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—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 also encourage you to 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
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.
Columbia Law School, 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, eventually publishing his lectures 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.

The early 1900s saw a growing sophistication in legal research and thought. 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.

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 Walter 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 Law School 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.

**BUILDING THE FOUNDATION**

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.

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

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.

1928 The Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law was formed, strengthening Columbia’s leading role in the study of international law.

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

1984 Columbia Law School established the Human Rights Internship Program.

**PIONEERING LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP**

1986 Professor Barbara Black ’55 was appointed Dean of Columbia Law School, becoming the first woman to head an Ivy League law school.

1993 Columbia became the first law school to institute a pro bono requirement for all its law students.

1994 Columbia 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.

1998 Professor Louis Henkin founded the Human Rights Institute, serving as the focal point of international human rights education, scholarship, and practice at Columbia Law School.

2003 The Program on Careers in Law Teaching was formally established.

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

**CONTINUING TO INNOVATE**

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

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

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

2012 Columbia reinforced teaching, scholarship, and resources in the field of international arbitration with the Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration Law.

2013 Film screening series started to give students and faculty an opportunity to discuss important legal and cultural issues in an informal setting.

2014 Columbia Law School introduced the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, connecting students with clients who need legal assistance.
INTELLECTUAL VITALITY

Columbia law students are enriched by learning from an eminent faculty and inspired by the Law School’s tradition of leadership in shaping world events and human affairs. The breadth and depth of the curricular offerings at Columbia Law School are exceedingly vast and uniquely robust with respect to many of the most compelling areas of interest in legal scholarship.

Like the practice of law at the highest level, the curriculum is global, interdisciplinary, and rigorously practical, and Columbia continues to pioneer programs to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. Among the diverse curricular offerings, renowned strengths of the Law School include intellectual property law; national security law; gender and sexuality law; corporate, securities, and transactional law; environmental law; international, foreign, and comparative law; and public interest and human rights law.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
The advancement of technology and science along with the evolution of media and entertainment has led to the burgeoning field of intellectual property (IP) law. Spanning the areas of trademark, copyright, and patent law, Columbia Law School’s faculty are leading scholars in their respective areas of expertise. At the core of the Law School’s strength in intellectual property education are the Kernochan Center for Law, Media, & the Arts and the Julius Silver Program in Law, Science, & Technology, whose programs have trained IP professionals for almost two decades.

NATIONAL SECURITY LAW
In an era marked by globalization, hyper-surveillance, terrorism, and shifts in domestic policy, Columbia Law School stands at the forefront of legal scholarship in national security law. Faculty at the Law School share their unique government and policy experience through the Robert Hertog Program on Law and National Security, founded to promote research and scholarship in the field. The rigorous and innovative curriculum in national security law includes courses ranging from Global Constitutionalism to Intelligence, Surveillance, and Privacy Law.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY LAW
The Center for Gender and Sexuality Law has established Columbia Law School as the preeminent law school for the study of and specialization in the law of gender and sexuality. Professors Suzanne B. Goldberg and Katherine M. Franke, two of the country’s leading experts in gender and sexuality law, currently serve as co-directors of the Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. Professor Goldberg also serves as the head of the nation’s first Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic, which provides students cutting-edge training in impact litigation, legislative work, and community advocacy.

“In my time at Columbia, I have been taught by some of the most brilliant and distinguished professors, and guided by caring administrators. My professors prompted me to think in new ways, pushing me to ask questions about the norms and laws that shape society, and my own beliefs.”

Jerry Tower ’15
CORPORATE, SECURITIES, AND TRANSACTIONAL LAW

Being situated in the financial capital of the world, Columbia Law School affords its students both a theoretical and practical understanding of study in the areas of corporate, securities, and transactional law. Course offerings include domestic and international settings in contexts ranging from multibillion-dollar enterprises to small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Columbia’s tradition of the study and development of corporate law continues to thrive with innovative scholarship 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Law School has continued to introduce innovations in the teaching, scholarship, and practice of environmental law. The Center for Climate Change Law was founded in 2009 to advance an effective legal response to global climate change and to train the next generation of leaders in the field. Working with Columbia University, the Earth Institute, and Law School faculty who have depth in the many legal disciplines that must be harnessed to address this critical issue, the Center provides vision and leadership in the field of climate change law. Professor Michael B. Gerrard, director of the Center for Climate Change Law and associate chair of the faculty of Columbia University’s Earth Institute, is often cited as one of the world’s leading environmental lawyers and teaches courses on environmental, climate change, and energy law.

“My time here has been far more valuable than I ever could have anticipated. My classmates and I have had such one-of-a-kind experiential learning opportunities as advancing the cause of clients in our clinics, conducting research for professors on cutting-edge issues, and arguing before Supreme Court justices.”

Dinah Manning ’14
INTERNATIONAL, FOREIGN, AND COMPARATIVE LAW

International law has become a nexus where commerce and diplomacy intersect. With its location in New York City, Columbia Law School is an ideal training ground. 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 expanding 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.

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 numerous 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 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.

As part of Columbia’s historical and continuing commitment to the study of human rights, 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 was recently elected to serve as an independent expert on the UN’s Human Rights Committee.

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

INTERNATIONAL CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

- Center for Chinese Legal Studies
- Center on Global Governance
- Center for Global Legal Transformation
- Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration Law
- Center for Israeli Legal Studies
- 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
- Ira M. Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership
- Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law
- Program of International Migration: Economics, Ethics and Law
- Social Justice Initiatives
International Study

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 will teach in the country’s 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, 35 to 40 students will spend one or two semesters 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 and the University of Paris I. Later, the Global Alliance Programs were strengthened by the addition of a new partnership with Oxford University. 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.

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.

Because traditional distinctions have collapsed, public and private law connect at every point in the global order. One cannot study human rights without understanding foreign investment, nor can one comprehend world trade without an intuitive knowledge of world health.

STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAMS

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<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>The Netherlands*</td>
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<tr>
<td>France**</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany*</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>United Kingdom**</td>
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Students may create independent study-abroad programs in the country of their choice and earn up to 13 credits towards the J.D. degree. The countries in which students have created independent programs are shown in red, including Australia, Ghana, India, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Spain, and more.

*Double Degree Program (J.D./LL.M., J.D./LL.B., J.D./Master)
**Global Alliance Program (J.D./LL.M., Global Certificate Program)
PUBLICATION INTEREST, PUBLIC SERVICE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Social justice is part of the professional life of every Columbia student. The Law School continually refreshes its extensive roster of courses, innovative clinics, externships, and other academic opportunities for hands-on experience in the field. Students inspire many of these offerings. They also create new student organizations and journals that are 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, Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) advises students and graduates on career, summer, and pro bono opportunities as well as how to become attractive candidates. Columbia’s generous program to assist graduates with their law school debt makes public interest a realistic goal.

Students benefit from Columbia’s strong ties to organizations and lawyers who tackle the tremendous need for legal assistance in New York City and elsewhere. SJI, students, and faculty have made the Law School’s commitment 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 United States and the world. Leading social justice advocates come to campus to speak, meet with students, and provide practical assistance to students committed to service in the public interest. SJI’s varied programs, social events, and advising foster and support a public interest student and graduate community that is as diverse as it is committed to positive social change.

Public Interest Law Career Services and Programs

At Columbia, students are encouraged to find their own path to a social justice career whether they enter the public sector directly after graduation, pursue a judicial clerkship before entering the field, or work 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, human rights, and legal volunteer work. Its staff of full-time advisers—all experienced public interest or pro bono lawyers—meet with students individually or in small workshops and are supplemented by part-time counselors with specific subject matter or regional expertise.

As a result, Columbia law students often receive the prestigious public interest law fellowships at legal services providers and other legal organizations that are available to recent law graduates. They usually are among the few who are selected for entry-level government positions, including Honors Programs at the Department of Justice, the State Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal, state, local, and multinational governmental agencies. SJI’s National State Attorneys General Program connects students to meaningful employment across the nation. Columbia graduates also can be found at Public Defender offices (including those that specialize in death penalty defense), District Attorneys offices, and U.S. Attorneys offices. Human rights organizations around the globe, including in the U.S., are led and staffed by Columbia graduates. Students easily make connections through SJI’s strong network of public service graduates, including its Social Justice Network Online and social events in New York, D.C., California, and elsewhere.
Summer Fellowships and the Human Rights Internship Program

Summer internships should be sources of self-discovery, practical skills, and legal knowledge and relationships that will be valuable throughout a career. Columbia not only assists students to identify and obtain meaningful work but also makes it feasible. Every first- and second-year J.D. student who does qualifying summer work receives a stipend through our Guaranteed Summer Funding Program. 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, local, and multinational 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 public interest law firms focus on workers’ rights and employment discrimination, civil rights, and environmental justice.

The Human Rights Internship Program (HRIP) provides 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 welcome Columbia interns because of HRIP’s long history and reputation.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Understanding the financial difficulties of earning far less than a corporate salary in the face of the high costs of a legal education, Columbia makes 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. For detailed information and a summary of the Loan Repayment Assistance Program, see Application Information and Financial Resources on page 28, or visit the financial aid website (law.columbia.edu/finaid).

Pro Bono Program

Pro bono service is a part of every Columbia student’s experience. They use their skills and knowledge outside the classroom to serve real client and community needs while gaining practical experience and exemplifying the ethical obligation to do pro bono work as part of an ongoing legal career. Many Columbia students perform pro bono service in their first year, and most exceed the 40 hours mandatory for Columbia graduation and the 50 hours necessary for admission to the New York bar. 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 works with students to find meaningful projects at public interest law organizations or government agencies or to develop new projects in collaboration with public interest legal services organizations. Spring Break Pro Bono Caravan projects, which take students across the nation and around the world to work with lawyers on Indian reservations, in refugee camps, and in other communities with limited legal resources, have been an ongoing part of our pro bono offerings for more than 15 years.

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. Speakers series, conferences, mentoring programs, prison visits, and more are organized by students for other students, often with SJI’s support. Many student groups work with SJI to provide pro bono opportunities for students in such areas as immigration, civil rights, domestic violence, criminal justice, and youth advocacy.

“The philosophy of Columbia Law School’s Social Justice Initiatives is that there is no single path for students who wish to practice law in the public interest. Indeed, as legal careers are more fluid than ever, we emphasize that many learning and work experiences can be combined to create the career that is just right for each individual.”

Ellen Chapnick, Dean for Social Justice Initiatives
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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.

EXTERNSHIPS

Similar to clinics, externships provide practical learning experience for second- and third-year students. Externships differ from clinics in that they consist of an off-campus field experience at a not-for-profit or government office in conjunction with a closely related seminar taught by leading practicing attorneys. For example, the United Nations externship provides students with tangible insight into public international law at the premier international organization. Additionally, 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. Other externships offer experiential learning opportunities in criminal justice ranging from state and local prosecution to constitutional issues in capital punishment defense; the law affecting low-income artists and writers; immigrant representation; and many other areas.

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<tr>
<th>CLINICAL OFFERINGS</th>
<th>EXTERNSHIP OFFERINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Child Advocacy/Adolescent Representation</td>
<td>Advancing Social and Environmental Justice at the New York Attorney General’s Office</td>
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<td>Community Enterprise</td>
<td>Arts Law</td>
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<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>Bronx Defenders: Holistic Defense</td>
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<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>City and State Policy Advocacy</td>
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<td>Immigrants’ Rights</td>
<td>Community Defense</td>
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<td>Lawyering in the Digital Age</td>
<td>Constitutional Rights Enforcement in Capital Habeas and Prison Cases</td>
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<td>Mass Incarceration</td>
<td>Copyright Dispute Resolution</td>
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<td>Prisoners and Families</td>
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<td>Sexuality and Gender Law</td>
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<td>Immigration Defense</td>
<td>Representing NYC: New York City Law Department</td>
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<td>Pro Bono Practice and Design</td>
<td>Undocumented and Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth</td>
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<td>Representing Undocumented and Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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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.
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 endeavors to offer a dynamic and interdisciplinary education by combining forces with other preeminent schools, colleges, and institutes within Columbia University.

By being allowed to apply up to 10 credits from any other part of the University toward their J.D. degree, law students are given the opportunity to develop a broad and interdisciplinary perspective on the world and explore a multitude of avenues while drawing on the expertise and knowledge of leading scholars in their respective fields.

With a truly national and increasingly international student body (representing approximately 200 colleges and universities and hailing from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and nearly 35 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.

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.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (M.Phil. or Ph.D. in select 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)
- 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)
- Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (M.P.A.)
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 are accessible to students within and beyond 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 160), averaging 14 students. The student-faculty ratio is even lower in the Law School’s clinics, with one faculty member for every 8 to 10 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 makes special efforts to bring first-year students and faculty together socially as well. 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 engage with professors by participating in the popular Intellectual Life series and Film series.

Columbia further promotes 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.

“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
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.

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.

“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
THE LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The Columbia experience is characterized not only by the students and faculty but also by the campus community, New York City, and the exemplary and innovative disciplines offered at the Law School. Upon leaving the gates of the University, students 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. 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.
THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

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, unpretentiousness, and 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.

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 15, 2015, 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 (facilities.columbia.edu/housing).
NEW YORK CITY

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.

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.

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 subway or bus ride away.

As an urban center, New York City is representative of the many problems, hopes, challenges, and opportunities facing individuals and societies around the world. As such, it 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.

“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
Columbia Law School is proud of its ability to provide students with a wide variety of career 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. Whatever the students’ interests, the Law School has a team of experts whose primary focus is to assist and facilitate their professional aspirations.
At Columbia, four offices assist students in their employment search for summer and long-term opportunities. While there is collaboration and some overlap 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 private 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.

**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’s 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. Whatever 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. Historically, approximately 15 percent of the graduating class secures judicial clerkships to begin a few months after graduation or thereafter.

"The Columbia faculty was instrumental in imparting the skills I needed to be a competitive clerkship applicant. The legal writing instruction and clerkship search guidance I received from my professors and the strong connections between the Columbia faculty and the judiciary were invaluable in helping me secure my clerkships."

Jacob Fiddelman ’13

Law Clerk, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
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.

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 are familiar with the mechanics of the hiring process.

Beginning in the early summer, attention is devoted to those Law School graduates seeking an opportunity 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 Teaching 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, as part of the vibrant community of fellows and associates, through such activities as presentations at workshops by faculty and fellows. Members of the 2014–2015 Teaching Program Committee are Professors Carol Sanger, Vince Blasi, Jessica Bulman-Pozen, Katherine Franke, Philip Hamburger, Barbara Schatz, Peter Strauss, and Tim Wu.

“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
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 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.

UPPERCLASS CURRICULUM

Administrative Law and Public Policy

Complex Remedies: Institutional Reform Litigation

Deals: Public-Sector Problem Solving

Energy Law

Health Law

Immigration Law

Land Use

Lawyering for Change

Legislation and Regulation

Public Health Law

Regulation of Financial Institutions

Securities Regulation

The Media Industries: Public Policy and Business Strategy

Seminars:

Access to Healthcare

Advanced Seminar on State Attorneys General

Aging and Disability Law

Architecture of Financial Regulation

Constitutional War Powers

Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation

Diversity and Innovation: Transforming Institutions and Systems

False Advertising Law

Genetics and the Law

Immigration Law and Policy

Law and Policy of Homelessness

Advanced Academic Programs

Advanced Contracts

Advanced Corporate Law and Finance

Advanced Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions

American Contract Law

Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Advanced Seminar on State Attorneys General

Advanced Tort Practice

Advanced Trial Practice

Big Case: Tactics and Strategy

Class Actions

Construction Industry Law

Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law

Law Enforcement, Regulation, and Compliance:

Role of the State Attorneys General

Mediation Workshop

Native Peacemaking

Negotiation Workshop

New York Practice

Patent Litigation

Science and the Courts

Trial Practice

Trial Problems of Major Current Cases

Commercial, Corporate, and Securities Law

Advanced Contracts

Advanced Corporate Law and Finance

Advanced Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions

American Contract Law

Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Bankruptcy Law

Behavioral Law and Economics

Capital Markets Regulation

Commercial Finance

Contracts

Corporate Finance

Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy

Corporations

Deals

Financial Crises, Regulatory Reforms

Financial Statement Analysis and Interpretation

Global Antitrust Law

International Finance: Law, Money, and Banking in the Global Economy

International Financial Transactions

International Securities Regulation

Investment Banking

Investment Treaty Law and Arbitration

Private Investment Funds

Real Estate Finance

Regulation of Financial Institutions

Secured Transactions

Securities Regulation

Unfair Competition and Related Topics in Intellectual Property

Seminars

Advanced Antitrust: Issues in Contemporary Competition Law and Policy

Advanced Bankruptcy: Deals and Issues in the Current Environment

Advanced Contracts: A Legal and Economic Approach

Advanced International Commercial Arbitration

Law Enforcement, Regulation, and Compliance:

Role of the State Attorneys General

Law of Governments Secrecy

Law, Media, and Public Policy

Mental Health Law

Public Law Workshop

Public-Sector Structural Reform in K-12 Education

Race and Poverty Law

The Regulation of Systemic Risk: Financial Institutions and the Challenge of Too Big to Fail

U.S. Insurance Regulation

Welfare Law: Legal Issues and Policy Choices

Civil Procedure and Dispute Resolution

Admiralty Law

Civil Procedure

Conflict of Laws

Deals: Public-Problem Solving

Electronic Discovery

Evidence

Mass Torts

Torts

Transnational Litigation and Arbitration

Seminars:

Advanced Civil Procedure: Scholarly and Lawyerly Perspectives

Advanced International Commercial Arbitration

Advanced Seminar on State Attorneys General

Advanced Tort Practice

Advanced Trial Practice

Big Case: Tactics and Strategy

Class Actions

Construction Industry Law

Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law

Law Enforcement, Regulation, and Compliance:

Role of the State Attorneys General

Mediation Workshop

Native Peacemaking

Negotiation Workshop

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Advanced Contracts

Advanced Corporate Law and Finance

Advanced Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions

American Contract Law

Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Bankruptcy Law

Behavioral Law and Economics

Capital Markets Regulation

Commercial Finance

Contracts

Corporate Finance

Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy

Corporations

Deals

Financial Crises, Regulatory Reforms

Financial Statement Analysis and Interpretation

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International Securities Regulation

Investment Banking

Investment Treaty Law and Arbitration

Private Investment Funds

Real Estate Finance

Regulation of Financial Institutions

Secured Transactions

Securities Regulation

Unfair Competition and Related Topics in Intellectual Property

Seminars

Advanced Antitrust: Issues in Contemporary Competition Law and Policy

Advanced Bankruptcy: Deals and Issues in the Current Environment

Advanced Contracts: A Legal and Economic Approach

Advanced International Commercial Arbitration
Advanced Securities Regulation
Anatomy of M&A Transactions
Architecture of Financial Regulation
Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime
Capital Markets: Development, Structure, and Policies
Class Actions
Comparative Corporate Capitalism
Construction Industry Law
Contracts and Economic Organization
Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation
Corporate Criminal Responsibility: European Perspectives
Corporation in Modern Society
Corporations in Court: Strategic Decision-Making in Major Litigation
Deals Litigation
Deals Workshop: The Art of the Deal
Deals Workshop: Transactional Legal Strategies
Deals Workshop: The Art of the Deal in Mergers and Acquisitions
Derivatives Law and Regulation
Entrepreneurship
Environmental Issues in Business Transactions
European Banking and Finance
Insurance Law
International Banking and Financial Law
International Business Transactions in Latin America
International Commercial Arbitration Practicum
Issues on Global Regulatory Reform
Law and Sports
Law and the Film Industry
Law and the Music Industry
Nonprofit Institutions
Real Estate M&A and Restructuring Deals Workshop
Role of the Modern In-House Counsel
Strategic International Commercial Transactions
The Regulation of Systemic Risk: Financial Institutions and the Challenge of Too Big to Fail
U.S. Insurance Regulation
Constitutional Law
Advanced Constitutional Law: Equal Protection
Advanced Constitutional Law: Religious Liberty
American Constitutional Law
Antidiscrimination Law
Comparative Constitutional Law
Constitutional Law
Educational Equality: The Role of Law
Federal Courts
Ideas of the First Amendment
Immigration Law
Indian Constitutional Law
Law and Education: Issues of Authority, Religion, Free Speech, and Safety
Law and Educational Institutions: Equity Issues
Law and Educational Institutions: Issues of Authority
Seminars:
Advanced Trial Practice
Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime
Civil Liberties and the Response to Terrorism
Corporate Criminal Responsibility: European Perspectives
Crime and Justice in New York
Crime Control Policy
Forse and Fraud in Criminal Law
Internal Investigations
International Constitutional Law
Internet and Computer Crimes
Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law
Liberal Democracies in an Age of Security
National Security Investigations and Prosecutions
Punishment: Theory and Practice
Science and the Courts
Sentencing
Social and Legal Regulation of Firearms
Topics in Criminal Prosecution and Defense
Trial Practice
Education Law
Educational Equality: The Role of Law
Law and Education: Issues of Authority, Religion, Free Speech, and Safety
Law and Educational Institutions: Equity Issues
Seminars:
Educational Policy-Making and the Courts
Public Sector Structural Reform in K-12 Education
Environmental Law
Climate Change Law
Energy Law
Environmental Law
Oil and Gas Law
Seminars:
Advanced Climate Change Law
Energy Industry Mergers
Environmental Issues in Business Transactions
Environmental Justice and Environmental Health
Natural Resources Law
Family Law
Advanced Family Law: Equitable Distribution
Family Law
Advanced Family Law: Pre-Nups, Property Distribution, and Alimony in Divorce
Seminars:
Child, Family, and State
Domestic Violence and the Law
International Family Law
Gender and the Law
Antidiscrimination Law
Family Law
Gender Justice
Lawyering for Change
Seminars:
Abortion: Law in Context
Advocacy in Theory and Practice
Diversity and Innovation: Transforming Institutions and Systems
Domestic Violence and the Law
Feminist Legal Theory Workshop
Reproductive Rights: Comparative and International Law Perspectives
Topics in Sexuality Law
Health/Health Care and the Law
Health Law
Public Health Law
Seminars:
Abortion: Law in Context
Access to Health Care
Aging and Disability Law
Genetics and the Law
Mental Health Law
Reproductive Rights: Comparative and International Law Perspectives
Topics in Jewish Law: Biomedical Ethics
History and Philosophy of Law
American Legal History
Critical Legal Thought
Empirical Analysis of Law
History of Human Rights
Ideas of the First Amendment
Juristicprudence: Selected Problems
Terror and Consent
Seminars:
Advanced Civil Procedure: Scholarly and Lawyerly Perspectives
Animal Law
Biblical Jurisprudence
Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation
Law of the City of New York
Legal Interpretation
Legal Theory Workshop
Liberal Democracies in an Age of Security
Machiavelli from a Constitutional Point of View
Native American Law
Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law
Political Theory and the First Amendment
Problems in Legal Philosophy
Punishment: Theory and Practice
Spectacle and Surveillance
Survey of American Legal History, 1620-1870
The Anatomy of Autonomy: From Personhood to Personification
The High-Profile Trial: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Theories of Constitutional Interpretation
Topics in Jewish Law: Biomedical Ethics
Warren Burger's Supreme Court
Human Rights
Comparative Constitutional Law
History of Human Rights
Human Rights: Law, Policy, and Strategy
Immigration Law
The Law of Genocide
Seminars:
African Human Rights Systems in Comparative Perspective
Contemporary Issues in International Human Rights
Cuba: Law, Policy, and Transition
Human Rights and the Question of Culture
Human Rights Reparations under Domestic and International Law
Human Rights, Law, and Development Workshop
Immigration Law and Policy
International Human Rights Advocacy
International Humanitarian Law
Labor Rights in a Global Economy
Law and Policy of Homelessness
Mental Health Law
Native American Law
Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law
Race and Poverty Law
Reproductive Rights: Comparative and International Law Perspectives
September 11 and the Rights of Noncitizens
Transitional Justice
Transnational Business and Human Rights
Intellectual Property
Antitrust and Trade Regulation
Copyright Law
International Copyright Law
Patents
Unfair Competition and Related Topics in Intellectual Property
Applicants and prospective students are welcome to visit Columbia Law School during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can speak with an admissions officer on a walk-in or call-in basis, and you do not need an appointment.

While we do not offer daily guided tours of the Law School, you may pick up information from our office to conduct a self-guided tour or download a copy of the self-guided tour brochure.

**ATTEND A CLASS**
A variety of first-year and upperclass courses are open to prospective students and visitors during the academic year, and we invite you to attend a sampling of subjects. We do ask that you arrive at the classroom a few minutes before the class is scheduled to begin and to provide the faculty member the courtesy of notifying him or her that you will be observing class that day. Please ask the faculty member if there is a particular area or seat in the classroom where you should sit, as some classes may have limited seating. The schedule of classes is posted on our website and is also available at our office.

**ON-CAMPUS VISITATION**
We offer special visitation programs, which enable you to attend Law School classes, tour the Law School and the Law Library, meet and interact with current students, and attend an Admissions Information Session. At each Session, an admissions officer will discuss in considerable detail the subtleties of Columbia's selection process, as well as the Law School's financial aid procedures, career placement services, our faculty and curriculum, special enrichment programs, and internships.
FINANCING YOUR LEGAL EDUCATION

Admissions 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 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.

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 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.

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. For more information, please visit: law.columbia.edu/finaid.
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.

Photographers include: Eileen Barroso, Josh Boelter/DKV, Bill Denison, Peter Freed, Getty Images, Bruce Gilbert, Nicholas Gray, Bob Handelman, Michael Krisch, Alan S. Orling, Jon Roemer, Dustin Ross, and Chris Taggart
Brandon Garrett image courtesy of University of Virginia

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