



UCLA STUDENTS CAPITALIZE ON

THIRD

YEAR

OPPORTUNITIES

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The third year of law school has long been a source of controversy, referred to as superfluous, boring, and irrelevant to the practice of law on the one hand, but staunchly defended as a necessity for curriculum and bar requirements on the other. UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO MAKING ITS THIRD YEAR ONE TO REMEMBER.

For many generations of students, UCLA School of Law's innovative clinical program already provided a useful focus for their attention. Moving forward, UCLA School of Law will build off its former success and, in the words of Dean Michael Schill, "create a new model for the third year." After providing a rich doctrinal and theoretical education that defines the rigorous early years of legal education, UCLA not only offers broad clinical classes, interesting externships, and challenging interdisciplinary pursuits, but also has created complete programs in sub-specialties that enable students to truly master specific areas of study before heading into real-world practice. Substantive programs in the areas of Business Law, Critical Race Studies, Public Interest Law, Entertainment Law, International Law, and Academic Scholarship will culminate in a third year that is challenging, innovative, and relevant, giving UCLA School of Law graduates the skills, knowledge and experience they need to stand out as young professionals.

Business Law Program

The Program in Business Law was created in 1997 to teach students not only how to advise clients on the law, but also to help them structure and negotiate transactions. To do so effectively, a lawyer must understand both the theory underlying the law as well as the basics of business. To facilitate this, the diverse topics of Bankruptcy, Tax Law, and Corporate Law are combined in one program, giving students a well-rounded understanding of Business Law. Additionally, the faculty have

substantive practice experience, bringing real-world information to the theoretical study of the law. "The Program takes advantage of the fact that UCLA School of Law has assembled a stellar cast of professors who are famous not only for their cutting edge theory but also for their detailed, on the ground knowledge of business law and the business world," explains Professor Lynn Stout.

This approach has manifested itself through the Program's emphasis on the training of transactional skills. Transactional skills have always been important in practice; in fact, as Professor Stephen Bainbridge points out, despite Lincoln's well-known prowess in the courtroom, over half of his practice was dedicated to dealing with transactional issues for the railroad companies. However, Professor Bainbridge goes on to say that, "traditionally, transactional skills were learned in apprenticeship. Today, law firms no longer finance three-, four-, and five-year apprenticeships. UCLA has responded to that issue in a way that most schools have not." UCLA students in the Business Program are required to successfully complete eight upper division courses, including at least one clinical transactional course, which offers hands-on exposure to the transactional practice on incredibly important topics such as contract negotiation, or the life-cycle of a corporation. Says Bainbridge, "Our transactional skills courses give students an enormous leg up on graduates from other law schools."

Third-year student Todd Larsen echoes that sentiment. Larsen worked with a solo practitioner over the summer on two



JELENA VERNY '00 was appointed as director of the Business Law Program in August 2004. Prior to joining UCLA School of Law, she practiced tax law at Irell & Manella, LLP from 2000-2004. She received her B.A. with college honors, summa cum laude, in Business/Economics from UCLA in 1997, and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law in 2000, when she was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

business law projects: an international merger and a private equity offering for a real-estate developer. Larsen credits his law courses for enabling him to perform. "I can't imagine having been able to handle that level of responsibility without the education I received in the business law classes. I drew heavily upon what I learned in Accounting/Financial Analysis, the joint JD/MBA 'Deals' class at Anderson School of Business, and Complex Financial Transactions. In particular, these classes gave me the ability to navigate and comprehend the documents I was working with."

Complementing the focus on transactional skills, very few law schools can match the faculty talent that UCLA School of Law has in the Business Law field. The Program draws upon the expertise of some of the most highly respected and nationally recognized academics in the field, who teach and write in many areas of the law. According to Professor Steven Bank, faculty director of the Program, "the faculty's substantial diversity of talents and scholarly interests contributes directly to the Program's broad and unique curriculum."

Responding to the needs of real-world practice by emphasizing the value that sophisticated legal training and knowledge can bring to bear on today's business enterprises, an amazing range of upper-class interdisciplinary courses and seminars are offered in the Business Law concentration. Classes like Investment Banking and Corporate Bankruptcy offer directly relevant training for up-and-coming lawyers. By examining the intersection between law and business, the program trains students to be successful leaders in the new economy.

Enhancing the curriculum, each year the Program sponsors events, such as an annual speaker's series and symposia, enabling students to obtain information on the latest issues facing corporate lawyers. "The study of law and business has

emerged as one of the most rapidly growing movements in legal scholarship and jurisprudence," Professor Bank explains, "and UCLA plans to remain on the leading edge of this expanding field. The Program's innovative conferences and roundtables influence the national policy debate by provoking in-depth and, frequently, groundbreaking examinations of critical issues."

Critical Race Studies

UCLA School of Law is the first American law school to offer a concentration in Critical Race Studies (CRS). The concentration is grounded in Critical Race Theory, one of the newer fields of legal studies, which focuses on the profound impact of race in American legal history and contemporary legal and political institutions. To understand the deep interconnections between race and law is an extraordinary intellectual challenge with substantial practical implications. In an increasingly racially diverse nation, these issues promise to remain central to the work that lawyers and legal scholars do.

Depending on which area a student might be interested in, more than twenty courses are offered dealing with relevant issues such as Law and Terrorism, Federal Indian Law, Disability Law, and Employment Discrimination. Given the nature of CRS students' career goals, these classes cover subjects that students will very likely encounter in practice, enabling them to gain expertise on the issues that will prove useful as they step out on their own.

CRS has created enormous synergy with other important programs in the law school such as the program in American Indian Studies, allowing students to explore the theoretical issues they will encounter in the real world. Leading Indian Law scholar, Professor Carole Goldberg notes, "Issues of race intersect with Indian Law in multiple ways, including questions about whether

federal recognition of Indian rights implicates racial preferences, and whether the entire body of federal Indian Law institutionalizes racial hierarchies. The Critical Race Studies program equips students interested in Indian Law with conceptual tools that enables them to analyze these questions and to place them in the context of broader American race-based practices.”

This year, CRS is also implementing an intellectual forum for its third-year students to present their academic papers, which are a required element of the program. The forum format will be that of a student workshop, enabling students to participate, analyze, and critique the different papers and generate relevant discussions on the topics covered. Because the paper topics are selected by the students, this is truly a culmination of the practical, theoretical, and doctrinal aspects of their education.

Program in Public Interest and Policy

The UCLA School of Law Program in Public Interest Law and Policy is hailed as one of the nation’s top public interest programs. Established in 1996, the Program enrolls the most dedicated public interest-minded students. Through its innovative and intellectually ambitious curriculum and faculty mentorship component, the program uniquely prepares its students to engage in the sophisticated representation of traditionally under-represented clients and interests. The Program faculty are leaders in their respective fields and have distinguished themselves by the quality of their scholarship and teaching. They represent a broad cross-section of interests in social justice issues and have an unparalleled depth of knowledge from a wide range of experiences and scholarly research perspectives.

Program students arrive at UCLA with diverse histories and distinctive goals, from wishing ultimately to serve as legal aid lawyers or policy advocates across an array of issues, to establishing community-based practices in underserved communities, or to working in local, state or federal government agencies or in non-governmental organizations abroad. In addition to pursuing the typical first-year law curriculum, as well as the required Program courses, Program students take advantage of an incomparable array of upper-division public interest-oriented courses, including seminars and clinical courses, and externship opportunities.

Third-year Program student Julie Farrell, feels she barely has



Professor Stephen Bainbridge lectures a classroom of law students.

enough time to take all the classes in which she is interested. “At UCLA School of Law, and specifically in the Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, the third year is essential.” Julie is planning to pursue a practice addressing issues of affordable housing and land use, and is using her third year to enhance the depth of her knowledge by taking such classes as real estate finance, business associations, and community economic development—courses that, in her words, “take me to the next level so that I can be a creative, proactive attorney. Without the third year, I would not be as effective an advocate.”

Enhancing their curricular endeavors, students spend their summers pursuing their individual interests in nonprofits, government agencies, and private firms across the country and abroad. And, while at UCLA, they, together with their non-Program student colleagues, join practitioners and scholars from across the country to participate in myriad programs, conferences, and activities sponsored by the Program and the school’s Office of Public Interest Programs.

The Program each year nurtures nearly one hundred future lawyers and prepares them for the distinctive demands of public service. As the community of Program alumni has grown, serving as a critical network for subsequent Program classes, alumni have received nationally prestigious postgraduate public interest fellowships, worked on seminal criminal law, civil rights, and educational equity cases, appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, and become leaders in our communities.

Entertainment and Media Law Program

Los Angeles is the entertainment and media capital of the world and UCLA School of Law is uniquely positioned to offer the leading Entertainment and Media Law Program in the country for the study of Entertainment, Media, Sports, and Intellectual Property Law. Dean Michael Schill has convened a committee, of faculty, alumni, and friends of the law school under the leadership of Ken Ziffren '65, to develop and build upon the school's established expertise in these areas. Already, UCLA sponsors the annual Entertainment Law Symposium, bringing together up to six hundred entertainment professionals, and giving students first-hand knowledge on the latest topics affecting the entertainment law industry.

Through their coursework, UCLA School of Law students have access to a variety of upper division courses, such as Entertainment Law, Entertainment Industry Guilds, Trademark and Unfair Competition, Patent Law, Intellectual Property, and Cyberspace Law. These courses emphasize legal problems encountered when today's lawyers represent performers, writers, producers, and directors, and the companies with which they deal. Augmenting these offerings, leading attorneys from the entertainment industry, such as Ken Ziffren '65, Schuyler Moore '81, Bernard Gold, Gary Stiffleman '79, and Sam Fisher '82, teach additional courses and seminars in Entertainment Law.

Providing law school students with not only the opportunity to learn, but also generate critical thought on important issues, UCLA's *Entertainment Law Review* is an acclaimed scholarly journal devoted to legal issues affecting film, television, radio, computer, and print media. Topics addressed have included copyright and patent issues; the regulation of the entertainment industry; and Labor, Constitutional, Administrative, and Antitrust Law as they relate to the industry.



Professor Steven Bank, faculty director of the Business Law program.

Demonstrating its longstanding leadership in Entertainment Law, the law school has already launched the careers of many alumni who are now television and movie producers, writers, counsel for businesses that specialize in the entertainment industry, and partners in major entertainment industry law firms. The school's graduates also work and have worked in the National League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the Women's National Basketball Association, and for various law firms and other businesses that negotiate on behalf of sports figures and teams.

International Law

The study of International Law is becoming increasingly complex in our global economy, and the demand for experts on a variety of topics is strong. At UCLA, International Law faculty are working with Dean Michael Schill to develop a cohesive program to advance the understanding of International Law through legal, political, economic, sociological, and philosophical analysis. "We have the elements of a very strong International Law program, including some of the country's leading scholars of International and Comparative Law and substantial interest from students as evidenced by three lively student-edited journals," says Professor Richard Steinberg. "We now need to put these elements together in a synergistic and imaginative way, so we can create a coherent, distinctive, and internationally recognized International and Comparative Law program."

UCLA School of Law boasts one of the country's largest and

most highly regarded International and Comparative Law faculties. The faculty includes internationally renowned experts on Chinese, European, Islamic, and Latin American Law; International Commercial, Criminal, Environmental, Tax, and Trade Law; and Human Rights, Immigration, and National Security Law. The courses taught by these scholars expose our students to some of the most timely issues affecting international law today.

To augment their classroom education, students who want practical experience in public International Law are offered relevant externships, which have recently included placements at the State Department's Office of the Legal Advisor, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of Defense, the Agency for International Development, the United Nations, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Academic Scholarship program, which will assist students in developing their teaching and scholarly interests. This new specialization for aspiring law professors will include "more opportunities for students to write under the close supervision of faculty, increased course offerings teaching critical analysis, and post-graduate fellowships to spend additional time at the law school doing research," explains Dean Michael Schill.

Students interested in academia are also invited to attend faculty colloquia, ranging from legal history and theory to tax policy and International Law, where faculty typically present working papers. These workshops provide students with an opportunity to mingle with professors and as well as to get what is typically a first look at life in academia.

In addition, a faculty committee, led by former Dean Susan Prager '71, has been delegated with the responsibility of increas-

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Providing further evidence of its strength in International Law, UCLA School of Law is the only law school in the United States with three International or Comparative Law journals. The *UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs* (JILFA) is an interdisciplinary journal that combines analysis of International Law, international economics, and international relations, drawing its editorial staff from three graduate departments. The *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law* (JINEL) critically analyzes legal issues—social, political, civil, historical, economic, and commercial—that are of particular relevance to Muslims and Near Easterners in both Muslim and non-Muslim societies. The *UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal* devotes special attention to legal issues that directly affect trade and international transactions in the Pacific Basin.

Academic Scholarship

Many UCLA School of Law students are attracted to the world of academia. But after learning to think like a lawyer, thinking like a law professor is trickier than it sounds. The school has stepped up its efforts to encourage and nurture students who want to pursue academic careers. The school plans to create an

ing the school's number and quality of academic placements. The committee informs and educates interested candidates on how they can be competitive in obtaining an academic position. The committee also offers intensive counseling on the mechanics of law school teaching market, assists in developing a strong research agenda, and helps to design a teaching package.

In Conclusion

By developing specific curricula aimed at some of the most common career paths, alongside a host of opportunities outside of the classroom, UCLA School of Law provides its students with an education that takes advantage of all three years of education. The school emphasizes practical opportunities, giving students a third year that allows them to apply doctrine and theory in myriad ways that will be paramount to their career goals.