

# Columbia Law School

AN INTRODUCTION



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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS



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 wildly 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. And the larger campus extends beyond the immediate environs of Columbia to the broader setting of New York City—a center of innovation where forward-thinking people thrive. 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 admissions information sessions 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nkonye Iwerebon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N".

Nkonye Iwerebon '93  
Dean of Admissions



Columbia Law School brings together people of remarkable talent and uncommon commitment, from a diversity of cultural backgrounds and perspectives, to

# live and learn in an invigorating, one-of-a-kind place.

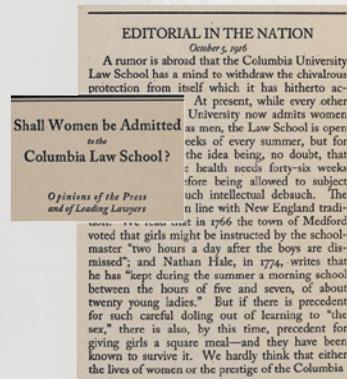
To study law at Columbia is to be a member of an exceptional community where students get an education rightly renowned for its intellectual rigor and high standards. Columbia law students are enriched by learning from an extraordinary faculty and by collaborating with remarkable classmates. They are stimulated by immersion in distinctive environs, supported by abundant resources, and inspired by the Law School's tradition of leadership in shaping world events and human affairs.

# A PROUD TRADITION

Columbia Law School was formally established in 1858 after more than 60 years of offering 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 and faculty have made to public service, business, education, technology, philanthropy, and the arts, by shaping culture and human progress throughout the world.



Columbia University, formerly known as King's College, is founded near the present site of New York's City Hall.



Columbia University moves to its current location in Morningside Heights.

The first women enroll at the Law School.



Constance Baker Motley '46 becomes the first woman of color to be appointed a federal judge.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59, the first female full professor at the Law School, is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Professor Barbara Black '55 is appointed dean, becoming the first woman to lead an Ivy League law school.

1754

1858

1897

1910

1927

1931

1966

1984

1986

1993

Columbia Law School is founded as one of the first law schools in the United States.



Harlan Fiske Stone (Class of 1898), who later was Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, becomes dean of the Law School.



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



Columbia Law School establishes the Human Rights Internship Program.

Columbia is one of the first law schools to institute a pro bono requirement for all of its students.

Columbia is 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.

The Careers in Law Teaching Program is formally established.

Columbia Law School introduces the nation's first sexuality and gender law clinic.  
Columbia Law School launches the first study abroad program of any U.S. law school with Chinese universities—Fudan and Peking.

The Law School inaugurates the Center for Public Research and Leadership.

Columbia Law School introduces the Immigrants' Rights Clinic, connecting students with clients who need legal assistance.

Gillian Lester commences her tenure as the 15th dean of Columbia Law School.



1994

1998

2003

2006

2009

2010

2011

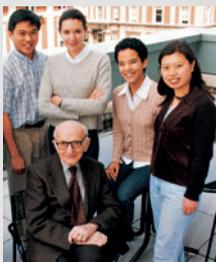
2012

2014

2015

2017

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



Columbia Law School introduces the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law.

Columbia Law School announces the Federal Government Externship Program in Washington, D.C., giving students hands-on experience in government law offices.

The Law School establishes the Center for International Commercial Arbitration, a think tank for advanced theory and practice.

To increase public service opportunities and ensure that future generations of deserving students can obtain a Columbia Law School education, the Jerome L. Greene Foundation pledges \$15 million. Greene was a member of the Class of 1928.



A group of students in a classroom, smiling and engaged in discussion. The students are diverse in age and appearance, and they are all looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and a classroom setting.

# INTELLECTUAL VITALITY

**The hallmark of a Columbia Law School education is being immersed in a culture of ideas.**

**Our professors are influential theorists and renowned experts in both traditional and emerging fields of law. They are devoted, accessible, and supportive teachers who challenge students to think critically about the impact of legal issues on individual lives and international events.**

In addition to their cutting-edge scholarship published in academic journals, the faculty contributes to the public discourse by advising Congress and other government officials, publishing op-ed pieces in major newspapers, and providing legal analysis of current affairs for network and cable news programs. The depth and scope of our curricular offerings reflect the faculty's experience, passion for excellence, and commitment to training lawyers who are prepared for the demands of an ever-changing world.

## CORPORATE, SECURITIES, AND TRANSACTIONAL LAW

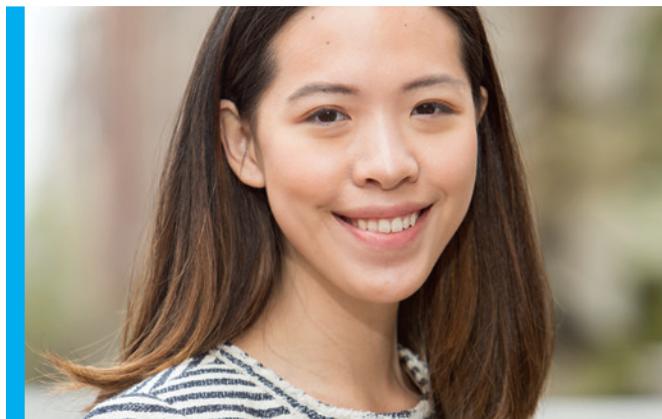
Situated in the financial capital of the world, Columbia Law School offers its students both a theoretical and practical understanding of corporate, securities, and transactional law. Led by a faculty with unparalleled expertise in the field, our courses allow students to contemplate legal and organizational issues in both domestic and international settings, and 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 in areas such as bankruptcy, securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, white collar crime, and antitrust law, among others.

### Getting Down to Business

Joy Chua '17, who grew up in the Philippines, came to Columbia to pursue a J.D. and M.B.A. after graduating from Brown University in 2010.

During her four years at Columbia, Chua thoroughly explored the intersection of business and law. She bridged these two worlds as co-president of the Columbia Business and Law Association, a student organization with some 300 members. She also participated in the alumni mentorship program at the Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy, a joint venture of the law and business schools.

In addition to spending two summers at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom working for private equity and M&A clients, Chua also investigated more business-oriented career paths with a part-time job on the corporate development team at Pinterest, and internships with 37 Angels—a boot camp and network



**"I can only hope my career is as rewarding as my experience and time at Columbia have been."**

for female investors—and at Glossier, a beauty startup.

In 2016, Chua worked for the chief investment officer of Continental Grain Company, an agribusiness that is one of the largest privately held companies in the world. "I traveled with him and the CEO to China to meet a variety of business leaders in the public and private sectors," she says. "It was an

amazing learning opportunity to sit in on those meetings."

After graduation, Chua joined the investments team at Continental Grain, where she is applying her broad range of skills to a rapidly changing industry.



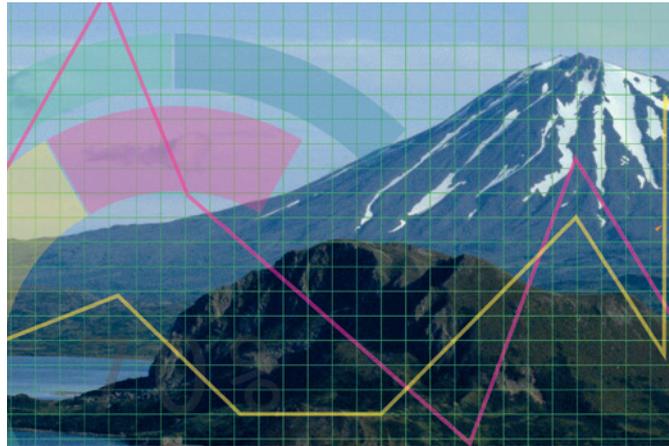
**"We prepare versatile professionals, allowing for engagement with nonlegal disciplines while emphasizing the global nature of the legal profession. We seek to graduate leaders determined to forge a just society, who are intellectually adventurous, emotionally intelligent, and actively engaged in solving the world's pressing problems."**

GILLIAN LESTER,  
DEAN AND THE LUCY G. MOSES  
PROFESSOR OF LAW



## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Known as a hub for the study of novel regulatory approaches to sustaining the environment, Columbia Law School continues to introduce innovations to the teaching, scholarship, and practice of environmental law. The Law School's curriculum includes courses on international environmental law, energy law, environmental issues in business transactions, and natural resources law. Under the direction of Professor Michael B. Gerrard, our Sabin Center for Climate Change Law works to create and advance legal responses to global climate change. Through partnerships with Columbia University, the Earth Institute, and Law School faculty who have expertise in the many legal disciplines that must be harnessed to address this critical issue, the Sabin Center provides vision and training for the next generation of leaders in the field.



### Sabin Center Partners with Attorneys General

In 2017, Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law partnered with StateAG.org to develop a database of actions undertaken by state attorneys general as they seek to advance environmental law and policy objectives within their jurisdictions. These include lawsuits where AGs have joined with the federal government to defend environmental standards, lawsuits against private actors for environmental harms, and other types of actions such as amicus briefs, administrative petitions, and legislative inputs.

"State attorneys general have considerable ability to wield state laws to protect the environment. This database is designed to make that job easier by providing easy and organized access to much of the legal work that has been done in recent years," says Michael Gerrard, Faculty Director of the Sabin Center.



**"Columbia Law School gave me the tools I would need to succeed as an environmental lawyer. The wide array of courses in environmental, natural resources, and energy law built my doctrinal foundation in the field. Hands-on experience in the clinical and externship programs helped prepare me for practice. And the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law provided opportunities through events and research projects to engage with cutting-edge scholarship and advocacy on climate law and policy."**

**CHANNING WISTAR-JONES '17  
FELLOW, ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION BUREAU  
OF THE NEW YORK STATE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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## GENDER AND SEXUALITY LAW

Over the past decade, Columbia Law School has become the preeminent law school for the study of, and specialization in, the law of gender and sexuality. Our Center for Gender and Sexuality Law is directed by Professors Suzanne Goldberg and Katherine Franke, two of the country's leading experts in the field. The center's mission is to formulate new approaches to complex issues facing gender and sexual justice movements. The Law School is also home to the first-of-its-kind Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic, which provides students cutting-edge training in impact litigation, legislative work, and community advocacy.

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### Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic's Report on Surrogacy Law

In May 2016 the clinic released *Surrogacy Law and Policy in the U.S.*, a report that examined the key arguments for and against the legalization of surrogacy. The work of clinic students Alex Finkelstein '17, Sarah Mac Dougall '16, Angela Kintominas '16 LL.M., and Anya Olsen '17 discusses how surrogacy—the practice of carrying a child for someone else—raises complex, ever-developing, and challenging questions in law, science, ethics, and public policy. Clinic students devoted a semester to analyzing the issue from various angles.



**"This project has been a great opportunity to present the arguments on both sides of a complicated issue, as the legislature is considering an**

**important change to New York law. We hope our findings shed light on the proposed legislation or similar bills in other states."**

SARAH MAC DOUGALL '16



**"You need a faculty that values what's going on in the real world and that is interested in building places of reflection about the law. Columbia excels in making the connection between the classroom and practice."**

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PROFESSOR OLATUNDE JOHNSON,  
VICE DEAN FOR INTELLECTUAL LIFE

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Rapid and continuous advancements in technology and science—along with the evolution of media and entertainment—have made intellectual property (IP) a wide-reaching field of law. At the core of the Law School's strength in IP law education are the Kernochan Center for Law, Media, and the Arts and the Julius Silver Program in Law, Science, and Technology, whose programs serve to bolster the curriculum and contribute to the broader understanding of the legal aspects of creative works and communications, as well as science and technology. Columbia Law School's IP law faculty members are pioneering scholars in their respective areas of expertise—like copyright, patent, and trademark law—and students pursuing studies in intellectual property are offered a wide selection of courses, hands-on training, and seminars with expert domestic and international practitioners.



### Tech World Internships

For Columbia Law School students who want to be at the intersection of law and technology, a new paid summer internship at eBay provides a rising second-year student with the opportunity to work on legal issues facing the giant online marketplace.

Developed with the help of President and Chief Executive Officer Devin Wenig '91,

the eBay internship enables students to spend five weeks rotating through eBay's legal department in San Jose, California, and five weeks at one of two eBay partner law firms in San Francisco and Palo Alto, either Sidley Austin or Baker McKenzie.

The eBay internship is part of the Dean's Technology Law Internship Program. It builds on existing technology law opportunities at the Law School, including the Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic and internships at the Alibaba Group, Via, Cloudflare, and Microsoft, where alumnus Brad Smith '84 serves as president and chief legal officer.



**"Scholars are more useful the closer they are to the facts of the world, and working in New York City—a major market for commerce, communications, and science—is fertile ground for scholarship and practice in IP law and technology."**

PROFESSOR TIM WU,  
AUTHOR OF *THE MASTER SWITCH: THE RISE AND FALL OF INFORMATION EMPIRES*





### 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. Our faculty members have unique government and policy experience, forged during some of the country's most trying periods in national security. The curriculum highlights the demands and difficulties U.S. government officials face while balancing domestic law with national security issues and foreign policy concerns. Courses include Military Law and the Constitution, and National Security Investigations and Prosecutions.

#### Soldier and Scholar

John V. Allen '17 was in his second deployment to Afghanistan when he decided to apply to law school. A 2009 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he was part of a Marine Corps Afghan police adviser team and led security operations and interdiction missions on Taliban smuggling routes. With his boots-on-the-ground understanding of terrorism, Allen was drawn to national security law, and he worked closely with Professor Matthew Waxman. "I was a research assistant on cybersecurity, particularly in the area of murky and rapidly changing international legal norms," he says.

Allen also took advantage of Columbia's federal government externship in D.C., where he worked in the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of the General Counsel on cybersecurity, counterinsurgency, and space issues. "The externship is an incredible opportunity for anyone who may be interested in a career in government service or just to explore where a law degree can take you in the public sector."

After a year at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, he will clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Joseph F. Bianco of the Eastern District of New York.



"Nowhere is there more of a commitment to grappling with the most contemporary, of-the-moment legal issues on the national and international stage than at Columbia Law School."

PROFESSOR MATTHEW WAXMAN, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL

30

STUDY ABROAD  
PROGRAMS IN

14

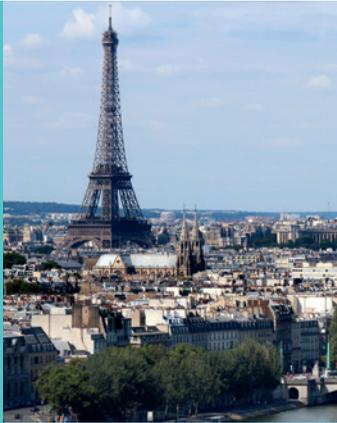
COUNTRIES

35–  
55STUDENTS SPEND ONE  
OR TWO SEMESTERS  
ABROAD EVERY YEAR

3

ONE-YEAR GLOBAL  
ALLIANCE PROGRAMS  
(AMSTERDAM,  
OXFORD, PARIS)

11

INTERNATIONAL  
DUAL DEGREE  
PROGRAMS  
(FRANKFURT,  
LONDON, PARIS)

## INTERNATIONAL, FOREIGN, AND COMPARATIVE LAW

Columbia Law School's position as a global leader in international and comparative law allows students to immerse themselves in many aspects of the world's most pressing problems. As globalization continues to change the composition of the law and of legal institutions, our relationships with dozens of international programs throughout Europe, Asia, and South America give students the opportunity to study overseas and earn additional specialization along with their J.D. Our international focus also extends beyond the classroom—students can take advantage of centers, programs, and student activities that highlight and take actions relating to global issues. The Law School's many centers are built around close working relationships with foreign faculty and their extensive knowledge of the questions and challenges at hand. Centers focused on legal studies in China, Israel, Japan, Korea, and Europe offer student fellowships, provide research opportunities, and host lectures, panels, and other intellectual events open to all throughout the academic year.

### Clerking at the International Court of Justice

For recent graduates preparing for a global legal career, the International Court of Justice's University Traineeship is a unique opportunity to work at the World Court in The Hague. Established in 1945 as the judicial branch of the United Nations, the court's 15 judges settle disputes between member states within the bounds of international law.

Julia Sherman '17 is the latest Columbia Law School graduate to be awarded one of the coveted clerkships, which come with a \$35,000 stipend. During her time at Columbia, Sherman focused on international law in and out of the classroom. She worked at Human Rights Watch and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She was editor-in-chief of the



*Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, where she published a student note, "The Right to an Interpreter under Customary International Law." Sherman was advised on her note by Lori Fislser Damrosch, the Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, who was a legal adviser in the U.S. Department of State before joining the Law School faculty. "Professor Damrosch has been a guiding light throughout my law school experience," says Sherman. "I tried to take as many courses as I could with her. I thought if I

could do well by her standards, I might have a shot."

The clerkship is the "capstone of students' experience at the culmination of their legal education after having intensively prepared in international law," says Damrosch. It is also a formative experience at the beginning of a career. Former Columbia Law School trainees have gone on to full-time positions at the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the U.S. Department of State, and the United Nations.

## PUBLIC INTEREST AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Columbia Law School believes that the pursuit of social justice should be part of the academic and professional life of every student and graduate. Toward that end, the Law School offers an innovative public interest law curriculum, as well as an extensive roster of clinics, externships, and other academic opportunities for hands-on experience in the field.

The Law School not only teaches students to understand and report on civil and human rights violations but also emphasizes the need to reveal and remedy the systemic causes that underlie those problems. Our multidisciplinary approach to public interest legal education prepares graduates to become enlightened, conscientious leaders—whether serving society through full-time careers in public interest law, government jobs, community service, human rights activism, or pro bono work at private law firms.

### Social Justice Initiatives

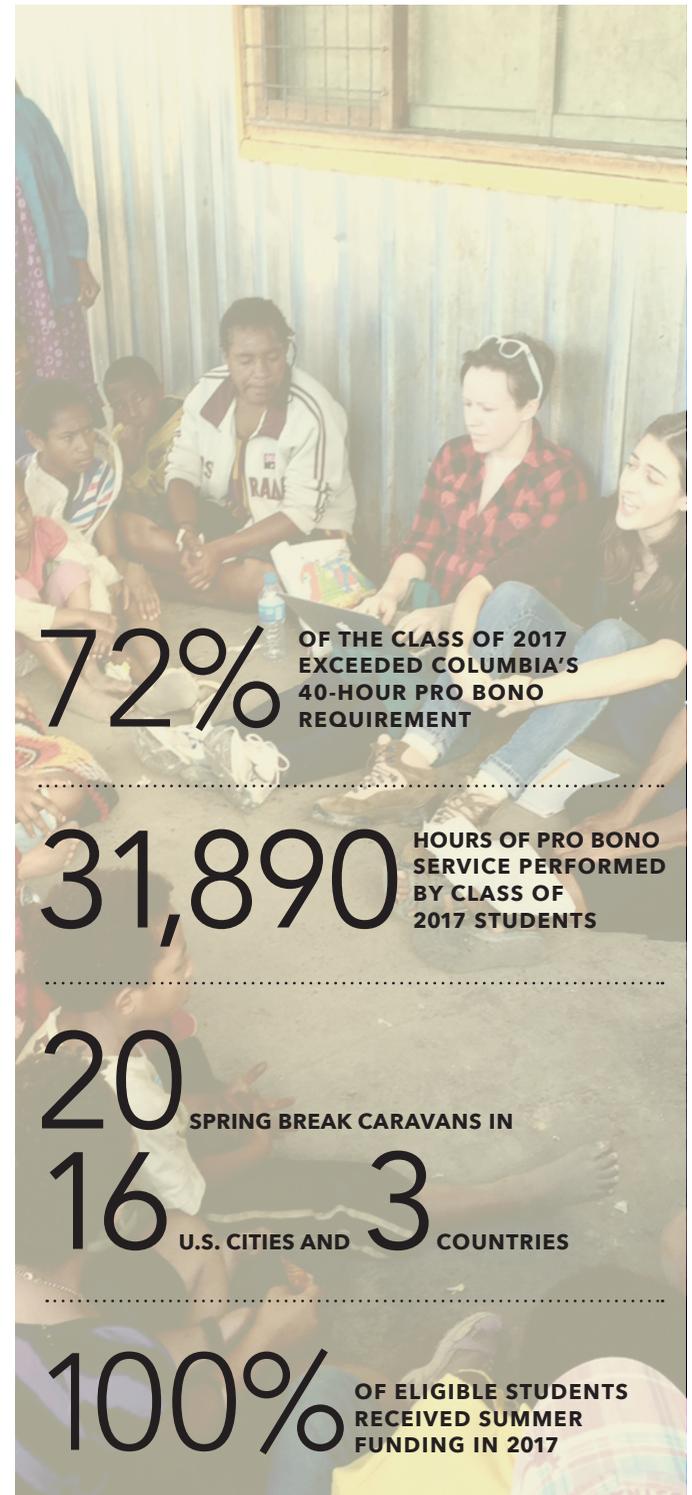
Our Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) program offers pro bono activities, a robust advising program, and various networking opportunities to foster and support a public interest student and alumni community. The Guaranteed Summer Funding program provides stipends for first- and second-year students to work for public interest organizations and government agencies. SJI regularly brings leading social justice advocates to campus to speak, meet with students, and provide practical assistance to students committed to service in the public interest. In addition, SJI's advising staff works closely with students and alumni to plan individualized career paths in public interest, human rights, and government sectors, and to explore how public service can enrich any legal career.

### Human Rights Institute

The Law School's Human Rights Institute (HRI) serves as a focal point for international human rights education, scholarship, and practice. Founded in 1998 by Professor Louis Henkin—a pioneering advocate of using the lens of the law to focus on a nation's obligations to safeguard the equality and dignity of its citizens—the Institute draws on the Law School's deep human rights tradition to support and influence human rights practice in the United States and throughout the world. HRI engages in research and advocacy and sponsors symposia, lectures, and other events to bring practitioners and scholars together at the Law School.

### Pro Bono Requirement

One of Columbia Law School's core values is that providing free legal services in the public interest is a professional responsibility of all lawyers. The Law School was one of the first to require pro bono service as a graduation requirement, and the school devotes substantial resources to developing a broad range of domestic and international pro bono opportunities. All students must devote at least 40 hours to pro bono work before graduating—and more than half exceed the requirement. One way students fulfill this requirement is to participate in spring break pro bono caravans, 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.





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**Clinics, externships, and workshops complement the analytical and theoretical training acquired in a traditional classroom setting. These experiential learning options enable students to delve into actual casework as part of their Columbia Law School education.**

By engaging with actual clients confronting real problems, students are able to understand legal theory and lawyering in greater context. Under the watchful supervision of experienced professors, second- and third-year law students participating in clinics become counselors, mediators, litigators, and educators as they learn to apply the knowledge they have gained in law school to solve their clients' diverse problems. 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 highly experienced and respected practicing attorneys. In Columbia's small workshops, seminars, and Deals courses, guest speakers from the private, public, and government sectors often present real-life scenarios that require innovative approaches to legal problem-solving. By participating in simulations of these scenarios and taking on the roles of the parties involved, students learn about the techniques and negotiations required to draft the documents, instruments, and policies necessary to resolve the conflict at hand.

▶ Sarah Knuckey, faculty co-director of the Human Rights Institute, director of the Human Rights Clinic, and the Lief Cabraser Clinical Associate Professor of Law, in Papua New Guinea



“The Human Rights Clinic at Columbia was one of the most important experiences I had in law school. Professor Sarah Knuckey has put together a clinic that grounds students in both human rights law and crucial research and advocacy skills. But for me it was also a much-needed space to critique the human rights movement, wrestle with ethical questions around human rights work, and articulate a personal theory of change within a global rights movement. I graduated in 2015 and now work as a researcher for Human Rights Watch—my dream job when I first applied to law school. I credit Professor Knuckey and the Human Rights Clinic at Columbia in large part with my employment at Human Rights Watch, and I draw on lessons learned in the clinic almost every day.”

BASSAM KHAWAJA '15,  
LEBANON AND KUWAIT  
RESEARCHER, MIDDLE EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA DIVISION,  
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

### Clinics

Adolescent Representation  
Challenging the Consequences of Mass Incarceration  
Community Enterprise  
Environmental Law  
Human Rights  
Immigrants' Rights  
Incarceration and the Family  
Lawyering in the Digital Age  
Mediation  
Sexuality and Gender Law

### Externships\*

Arts Law  
Bronx Defenders:  
Holistic Defense  
City and State Policy Advocacy  
Community Defense  
Constitutional Rights  
Enforcement: Capital  
Punishment, Life Imprisonment,  
and Post-Conviction Relief  
Copyright Dispute Resolution  
Criminal Appeals  
Domestic Violence Prosecution  
Federal Appellate Court  
Federal Court Clerk:  
Eastern and Southern  
Districts of New York  
Federal Government in  
Washington, D.C.

### Workshops and Seminars\*

The Art of the Deal  
and Transactional Legal  
Strategies  
Civil Rights Lawyering in  
the Modern Era:  
Theory and Practice  
Environmental Issues in  
Business Transactions  
Intellectual Property in the  
Digital Age  
National Security  
Investigations and  
Prosecutions  
Negotiation Workshop  
Tax Deals Workshop



**FREEDOM FIGHTERS**  
Professor Brett Dignam and a team of Mass Incarceration Clinic students recently helped a woman win parole after 34 years in prison. (Above, left to right) Dignam, Lillian Morgenstern '17, Amanda Johnson '17, Monique Hurley '17 LL.M., and Hannah Canham '16 LL.M.

“When trying to address systemic problems with the criminal legal system, like the mass incarceration machine, it is a real privilege to use your legal knowledge and skills to help meaningfully challenge the system one client at a time,” says Hurley.

Canham says the experience has taught her that criminal law is more than a procedural process. “Litigation isn’t enough,” she says. “You have to change hearts and minds.”

Federal Prosecution:  
U.S. Attorney’s Office,  
Eastern and Southern  
Districts of New York  
Government Anti-Corruption  
Immigration Defense  
Low-Wage Worker  
New York Attorney General’s  
Office: Advancing Social  
and Environmental Justice  
Pro Bono Practice and Design  
Representing NYC:  
New York City Law Department  
Trusts, Wills, and Estate  
Planning  
Undocumented and  
Unaccompanied Immigrant  
Youth  
United Nations

\*Sampling

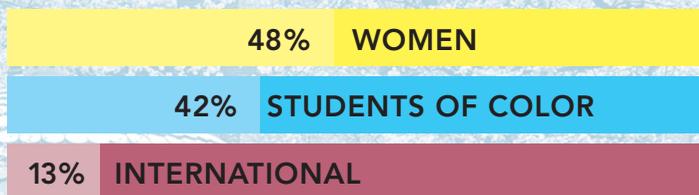
A group of four diverse students are sitting outdoors on a bench. A young woman with long blonde hair is smiling broadly, looking towards a young man with dark hair and sunglasses. Another young woman with curly hair is looking down at a smartphone. A young man is looking at a book. They are all holding books and papers, suggesting a study session or a casual meeting.

# EXCEPTIONAL CLASSMATES

In selecting our students, Columbia Law School chooses individuals with extraordinary intellectual gifts and a wide of range of experiences and interests. Our students come from all over the world, and they have undergraduate and graduate degrees from more than 200 colleges and universities. Their broad range of economic, ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds informs probing and provocative discussions in and out of the classroom.

## STUDENT PROFILE

AS REPRESENTED BY THE FIRST-YEAR, SECOND-YEAR,  
AND THIRD-YEAR CLASSES DURING THE 2016-17  
ACADEMIC YEAR



200+

COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES

76

UNDERGRADUATE  
MAJORS

45  
LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN

REGIONAL  
BREAKDOWN

48  
STATES + D.C.  
AND PUERTO RICO

7.5%  
OF STUDENTS HAVE A  
GRADUATE DEGREE

25  
COUNTRIES



"My goal is to make sure that we provide a supportive environment that really respects and values students. They can take risks, they can take on challenges, they can bring their whole selves to their experiences, academically and professionally. They don't have to feel like they're on the 'express train' and there's no stop."

YADIRA RAMOS-HERBERT,  
DEAN OF STUDENTS



# LIFE AT THE LAW SCHOOL

## The Columbia experience is exhilarating and transformational.

Our students can take advantage of the vast resources of a premier Ivy League university with more than a dozen graduate schools and joint degree programs. We offer personal guidance during every phase of their academic journey so that they can explore career options and find work that is relevant and meaningful.

Columbia Law School fosters a spirit of collaboration, and students are inspired daily

by one another and by the accomplishments and ambitions of our faculty members who are committed to preparing them to take on leadership roles in the public and private sectors. They work together on research projects, amicus briefs, and litigations. Professors may become not only mentors but also colleagues and friends.

Upon graduation, our students are prepared to engage in legal matters across

borders, jurisdictions, subject matters, sectors, and industries.

Whether brokering international treaties, negotiating corporate mergers, litigating Supreme Court cases, advocating for changes to public policy, or representing underserved communities, Columbia-trained lawyers are well versed in the power and potential of wielding the law to change the world.



**“One of the greatest benefits of this place—and one of the reasons we all came here—was to be surrounded by so much dedication and passion.”**

MILAN UDAWATTA '17



**“Columbia does an excellent job supporting student groups. By letting them self-regulate programming, the Law School empowers its students to find issues they care about and to build leadership skills, creating a powerful community of advocates in the process.”**

ALLEN DAVIS '16,  
ASSOCIATE, SKADDEN  
ARPS, SLATE,  
MEAGHER & FLOM

**85+** STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**16** AFFINITY GROUPS

**9** MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS OFFERED

**28** ACADEMIC CENTERS

**155** SMALL SEMINARS AVERAGING 14 STUDENTS

**8–10** STUDENTS PER CLINIC ON AVERAGE

**14** LAW REVIEWS AND JOURNALS

#### Joint Degree Programs with Columbia University

Business School (three- and four-year programs, M.B.A.)

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (M.S. in urban planning)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (M.Phil. or Ph.D. in select programs)

Journalism School (M.S.)

Mailman School of Public Health (M.P.H.)

School of the Arts (M.F.A. in theatre management and producing)

School of International and Public Affairs (M.I.A., M.P.A., and special programs)

School of Social Work (M.S.W.)

## THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

**Columbia's approach to education is collaborative and holistic. We believe that well-rounded individuals are the most effective, empathetic, and ethical lawyers.**

Our admissions process ensures that every student enrolled at the Law School is exceptional. "Before arriving on campus, you hear all about the amazing students Columbia Law School attracts, and you realize from the first handshake or interaction with classmates how impressive everyone is," says Michael Sharpe '19.

Many students find friends and mentors by joining one of the Law School's 16 affinity groups. They bond and learn from one another by working as editors of our 14 law reviews and journals, and by preparing as teams for nine different moot court competitions.

The vitality of the Law School is palpable in the lounges and expansive lobby of Jerome Greene Hall, which functions as our community's town square. The Law School's more than 85 student organizations often set up tables here to enlist new members, promote volunteer opportunities and social events, or raise funds for community service projects by selling T-shirts or baked goods. The lobby is invariably buzzing at noontime when our academic centers and student groups host a broad range of guest speakers and panel discussions. Our New York City location makes it convenient for luminaries from the judiciary, government, financial services industry, private law firms, human rights organizations, and other universities to visit and discuss contemporary issues.

The Law School hosts innovative community initiatives like a weekly mindfulness meditation group that brings together students, faculty, and administrators. "A number of reflective practices, including mindful meditation, can help law students and lawyers do their work better," says Professor Elizabeth Emens, who helps lead the group and teaches a seminar called Law, Justice, and Reflective Practice.

Columbia is also a school that values traditions. Camaraderie is fostered at the Student Services office, which serves coffee and cookies every day, and by annual events that bring the community together in lighthearted ways: Midnight Pancakes (when faculty and administrators serve a late-night snack to students preparing for exams); the Law Revue (fall and spring shows with skits and musical parodies about Law School life); and the Deans' Cup (a basketball game between Columbia and NYU law schools that raises funds for public interest organizations).



I am thankful for...  
My fabulous new law school friends, the chance to study in Columbia, & my forever supportive & loving family 😊



(clockwise from above) Law Revue, Ultimate Study Break, Barrister's Ball, Deans' Cup, a Thanksgiving note, Midnight Pancakes, pumpkin carving, Spring Break Caravan



## ABOVE AND BEYOND

**Our New York City location has a profound impact on the social, intellectual, and extracurricular life of the Law School. Students and faculty benefit from living in a global hub of culture, commerce, and communications.**

There are endless ways to take study breaks and recharge by exploring the city. The campus is a quick subway ride away from Broadway, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Madison Square Garden, Greenwich Village, Wall Street, and some of the world's best museums and restaurants.

As home to many of the top international law firms, and the headquarters of many social justice and human rights organizations, including the United Nations, New York City offers unparalleled opportunities for internships, pro bono work, and summer jobs. An extensive network of alumni in the New York metropolitan region remain

actively engaged with the Law School as guest speakers and adjunct professors who generously offer career guidance.

Living in New York, an international city with extremes of wealth and poverty, offers firsthand knowledge of the sociopolitical and environmental challenges facing urban centers around the globe. Students often choose pro bono projects and internships based on their experience of city life. Personally and professionally, New York offers unlimited potential for experimentation, growth, and expanding one's worldview.



“What is great about New York is that there is this opportunity to escape and have a life that is not tied to the Law School.”

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN  
LIEBMAN, DIRECTOR OF  
THE CENTER FOR CHINESE  
LEGAL STUDIES



# WELCOME TO MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

**The Columbia campus is surrounded by parks and has the vibrancy, intimacy, and quirkiness of a college town within the financial, legal, cultural, and culinary capital of the United States.**

**1 SUBWAYS** New York's 24-hour mass transit system offers easy access to recreational activities and employment opportunities.

**15 minutes to**  
Lincoln Center for the  
Performing Arts

**20 minutes to**  
Midtown, Broadway,  
Madison Square Garden,  
and Times Square

**25 minutes to**  
Grand Central Terminal,  
New York Public Library,  
Greenwich Village,  
the High Line, and the  
Whitney Museum

**30 minutes to**  
SoHo, Tribeca,  
and Chinatown

**40 minutes to**  
Wall Street,  
One World Trade  
Center, and Lower  
Manhattan  
courthouses

**45 minutes to**  
Williamsburg, the  
Brooklyn Academy  
of Music, and  
Barclays Center



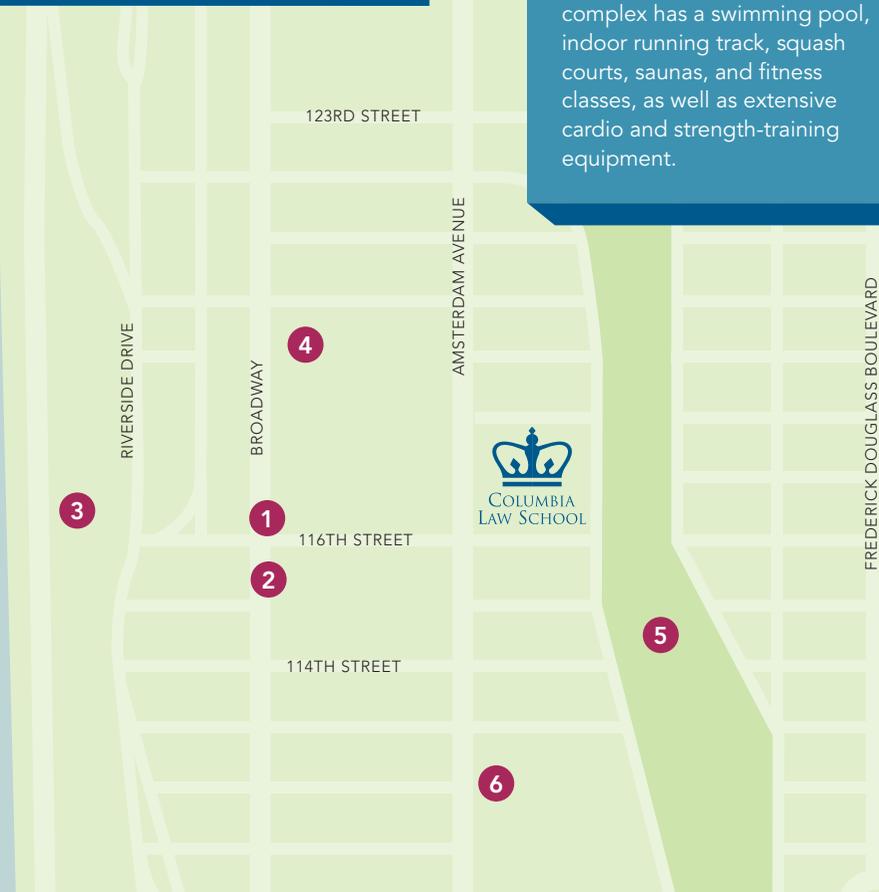
## 2 FOOD TRUCKS AND FARMERS MARKET

A farmers market is held year-round on Thursdays and Sundays along Broadway, where food trucks also line the streets on school days. The food cart outside Jerome Greene Hall is a Law School favorite for halal chicken with rice.



## 4 DODGE FITNESS CENTER

Columbia University's athletic complex has a swimming pool, indoor running track, squash courts, saunas, and fitness classes, as well as extensive cardio and strength-training equipment.



**3 RIVERSIDE PARK** This four-mile-long waterfront park borders the Hudson River and offers the most scenic biking and running paths in Manhattan, along with playgrounds, dog runs, tennis courts, and a skate park.



**5 MORNINGSIDE PARK**

Built on a steep incline on the eastern edge of campus, this dramatically landscaped park has spectacular sunrise views, along with basketball courts, baseball fields, and playgrounds.



**8 HARLEM** To the east and north of campus, this eclectic neighborhood was the setting for African-American-led movements in music, literature, dance, and art known as the Harlem Renaissance. From the Apollo Theater, Studio Museum, and El Museo del Barrio to gospel churches and soul food restaurants, Harlem retains its storied past while welcoming a diversity of new residents and restaurants.

**8**



**7 CENTRAL PARK** Designed in the mid-19th century by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, this 843-acre green space in the heart of Manhattan is a pastoral counterpoint to frenetic city life. Its varied terrains and amenities include softball fields, skating

rinks, cycling and running lanes, tennis courts, playgrounds, ponds, woodland gardens, a zoo, and meandering walking paths. Students and faculty visit Central Park to relax and rejuvenate. "A lot of my unwinding time is done outside, which is not how many people think about experiencing the city," says Professor Olatunde Johnson.



Washington, D.C.



Philadelphia



Boston



Catskill Mountains

**WEEKEND GETAWAYS** Our New York City location offers abundant opportunities by train or car to visit historic cities (Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.); beach communities (the Hamptons and the Jersey Shore); and the countryside (the Berkshires, Catskills, and Hudson Valley).

CENTRAL PARK NORTH

**7**



**6 LANDMARKS**

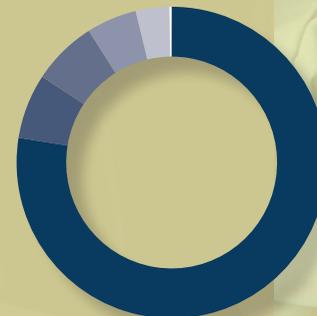
The largest cathedral in the world, St. John the Divine holds more than a dozen services a week for worshippers of many faiths and communities. Other iconic locales are Grant's Tomb and Tom's Restaurant, the exterior of which was made famous by the television show "Seinfeld."

# PREPARED TO LEAD

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 find opportunities in myriad fields, including corporate and transactional law; the judiciary; government; human and civil rights; business; and academia. The process of exploring career options begins while in school, and the Law School has a team of experts who assist students in realizing professional aspirations and goals.

98.7%

of 2016 graduates  
employed 10 months  
after graduation



**PLACEMENT  
SUMMARY:  
CLASS OF 2016**

81.3% Law Firm  
4.7% Public Interest  
6.0% Judicial Clerkship  
4.5% Government  
3.5% Business

## GUIDING YOUR FUTURE

### OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Columbia's Office of Career Services and Professional Development offers a variety of services for students of all class years interested in practicing in the private sector. The highly trained counseling staff works with students to develop individualized career road maps based on each student's values, goals, and geographic preferences. Counselors assist students in formulating job search strategies, refining résumés and cover letters, and preparing for interviews.

Through the Early Interview Program, job postings, 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 11,000 interviews with Columbia Law School students through these programs.

### JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

The Law School consistently places a significant number of its students in one or more federal or state court clerkships, to begin a few months after graduation or one or two years thereafter. These clerkships include postings with the U.S. Supreme Court and federal circuit and district courts, as well as an array of state and specialty courts. In any given year, approximately 100 Columbia Law School graduates begin clerkships with members of the federal and state judiciaries.

The Director of Clerkship Programs, in collaboration with a Faculty Clerkship Committee, develops programs in which judges, faculty, and alumni help educate students about clerkship opportunities and experiences. 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 aid students in the application process.

Beatrice Franklin '14, who is now a clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59, previously clerked in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She credits the director of judicial programming and academic counseling for guiding her through



"Helping students transition to law teaching is rewarding because these future colleagues are following the path we have found so meaningful."

ANU BRADFORD,  
DIRECTOR, THE EUROPEAN  
LEGAL STUDIES CENTER

the application process. “I also had letters of recommendation and lots of support from the faculty,” Franklin says.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC INTEREST CAREERS**

Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) assists students 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. SJI is available to provide support and advice through individual one-on-one advising, group information sessions, and year-round public interest programming. SJI works with students to help craft their résumés and conducts mock interviews and related activities to facilitate public sector job placement.

### **CAREERS IN LAW TEACHING PROGRAM**

Columbia Law School ranks third among the nation’s law schools in the number of its graduates who have become members of the legal academy. The faculty and Law School alumni in teaching are enthusiastically committed to continuing this long tradition. Beginning in the early summer, attention is devoted to those Law School graduates who are interested in teaching positions. Support includes counseling sessions, assistance in preparing application materials, individualized advice at every point in the process, and a special full-day Moot Job Talk Workshop. In 2016, approximately 40 faculty members and Law School alumni participated in this event, helping candidates sharpen their job presentations.

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 are devoted to subjects such as developing a scholarly agenda, pedagogy, the J.D./Ph.D. path, and the transition from private or public practice to the academy.

The Teaching Program also offers semester- and year-long fellowships for graduates who wish 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 attending and presenting at faculty research workshops.



# THE CURRICULUM

## FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATION CURRICULUM

**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.

**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, in terms of its justification and development, as well as 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 over 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.

**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.

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

**Foundation Year Moot Court:** As 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 intramural moot court competition, upon prior approval of the faculty director of the Moot Court Program.

**Legal Methods I and II:** This intensive course, which runs for two weeks beginning in mid-to-late August and continues for one additional week in January, serves as an introduction to legal institutions and processes and the skills necessary for professional interpretation 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:** Offered in the fall, this course provides intensive training in the research, writing, and analytical skills needed in legal practice through written assignments placed in practice contexts, seminar discussions, and personal conferences.

**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 intramural competitions.

**Property:** A central social institution, property law poses fundamental questions about efficiency and fairness that are mediated through the legal system. This course examines the nature of ownership, government regulation, and the legal devices for allocation and development of land resources. The evolution of today's questions—ownership of music, control of body parts and of endangered species, and rights to spectrum, among many others—are considered, applying traditional legal concepts.

**Torts:** In this 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.

### Elective Course Options

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

Administrative Law  
Advanced Contracts  
American Legal History  
Antitrust and Trade Regulation  
Commercial Finance  
Constitution and Foreign Affairs  
Corporations  
Critical Legal Thought  
Empirical Analysis of Law  
Evidence  
Family Law  
Federal Income Taxation  
Global Constitutionalism  
Human Rights  
International Law  
Japanese Law and Legal Institutions  
Labor Law  
Law and Development  
Law and Neoliberalism  
Law and Contemporary Society  
Lawyering for Change  
Transnational Litigation

For detailed course descriptions, please refer to our online Curriculum Guide ([law.columbia.edu/courses](http://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 2016-17 and 2017-18. You can expect some changes to be made. To view the official and updated course of study, please consult our online Curriculum Guide ([law.columbia.edu/courses](http://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  
Educational Equality: The Role of Law  
Energy Regulation  
Health Law  
Immigration Law  
Information Privacy  
Lawyering for Change  
Legislation and Regulation  
Rebuilding Government  
School, Courts and Civic Participation  
Securities Regulation

The Media Industries: Public Policy and Business Strategy

#### Seminars:

Antitrust in Action  
Challenges to Prosperity: Rule of Law and Citizen Security in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Comparative Administrative Law  
Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation  
European Emergency Law  
Food Law and Policy  
Genetics and the Law  
Global Refugee Regimes  
Information Privacy  
Law and Policy of Homelessness  
Mental Health Law  
Natural Resources Law  
Public Education Policy Seminar and Practicum  
Schools, Courts, and Civic Participation  
US Civil and Criminal Enforcement of International Cartels  
Vision, Action and Social Change

#### Civil Procedure and Dispute Resolution

Admiralty Law  
American Litigation Practice  
Civil Procedure  
Evidence  
International Commercial Arbitration  
Remedies  
Torts  
Transnational Litigation  
*Seminars:*  
Advanced Civil Procedure: Scholarly and Lawyery Perspectives  
Advanced International Commercial Arbitration  
Advanced Trial Practice  
Class Actions  
Construction Industry Law: Transactional Practice, Dispute Avoidance and Resolution  
International Arbitration in Latin America  
International Commercial Arbitration Practicum  
International Investment Arbitration  
Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law  
Native Peacemaking  
Negotiation Workshop  
Pretrial Commercial Litigation  
Science and the Courts  
Thinking Like a Litigator  
Trial Practice

#### Commercial, Corporate, and Securities Law

Advanced Corporate Law  
Advanced Corporate Law: Mergers and Acquisitions  
American Contract Law  
Antitrust and Trade Regulation  
Capital Markets Regulation  
Complex Deal Structuring: Spin-offs and IPOs  
Contracts  
Corporate Finance  
Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy

Corporations  
Deals  
Derivatives Law and Regulation  
Financial Crises, Regulatory Responses  
Financial Statement Analysis and Interpretation  
Information Privacy  
International Business Transactions  
International Commercial Arbitration  
International Securities Regulation  
Private Investment Funds  
Securities Regulation  
Strategic International Commercial Transactions  
The Media Industries: Public Policy and Business Strategy  
Transnational Litigation  
Unfair Competition and Related Topics in Intellectual Property  
*Seminars:*

Advanced Bankruptcy: Deals and Issues in the Current Environment  
Advanced International Commercial Arbitration  
Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime  
Capital Markets: Development, Structure, and Policies  
Class Actions  
Construction Industry Law: Transactional Practice, Dispute Avoidance and Resolution  
Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation  
Corporate Law and Finance Research  
Deals Litigation  
Deals Workshop  
Deals Workshop: Dealmaking in Mergers and Acquisitions  
Deals Workshop: Public Mergers and Acquisitions  
Deals Workshop: The Art of the Deal  
Deals Workshops: The Art of the Deal and Transactional Legal Strategies  
Entrepreneurship  
Environmental Issues in Business Transactions  
Exploring the Role of the General Counsel  
International Banking and Financial Law  
International Commercial Arbitration Practicum  
International Investment Arbitration  
Issues on Global Regulatory Reform  
Law and Economics of Contracts  
Law and Political Risk  
Law and the Music Industry  
Nonprofit Institutions  
Pretrial Commercial Litigation  
Real Estate M&A and Restructuring Deals Workshop  
Technology and Venture Capital

#### Constitutional Law

Civil Rights  
Constitutional Law  
Educational Equality: The Role of Law  
Federal Courts  
Global Constitutionalism  
Immigration Law  
Law of the Political Process

Military Law and the Constitution

#### Seminars:

American Jurisprudence: Judicial Interpretation and the Role of Courts  
Church and State  
Congress in American Foreign and Defense Policy  
European Emergency Law  
Extraterritorial Constitutional Law: History, Theory, Doctrine  
Law and Regulation of Social Media  
Legal Interpretation  
Media Law  
Mental Illness and Criminal Defense  
Native American Law  
Non-Profit Law and Policy  
Religious Minorities in Supreme Court Litigation  
September 11 and the Rights of Noncitizens  
Supreme Court  
The First Amendment and The Press

#### Criminal Law

Advanced Criminal Law: Comparative and Theoretical Perspectives  
Comparative Criminal Procedure  
Criminal Adjudication  
Criminal Investigations  
Criminal Law  
Evidence  
Federal Criminal Law  
Jurisprudence of War  
The Law of Genocide  
*Seminars:*  
Advanced Trial Practice  
Black Letter Law/White Collar Crime  
Internal Investigations  
Internet and Computer Crimes  
Interplay of Civil and Criminal Law  
Mental Illness and Criminal Defense  
National Security Investigations and Prosecutions  
Science and the Courts  
Sentencing  
Social and Legal Regulation of Firearms  
Topics in Criminal Prosecution and Defense  
Trial Practice  
US Civil and Criminal Enforcement of International Cartels  
Victims' Rights

#### Education Law

Educational Equality: The Role of Law  
Topics in Education Law  
*Seminar:*  
Public Education Policy Seminar and Practicum

#### Environmental Law

Climate Change Law and Policy  
Energy Regulation  
Environmental Law

*Seminars:*

Advanced Climate Change Law  
 Environmental Issues in Business Transactions  
 Natural Resources Law

**Family Law**

Advanced Family Law: Pre-Nups, Property  
 Distribution, and Alimony in Divorce  
 Family Law

*Seminars:*

Domestic Violence and the Law  
 Topics in Jewish Law

**Gender and the Law**

Advanced Family Law: Pre-Nups, Property  
 Distribution, and Alimony in Divorce  
 Civil Rights

Family Law  
 Lawyering for Change

*Seminars:*

Domestic Violence and the Law  
 Global Refugee Regimes  
 Vision, Action, and Social Change

**Health/Health Care and the Law**

Health Law  
 Public Health Law

*Seminars:*

Genetics and the Law  
 Jewish Law and Ethics: Biomedical Ethics  
 Mental Health Law

**History and Philosophy of Law**

Empirical Analysis of Law  
 Law and Contemporary Society

*Seminars:*

Animal Law  
 Biblical Jurisprudence  
 Contemporary Critical Thought  
 Contracts, Collaboration, and Interpretation  
 Jewish Law and Ethics: Biomedical Ethics  
 Law and Philosophy  
 Legal Theory Workshop  
 Native American Law  
 Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law  
 Topics in Jewish Law

**Human Rights**

Immigration Law  
 The Law of Genocide

*Seminars:*

Advanced Human Rights Practicum  
 Civil Rights Lawyering in the Modern Era:  
 Theory and Practice  
 Extractive Industries and  
 Sustainable Development  
 Global Refugee Regimes  
 Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S. Social  
 Justice  
 Human Rights, Law, and Development Workshop  
 International Human Rights Advocacy  
 International Humanitarian Law

Law and Policy of Homelessness  
 Mental Health Law  
 Mental Illness and Criminal Defense  
 Native American Law  
 Nonprofit Law and Policy  
 Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law  
 September 11 and the Rights of Noncitizens  
 Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice  
 Transitional Justice  
 Transnational Business and Human Rights

**Intellectual Property**

Antitrust and Trade Regulation  
 Computers, Privacy and the Law  
 Copyright Law  
 Information Privacy  
 Law in the Internet Society  
 The Media Industries: Public Policy and  
 Business Strategy  
 Unfair Competition and Related Topics in  
 Intellectual Property

*Seminars:*

Counseling the Digital Innovator  
 Current Issues in Copyright  
 Federal Court Litigation: Trademark  
 and Copyright  
 Information Privacy  
 Intellectual Property in the Digital Age  
 Internet and Computer Crimes  
 Law and Regulation of Social Media  
 Law and Theatre  
 Law and the Music Industry  
 Law and Visual Arts  
 Media Law  
 Science and the Courts  
 Technology and Venture Capital  
 The First Amendment and The Press

**International, Foreign, and Comparative Law**

African Legal Theory, Law and Development  
 Comparative Criminal Procedure  
 Fighting Corruption in Sports  
 Global Constitutionalism  
 International Business Transactions  
 International Commercial Arbitration  
 International Law  
 International Taxation  
 Jurisprudence of War  
 Law and Development  
 Law and Legal Institutions in China  
 Law of the W.T.O.  
 Strategic International Commercial Transactions  
 The Law of Genocide  
 The United States and the International  
 Legal System  
 Transnational Litigation  
*Seminars:*  
 Advanced International Commercial Arbitration  
 Challenges to Prosperity: Rule of Law and Citizen  
 Security in Latin America and the Caribbean  
 Extractive Industries and Sustainable  
 Development

Foreign Direct Investment and Public Policy  
 Geopolitics of Law and Conflict on the  
 Korean Peninsula  
 Global Refugee Regimes  
 Human Rights, Law, and Development Workshop  
 International Arbitration in Latin America  
 International Banking and Financial Law  
 International Commercial Arbitration Practicum  
 International Human Rights Advocacy  
 International Humanitarian Law  
 International Investment Arbitration  
 International Investment Law  
 Issues on Global Regulatory Reform  
 Korean Legal System in the Global Economy  
 Law and Political Risk  
 Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes Law  
 Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice  
 Transnational Justice  
 Transnational Business and Human Rights  
 U.S. Civil and Criminal Enforcement of  
 International Cartels

**Labor and Employment Law**

Disability Law  
 Labor Law  
*Seminars:*  
 Employment Discrimination Litigation  
 Transnational Business and Human Rights  
 Vision, Action, and Social Change

**Law and Economics**

Advanced Torts  
 Capital Markets Regulation  
 Fighting Corruption in Sports  
 Financial Crises, Regulatory Responses  
 Law and Development  
*Seminars:*  
 Economics, Law and Public Policy  
 Extractive Industries and Sustainable  
 Development  
 Global Refugee Regimes  
 International Banking and Finance:  
 The Challenges

**Law, Humanities, and the Social Sciences**

Anthropology and the Law  
 Empirical Analysis of the Law  
 Human Identity and the Scientific Revolution  
 Law and Development  
*Seminars:*  
 Challenges to Prosperity: Rule of Law and Citizen  
 Security in Latin America and the Caribbean  
 Genetics and the Law  
 Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice  
 Public Education Policy Seminar and Practicum  
 Science and the Courts  
 Social and Legal Regulation of Firearms  
 The Psychology of Racial Justice and Policing  
 University in American Life  
 Vision, Action, and Social Change

**National Security Law**

Global Constitutionalism  
 International Law  
 Jurisprudence of War  
 Military Law and the Constitution  
*Seminars:*  
 Congress in American Foreign and  
 Defense Policy  
 Cybersecurity: Policy, Legal and  
 Technical Aspects  
 European Emergency Law  
 International Humanitarian Law  
 National Security Investigations and Prosecutions  
 September 11 and the Rights of Noncitizens

**Professional Responsibility and the Legal Profession**

Professional Responsibility  
 Professional Responsibility Issues in  
 Business Practice  
 Professional Responsibility Issues in Public  
 Interest Practice  
 Professional Responsibility for the Transactional  
 Lawyer  
 Professional Responsibility in Criminal Law  
*Seminars:*  
 Exploring the Role of the General Counsel  
 Law and Political Risk  
 Legal and Ethical Obligations in Complex  
 Litigation  
 Professional Responsibility: Becoming a Lawyer  
 The Changing World of Large Law Firms  
 Vision, Action, and Social Change

**Property, Real Estate, and Trusts and Estates**

Complex Deal Structuring: Spin-offs and IPOs  
 Property  
 Real Estate Development  
 Real Estate Finance  
 Real Estate Transactions  
 Trusts and Estates  
*Seminars:*  
 Construction Industry Law: Transactional Practice,  
 Dispute Avoidance, and Resolution  
 Drafting and Negotiating Commercial Real  
 Estate Documents  
 Natural Resources Law  
 Real Estate M&A and Restructuring Deals  
 Workshop

**Racial, Economic, and Social Justice**

Civil Rights  
 Educational Equality: The Role of Law  
 Immigration Law  
 Law and Development  
 Lawyering for Change  
 Professional Responsibility Issues in Public  
 Interest Practice  
 Schools, Courts, and Civic Participation

**Seminars:**

Civil Rights Lawyering in the Modern Era:  
Theory and Practice  
Global Refugee Regimes  
Human Rights at Home: Advancing U.S.  
Social Justice  
Law and Policy of Homelessness  
Native American Law  
Native Peacemaking  
Public Education Policy Seminar and Practicum  
Schools, Courts, and Civic Participation  
September 11 and the Rights of Noncitizens  
Socio-Economic Rights: Theory and Practice  
The Psychology of Racial Justice and Policing  
Transitional Justice  
Vision, Action, and Social Change

**Taxation**

Complex Deal Structuring: Spin-offs and IPOs  
Corporate Taxation  
Federal Income Taxation  
International Taxation  
Partnership Taxation  
*Seminar:*  
Non-Profit Law and Policy  
Tax Deals Workshop

**Torts**

Advanced Torts  
Mass Torts  
Remedies

**Torts***Seminars:*

Advanced Tort Practice  
Class Actions

**Clinics**

Adolescent Representation  
Challenging the Consequences  
of Mass Incarceration  
Community Enterprise  
Environmental Law  
Human Rights  
Immigrants' Rights  
Incarceration and the Family  
Lawyering in the Digital Age  
Mediation  
Sexuality and Gender Law

**Externships**

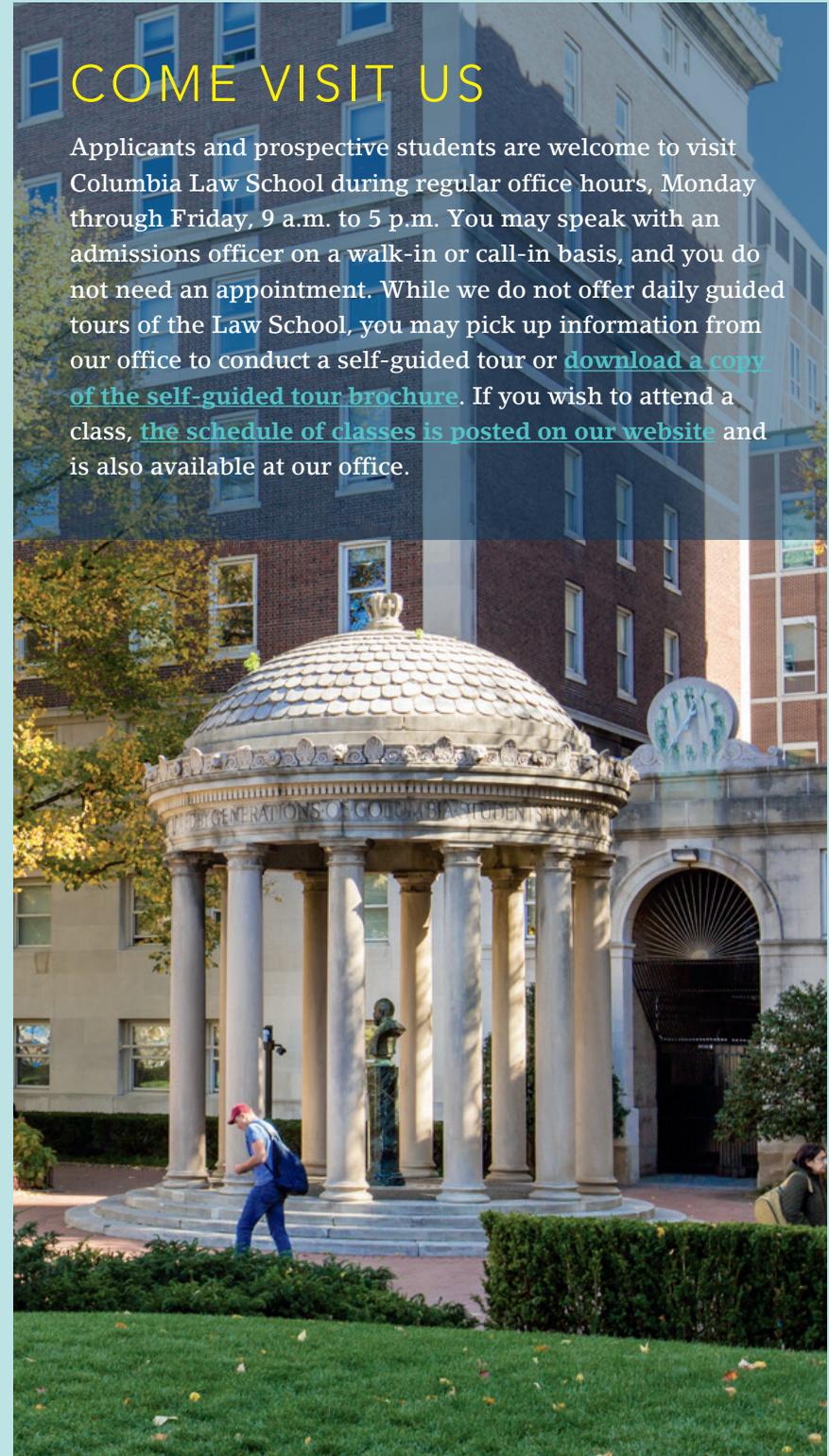
Arts Law  
Bronx Defenders: Holistic Defense  
City and State Policy Advocacy  
Community Defense  
Constitutional Rights Enforcement: Capital  
Punishment, Life Imprisonment, and  
Post-Conviction Relief  
Copyright Dispute Resolution  
Criminal Appeals  
Domestic Violence Prosecution  
Federal Appellate Court  
Federal Court Clerk: Eastern and  
Southern Districts of New York  
Federal Government in Washington, D.C.  
Federal Prosecution: U.S. Attorney's Office,  
Eastern and Southern Districts of New York  
Government Anti-Corruption  
Immigration Defense  
Low-Wage Worker  
New York Attorney General's Office: Advancing  
Social and Environmental Justice  
Pro Bono Practice and Design  
Representing NYC: New York City  
Law Department  
Trusts, Wills, and Estate Planning  
Undocumented and Unaccompanied  
Immigrant Youth  
United Nations

**Journals**

American Review of International Arbitration  
Business Law Review  
Human Rights Law Review  
Journal of Asian Law  
Journal of Environmental Law  
Journal of European Law  
Journal of Gender and Law  
Journal of Law and the Arts  
Journal of Law and Social Problems  
Journal of Race and Law  
Journal of Tax Law  
Journal of Transnational Law  
Law Review  
Science and Technology Law Review

# COME VISIT US

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 may 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](#). If you wish to attend a class, [the schedule of classes is posted on our website](#) and is also available at our office.



# APPLICATION INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

## 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 that 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) 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.

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](http://law.columbia.edu/finaid).

## 2017–18 Tuition and Expenses

Tuition	\$65,252
Fees	\$2,417
Room and Board	\$17,605
Books and Supplies	\$1,575
Personal Expenses	\$3,900
Health Insurance	\$2,991

These figures are for the 2017–18 academic year. Total expenses, including tuition and student fees, are estimated at \$93,740. Budget components are adjusted annually.

## 2017–18 Dates and Deadlines

Early Decision application deadline:  
**November 15, 2017**

Regular Decision application deadline:  
**February 15, 2018**

Transfer application deadline:  
**July 15, 2018**

Financial aid application deadline:  
**March 1, 2018**

For more information, please visit  
[law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply](http://law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply)

## Columbia Law School LRAP Summary

- Participants are not expected to contribute to annual loan payments if calculated income is less than \$50,000.
- Graduates may elect to participate in the Columbia Law School LRAP, the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, or a combination of the two programs.\*
- Graduates may join the program up to seven years after graduating.
- LRAP loans are partially forgiven from years three up to five and fully forgiven on an annual basis in years five to 10.
- Spousal educational debt service up to \$10,000 may be included in the repayment formula.
- Program eligibility provisions are available for graduates on parental leave or in part-time employment.

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



# Columbia Law School

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Columbia Law School  
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New York, NY 10027-7297  
212.854.2670

[admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu)

[law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd](http://law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd)

#### **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](http://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: Laura Barisonzi, Eileen Barroso, Cameron Blaylock, Josh Boelter/DKV, Lorenzo Ciniglio, Bill Denison, Amber De Vos, Peter Freed, Getty Images, Bruce Gilbert, Nicholas Gray, Bob Handelman, Julie Brown Harwood, Sam Hollenshead, Casey Kelbaugh, Michael Krisch, Jorg Meyer, Seth Olenick, Alan S. Orling, Nicole Pereira, Jon Reznick, Jon Roemer, Dustin Ross, Chris Taggart, Juliana Thomas, and Jon Vachon.*