed as a device for controlling socially undesirable behavior, criminal law, its major problems, and its administration is explored, with an emphasis on the issues that necessarily arise in the formation and application of a satisfactory penal code.

Foundation Year Moot Court: Part of the requirement for the Legal Practice Workshop, each student is required to write a brief and argue the case orally. The Foundation Moot Court requirement may alternatively be met by satisfactory participation in an equivalent intermural moot court competition, upon prior approval of the Faculty Director of the Moot Court Program.

Legal Practice Workshop II: A continuation of the research, writing, and analysis skills built in Legal Practice Workshop I, this course emphasizes appellate advocacy. Students research, write, and argue an appellate brief through the Foundation Year Moot Court program or one of the alternative intermural competitions.

Property: A central social institution, the study of property poses fundamental questions about efficiency and fairness that are mediated through the legal system. The nature of ownership, government regulation, the legal devices for allocation and developing land resources are examined. The evolution of today’s questions—ownership of music, control of body parts and of endangered species, rights to spectrum—are considered, applying traditional legal concepts.

Elective Course Options

First-year students are able to choose one elective course during the spring semester. Recent offerings have included:

- Art of Legal Persuasion
- Critical Legal Thought
- Foundations of the Regulatory State
- Human Rights*
- Law and Contemporary Society
- Lawyering Across Multiple Legal Orders
- Legislation*
- The United States and the International Legal System
- *Upperyear course with limited seats for first-year students

For detailed course descriptions, please refer to our online Curriculum Guide (www.law.columbia.edu/courses).

UPPERCLASS CURRICULUM

The following list of courses, seminars, and clinics constitute the course of study originally approved by the Faculty of Law for the academic years 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. You can expect some changes to be made. To view the official and updated course of study, please consult our online Curriculum Guide (www.law.columbia.edu/courses), where you will find comprehensive descriptions of the curriculum, special programs, law journals, and opportunities for independent study, community externships, court clerkships, and moot court experiences.

Administrative Law and Public Policy

Administrative Law
- Antitrust and Trade Regulation
- Environmental Law
- Immigration Law: The Removal Practice and Procedure
- Law and Educational Institutions: Equity Issues
- Law and Educational Institutions: Issues of Authority
- Legislation
- Legislative Behavior and Institutions
- National Security Law
- Public Procurement Law
- Redistricting and Gerrymandering
- Telecommunications Law

Seminars:

- Administrative Law and the White House: Where Law, Public Policy, and Politics Collide
- Advanced Seminar on State Attorneys General
- Contemporary Issues: Law and Politics
- Environmental Litigation
- Equality and Diversity: Contemporary Issues
- Immigration Law
- International Lawyering for the U.S. Government
- Law and Policy of Homelessness
- National Security Investigations and Prosecutions
- Perspectives on National Security Law and Policy
- Public Law Workshop
- Public-Private and Structural Change
- Race and Poverty Law
- Role of the State Attorney General

Civil Procedure and Dispute Resolution

Admiralty Law
- Advanced Civil Procedure: Remedies
- Conflict of Laws and Jurisdictions
- Electronic Discovery
- Federal Courts: District Court Litigation
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Mass Torts
- Professional Responsibility
- Remedies
- Transnational Litigation and Arbitration

Seminars:

- Advanced Civil Procedure: Scholarly and Judicial Perspectives
- Advanced Seminar on State Attorneys General
- Advanced Tort Practice
- Advanced Trial Practice
- Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution
- The Big Case: Tactics and Strategy
- Complex Litigation
- Construction Industry Law
- Contemporary Issues in Federalism
- The High-Profile Trial: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
- Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law
- Legal and Ethical Obligations in Complex Litigation
- Negotiation Workshop
- Role of the State Attorney General
- Science and the Courts
- Trial Practice
- Trial Problems of Major Current Cases

Commercial, Corporate, and Securities Law

Advanced Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions
- Advanced Corporate Law: Theories and Practice
- Advanced Issues in Corporate Theory
- Advanced Securities Regulation
- Antitrust and Trade Regulation
- Bankruptcy Law
- Capital Market Regulation
- Commercial Transactions
- Comparative Corporate Governance
- Contract Theory: Economic and Philosophical Theories of Contract
- Corporate Finance
- Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy
- Corporations
- Counseling Investment Bankers
- Deals
- Deals: Public-Sector Problem Solving
- Drafting and Negotiating Real Estate Documents
- European Corporate Law and Securities Regulation
- Financial Institutions and Financial Crimes
- Financial Statement Analysis
- International Bankruptcy
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Finance: Law, Money, and Banking in the Global Economy
- International Financial Transactions
- International Securities Regulation
- The Law of Transactions
- Payment Systems
- Private Equity Transactions
- Professional Responsibility Issues in Business Practice
- Real Estate Finance
- Regulation of Financial Institutions
- Sales Transactions
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulation
- Trusts, Estates, and Estate Planning

Seminars:

- Advanced Bankruptcy: Deals and Issues in the Current Environment
- Anatomy of the Large Law Firm
- Architecture of Financial Regulation
- Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime
- Capital Markets: Development, Structure, and Policies
- Commercial Finance
- Comparative Corporate Capitalism
- Comparative and International Antitrust
- Contemporary Corporate Law Scholarship
VISITING COLUMBIA

Applicants and prospective students are welcome to visit Columbia Law School. Tours of the University campus are conducted Monday through Friday (contact Campus Tours directly at 212-854-4900). Applicants may also visit law classes on weekdays during the fall and spring semesters. From August through February, the Law School admissions staff periodically offers seminars for applicants where an Admissions Officer will discuss in considerable detail the subtleties of Columbia’s selection process, financial aid procedures, career placement services, our faculty and curriculum, special enrichment programs, and internships. Attendance is encouraged but is in no way required. To learn more about visiting, please call the Office of Admissions at 212-854-2670 or consult our website (www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd).

Shortly after their admission to Columbia, prospective students are invited to open houses and receptions, enabling them to learn more about the exceptional experiences that await them at the Law School and University.

DIRECTIONS TO COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
Columbia Law School is located on the main campus of Columbia University. The main Law School building, Jerome L. Greene Hall, is located on the northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and West 116th Street in Manhattan. The Office of Admissions can be found on the fifth floor of William and June Warren Hall, which is located at 1125 Amsterdam Avenue, between West 115th and West 116th Streets.

There are several ways to get to Columbia Law School:

By Air:
LaGuardia Airport is the closest airport to Manhattan, and taxi fare to Columbia Law School is approximately $25. Bus service (the M60 city bus) from LaGuardia Airport to the Law School is also available. JFK and Newark (Liberty International) airports are slightly greater distances from Manhattan, and taxi fare to Columbia Law School from either airport is approximately $50. Private bus service to the Port Authority Bus Terminal and to Grand Central Station in Manhattan is available. Free Airport Shuttle service to the subway (take the “A” train to Columbus Circle/59th Street, then transfer to the “1” train to Columbia University/116th Street) is also available but takes a considerably longer time. You can also take the economical and efficient AirTrain monorail service from both JFK and Newark (Liberty International) airports.

By Train/Bus:
Train service to Manhattan arrives at either Grand Central or Pennsylvania Stations. Bus service to Manhattan arrives at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Once in Manhattan, take either public transportation (see below) or a taxi.

By Public Transportation:
Five public bus lines (M4, M5, M11, M60, M104) and one subway line (the Broadway 1 Local) serve the Columbia University area. The Columbia University subway stop is 116th Street (on Broadway, one block west of the Law School). Kindly note that the Broadway 2/3 Express line does not stop at Columbia University. Please transfer for the 1 Local line at the 96th Street stop (uptown) for direct service to the 116th Street/Columbia University stop.
By Car:
Columbia is best reached by taking the West 95th/96th Street exit of the Henry Hudson Parkway (West Side Highway). Use the 95th Street off-ramp and turn left onto Riverside Drive. Proceed north to 114th Street; turn right on 114th Street, and cross Broadway to Amsterdam Avenue. Turn left on Amsterdam Avenue and proceed two blocks north to 116th Street. Jerome L. Greene Hall, Columbia Law School’s main building, is on the northeast corner.

Henry Hudson Parkway from the North:
1. New York Thruway (I-87) to Cross Bronx Expressway in the direction of the George Washington Bridge (GWB). Bear right as you approach the GWB and take the exit for the Henry Hudson Parkway south (last exit before the GWB). Exit the Parkway at West 95th Street and use the directions above to the Law School.

2. New England Thruway (I-95), which becomes the Cross Bronx Expressway. Bear right as you approach the GWB and take the exit for the Henry Hudson Parkway south (last exit before the GWB). Exit the Parkway at West 95th Street and use the directions above to the Law School.

3. Saw Mill Parkway south or Cross County Parkway west to Henry Hudson Parkway south (last exit before the GWB). Exit the Parkway at West 95th Street and use the directions above to the Law School.

Henry Hudson Parkway from the East:
Grand Central Parkway or Long Island Expressway west to the Cross Island Parkway north. Cross over the Throgs Neck Bridge to the Cross Bronx Expressway (I-95) in the direction of the George Washington Bridge.Bear right as you approach the GWB and take the exit for the Henry Hudson Parkway south (last exit before the GWB). Exit the Parkway at West 95th Street and use the directions above to the Law School.

Henry Hudson Parkway from the South and West:
New Jersey Turnpike (I-95) north or I-80 east to the George Washington Bridge. As you cross the GWB, take the exit for the Henry Hudson Parkway south (last exit before the GWB). Exit the Parkway at West 95th Street and use the directions above to the Law School.

Parking:
Please feel free to use any available street/metered parking near the Columbia campus. In addition, here is a partial listing of local parking garages available for visitors:
• Avalon Morningside Garage—West 110th Street, between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive
• Propark America Garage—West 114th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue
• GMC Garage—532 West 122nd Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue

For a more complete list of nearby parking garages available for visitors, please visit the following website:
ADMISSION TO THE J.D. PROGRAM

The Admissions program at Columbia Law School is designed to identify and select a student body of diverse backgrounds and interests that shares a discernible commitment to excellence—individuals who have demonstrated unusual promise for distinguished qualities and proven skills we regard as necessary for academic success and intellectual engagement at Columbia.

We also highly value personal strengths that we believe predict professional distinction and public service. We endeavor to identify how, and to what extent, candidates have forged their values and achieved their goals—how they have actually chosen to commit their time, energies, and talents, and how they have made use of their opportunities. Applicants are evaluated, therefore, not only on their potential but also by their demonstrated motivation, self-discipline, and industry. Our Admissions Committee weighs carefully the elements of the application, which speak to the candidate’s background, interests, and goals, and which evidence sound character and judgment.

This approach to selection each year yields an entering J.D. class (of approximately 380 students) with especially strong prospects for academic success; for educating one another; for challenging our faculty; and for enhancing life and learning at Columbia Law School—learning that goes forward one another; for challenging our faculty; and for enhancing life and learning at Columbia Law School—learning that goes forward at Columbia.

We have also been strengthened by the maturity and experiential enrichment that older students bring to their classmates and faculty.

School has consistently been strengthened by the maturity and experiential enrichment that older students bring to their classmates and faculty.

We have also been strengthened by significant growth in the number of women and minority students. During this past decade, more women and people of color have chosen to study at Columbia than at any other time in the Law School’s history. Currently, women comprise almost half of our student body. More than 33 percent are of American Indian, Asian, African American, or Hispanic background—one of the very largest student of color populations among America’s leading law schools.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Evaluation of an applicant for admission to Columbia Law School includes a determination of the candidate’s intellectual and academic qualifications, aptitude for legal study as measured by the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and an assessment of whether the candidate has demonstrated personal qualities considered requisite to scholastic success, professional distinction, and public service. In addition to evaluating a candidate’s overall academic history and performance on the LSAT, the Committee examines the applicant’s personal essay or statement and letters of recommendation, as well as the course selection, special honors and awards, fellowship opportunities, publications, extracurricular involvement, community service, political activity, professional contributions, and other work experience.

Regrettably, because of the large number of applicants from all over this country and the world, it is not logically possible for interviews to be included as part of the selection process. As a substitute, the Admissions Committee depends upon the insights provided by letters of recommendation and the applicant’s personal essay or statement. In addition to providing the Committee with a more personal sense of the individual qualities of the applicant, this statement affords the candidate an opportunity to present any special information or factors that may prove useful to the Committee’s deliberations.

SELECTIVITY

Competition for admission to Columbia Law School is exceptionally keen. In recent years, approximately 7,000 applicants, most of whom are highly qualified, have applied for nearly 380 spaces in each year’s entering class.

In addition, admissibility to Columbia is difficult to predict because, as previously described, personal accomplishments, professional achievements, and other non-quantifiable factors that serve to enrich the student body affect an applicant’s chance of admission. Thus, although Columbia is among a handful of the most highly selective law schools in the country (as measured by grade point averages and LSAT statistics), it is not possible to predict with precision the probability of admission using numerical indices alone.

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

Columbia Law School subscribes to the curricular guidelines provided by the Association of American Law Schools’ “Statements on Prelegal Education.” These guidelines recommend a prelaw program involving education for “comprehension and expression in words, a critical understanding of the human institutions and values with which the law deals, and creative power in thinking.” A review of undergraduate majors of recently enrolled students indicates that approximately 20 percent have backgrounds in political science, 12 percent in economics, 6 percent in pure sciences and engineering, 10 percent in history, 5 percent in humanities such as classics and religious studies, 8 percent in literature, and 4 percent in other social sciences like anthropology, psychology, and sociology. Other concentrations include international relations, business/finance/accounting, philosophy, and policy studies.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

For complete information about Columbia Law School’s admissions policies, application instructions and checklist, and a copy of our application, kindly visit the “Apply” page on our website (www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply).

ADMISSION PROGRAMS

Early Decision Plan

The Early Decision Plan is designed for prospective law students who have thoughtfully considered what would represent for them the most effective legal education, have investigated carefully a range of law schools, and have concluded that Columbia is clearly their first choice.

For Early Decision candidates, the application process is simplified and expedited considerably; it is less expensive in terms of time, effort, and money. Early Decision candidates must complete their application by November 15 and are generally notified of the Admissions Committee’s decision in December.

This early notification enables
applicants to be assured of having successfully completed the law school application process, allowing them to resume professional, family, and educational responsibilities without any uncertainty. These benefits, however, are accompanied by the cost of self-restricting law school choice. Candidates applying on an Early Decision basis commit themselves to matriculate at Columbia if admitted. Successful Early Decision candidates may not initiate any new law school applications, must decline any acceptances they may have received prior to admission to Columbia and the Early Decision Plan, and must immediately withdraw other applications once notified of their Columbia acceptance in December. Failure to honor these commitments will result in Columbia revoking its offer of admission.

Some Early Decision applicants not offered admission will be reviewed again in April as part of the regular applicant pool; others will be informed that their application for admission has been denied and will not be evaluated again that year.

**Regular Admission**
Candidates for regular admission should submit their application as soon as possible after September 1, 2012. Applications are not evaluated by our Admissions Committee until all required materials have been received and are generally evaluated in the order in which they are completed, a review process that begins in November. Candidates who have completed their applications by the end of December may be expected to be notified by March. Every effort is made to notify all applicants of their decision by the end of April, provided that their files are completed by February 15—Columbia’s application deadline for regular admission to the J.D. program.

**NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS**
An application is considered complete when all required application materials have been received by Columbia, including receipt of the candidate’s Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Law School Report. In taking steps to ensure that his or her application to Columbia is completed before the appropriate deadline, an applicant should factor into his or her planning the few weeks that it will take the Law School Admission Council to produce the LSAC Law School Report and our Admissions staff to process the application.

**Submission of Additional Materials**
Applicants are expected to be diligent in providing all necessary information for review of their candidacy prior to the completion of their applications. Once an application is complete, please do not submit additional materials unless they convey essential information, as there is no guarantee such materials will be placed in your application prior to the evaluation and may potentially slow down the review of your candidacy. Applicants may submit address changes and letters of continued interest (Hold or Reserve applicants only) through our online information update portal (www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply/info-update).

**Dean’s Certification Form**
A Dean’s Certification Form (as distinct from the Dean’s Letter referred to in the application) or an equivalent certification of good standing will be required from all students after admission to and prior to matriculation at Columbia Law School. This Form will be mandatory from each educational institution where you are currently enrolled in a degree program; from which you have already earned a degree; and at which you were matriculated toward a degree (regardless of whether a degree was received). Please note that it is not necessary that the Dean or other Administrator responsible for such certification know you personally. He or she may complete the Dean’s Certification Form (or equivalent certification) on the basis of official records.

**Deferred Admission**
An applicant who wishes to defer matriculation for one or two years should submit his or her request, in writing, to the Dean of Admissions after having been offered admission, but no later than June 1. This request should include a general statement explaining how the intervening time will be spent. Permission for such deferrals is generally granted.

**Committee Decisions**
In addition to its “Admit” and “Deny” decision categories, Columbia Law School maintains both “Hold” and “Reserve” groups of candidates.

When an applicant is placed in the Hold category, the Admissions Committee has opted to postpone making a decision on his or her candidacy at the time of initial review; in other words, the Admissions Committee has not yet made a determination on the application, and the application will be reviewed again by the Committee later in the admissions season. Hold category applicants can expect to receive a decision on their candidacy (Admit, Reserve, or Deny) by the end of April.

Unlike applicants who are “wait-listed” at some law schools, candidates placed on Reserve at Columbia are at no point ranked ordinarily. Rather, each application on Reserve is reviewed again in its entirety by the Admissions Committee on a periodic basis during the summer months, as openings in the entering class materialize. Upon each review, some candidates will be offered or denied admission, while others will be asked if they wish to remain in consideration for any future openings in the class later in the summer.

The difference between the Hold and Reserve categories is that the initial review process is completed for candidates placed on Reserve. Reserve candidates will not be reevaluated for admission until the summer months, as openings in the entering class materialize.

Columbia Law School reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission if an applicant: (1) shows a significant decline in academic performance or fails to graduate; (2) misrepresents any matter in dealing with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid Office, or any other representative of Columbia Law School; (3) behaves in a manner that indicates a serious lack of judgment, sincerity, or integrity; or (4) reserves a place in our entering class and simultaneously commits to enroll at another law school or submits a deposit to another law school. Columbia Law School further reserves the right to make the continuing validity of an offer of admission contingent upon an applicant providing further information or authorizing the release of information from other parties in connection with any matter relevant to the foregoing.

**Checking on the Status of Applications**
Applicants are expected to monitor the completion and submission of all application requirements and are encouraged to do so by utilizing our online status check (www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/check-status). In the event that the status check mechanism appears to be unduly delayed, applicants may submit written requests of such status checks by email (admissions@law.columbia.edu) to the Office of Admissions.

Candidates should understand that all Admissions Committee decisions may be communicated to the applicant only in writing. Under no circumstances may an applicant be informed of the outcome of his or her application by telephone. This policy is designed to protect the confidentiality entrusted to our Office of Admissions by each candidate.
TUITION, FINANCIAL AID, AND HOUSING

TUITION
Tuition for 2012–2013 is $53,636. There are additional mandatory fees for health services, student activities, and University facilities, which will be $1,852 for 2012–2013. Insurance for hospital care and standard medical coverage is also required ($2,157), unless students can show proof of comparable coverage. The total budget for the nine-month academic year, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, and personal expenses, is $79,950. Budget components are adjusted annually.

FINANCIAL AID FOR J.D. STUDENTS
Admission decisions at Columbia Law School are made without regard to an applicant’s financial need. Therefore, grant applications are reviewed only after a student has been admitted. If you are interested in grant assistance, you must complete your application as early as possible so it can be evaluated soon after you have been admitted. Students admitted under the Early Decision Plan are reminded that they should not expect to be notified of their financial aid package before the end of March, at the earliest. We strongly recommend that all applicants file the required forms by no later than March 1, even if they have not yet received an offer of admission.

The Law School awards grant assistance primarily on the basis of demonstrated financial need. However, there are a number of fellowships that are not based on financial need and are awarded by the Office of Admissions at the time an applicant is admitted to the Law School. There is no separate application for these fellowships. Each year a substantial portion of the entering class receives a Law School grant, which is in the form of a partial tuition waiver. However, the largest form of financial aid for all law students is educational loans, with most students borrowing to finance a part, or all, of their educational expenses. To assist J.D. students borrowing to finance a part, or all, of their educational expenses, the Law School grants and for loans from private educational loan programs. Since these alternative loan programs require applicants to be creditworthy, you are strongly advised to obtain a copy of your credit report to determine if there are any problems that might make you ineligible for such loans. If you have an adverse credit history and are unable to correct it, you may not have access to important sources of loan funds. If this is the case, you will need to have others borrow on your behalf, or find other means to finance your education. Law School funds will not be available to replace unavailable credit-based loans.

International students (not U.S. citizens and not holding a U.S. permanent resident visa) are eligible to apply for Law School grants and for loans from private educational loan programs. They are not eligible for federally guaranteed assistance programs. In addition, they need to provide a U.S. cosigner to apply for credit-based educational loan programs. Since there are no fully funded fellowships for law students in Columbia’s J.D. degree program, international students needing to finance their education may need to arrange for cosigners for each of the three years of law school.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR 2013–2014
The following is a current summary of application procedures for the various types of financial aid. For detailed information on financial aid policies and procedures, costs, budgets, and various loan programs, please review the financial aid website (www.law.columbia.edu/finaid). Before completing any financial aid forms, it is important first to decide which types of aid you are seeking:

• Columbia Law School grants and loans
• Loans only

Deciding the type of aid will determine which forms you need to submit, and when. If you are uncertain about whether you should apply for a Law School grant, please refer to the section entitled “Eligibility for a Scholarship Grant” within the section “How to Apply for Financial Aid” on the financial aid website (www.law.columbia.edu/finaid).

U.S. citizens and permanent residents may be eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loans. Currently, the annual limit is $20,500 for this program. In addition, there are several alternative educational loan programs as well as the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan program that provide financing for law students. Since these alternative loan programs require applicants to be creditworthy, you are strongly advised to obtain a copy of your credit report to determine if there are any problems that might make you ineligible for such loans. If you have an adverse credit history and are unable to correct it, you may not have access to important sources of loan funds. If this is the case, you will need to have others borrow on your behalf, or find other means to finance your education. Law School funds will not be available to replace unavailable credit-based loans.

Loans only: Submit the following by no later than mid-May to ensure timely processing:

• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor (U.S. students)
• Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students only)
• 2012 federal income tax forms for all persons included on the Need Access application to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students only: by March 1 or immediately after admission)
• Loan application materials to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students intending to enroll—preferably by mid-May)

FINANCIAL AID FORMS
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): Completed by all U.S. citizens and permanent residents applying for financial aid and submitted to the federal processor. Online application is strongly recommended (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Paper applications are available from the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) (800-433-3243). Columbia University’s Title IV School Code is: 002707.

Need Access application: Completed by all applicants for Law School grants and submitted to the processor (Access Group). To apply, go online to www.needaccess.org. The Need Access application must include information for the student, the student’s spouse or prospective spouse (if applicable), and both of the student’s parents, regardless of the student’s age, marital status, dependency status for tax purposes, or parents’ marital status. A grant decision will not be made without all required information. Consult the financial aid website for further information.

Columbia Law School grants and loans: Submit the following by March 1 to ensure timely consideration for a Law School grant. Do not wait to receive an offer of admission before filing the FAFSA and Need Access applications.

• FAFSA to the federal processor (U.S. students)
• Need Access application to Access Group
• Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students only)
• 2012 federal income tax forms for all persons included on the Need Access application to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students only: by March 1 or immediately after admission)
• Loan application materials to the Financial Aid Office (admitted students intending to enroll—preferably by mid-May)
Columbia Law School Financial Aid

Questionnaire: Admitted students receive this form shortly after their offer of admission. Admitted students applying for any type of financial aid must send the completed form to the Financial Aid Office.

2012 federal income tax forms: Admitted students applying for a Law School grant must submit to the Financial Aid Office complete tax returns for all individuals included on their Need Access application. If 2012 returns are not available by March 1, 2013, admitted students should send complete 2011 returns by March 1 and complete 2012 returns by the end of April.

Loan application materials: Admitted students intending to enroll at the Law School should submit completed loan application materials to the Financial Aid Office, preferably by mid-May to ensure timely processing and the availability of loan funds at the start of the school year in August. Please refer to the financial aid website (www.law.columbia.edu/finaid) for detailed information.

THE LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Columbia Law School’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) is one of the most generous programs at any law school nationally. Our LRAP program supports Columbia J.D. graduates who pursue public interest and public service careers by providing them with financial assistance to service the educational debt they assumed while at the Law School. In addition to the traditional LRAP, participants may elect to participate in both the Columbia Law School LRAP and the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Finally, several fellowships for public interest have been established, and fellowship recipients may receive assistance for all loan payments on their Law School debt. A full description of our LRAP can be found on the financial aid website (www.law.columbia.edu/finaid) or may be requested from the Financial Aid Office.

HOUSING

Housing accommodations for Columbia Law School students are excellent in terms of availability, quality, variety, convenience, and—relative to other New York City law schools—expense. All admitted first-year law students who apply for housing by May 1, 2013, are guaranteed some type of University housing for all three years of law school.

All Law School student housing consists of apartments owned and managed by the University, and most are located within several blocks of the Law School. Rents are significantly lower than New York City market rates because our housing is heavily subsidized by the University.

Detailed descriptions of the University housing programs are provided to prospective law students shortly after admission. General housing information is also available via the Columbia University Apartment Housing (UAH) website (www.columbia.edu/cu/ire).
RESERVATION OF UNIVERSITY RIGHTS

This publication is intended for the guidance of Columbia students and faculty. It sets forth in general the manner in which the University intends to proceed with respect to the matters set forth herein, but the University reserves the right to depart without notice from the terms of this publication. This publication is not intended to be or should not be regarded as a contract.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, a federal law, requires colleges and universities to prepare and disseminate information about campus crime and crime prevention programs. In compliance, Columbia maintains a website describing programs and procedures established to keep our campus safe and secure. To view this information, please visit www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety.

Standard 504 of the American Bar Association requires that law schools advise each applicant to secure information regarding the character and other qualifications for admission to the bar in the state in which the applicant intends to practice. In some states, the Board of Bar Examiners requires that prospective lawyers register with them before they begin their legal studies. We encourage you to learn about the bar requirements in the states where you may wish to practice.

Columbia University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender (including gender identity and expression), pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs.

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