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# Yale Law School



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## Overview

Located in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale Law School is one of the world's premier law schools. It offers an environment of excellence and educational intimacy in the form of a world-renowned faculty, small classes, limitless opportunities for clinical training, and strong encouragement of public service. Small by design, the law school's impact on the world is measured by its accomplished graduates and its ongoing scholarship and outreach through numerous centers and projects.

For students, the experience is unparalleled. The faculty-student ratio supports a vast array of courses and opportunities for independent research and student-organized seminars. Students get practical training by representing real clients in clinics starting in their first year.

Throughout, a spirit of collaboration reigns. All first-term courses are ungraded and subsequent classes are graded Honors/Pass/Low Pass.

## Student-Faculty Ratio<sup>9</sup>

7.7:1

## Admission Criteria<sup>10</sup>

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	170-176	3.82-3.97
Median*	173	3.90

Law School Admissions details based on 2013 data.

\*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

## Admission Statistics<sup>11</sup>

Approximate number of applications	2,637
Number accepted	247
Acceptance rate	9.4%

## Class Ranking and Grades<sup>12</sup>

All first-term courses are ungraded, and subsequent classes are graded honors/pass/low pass with the option to take classes credit/fail. Individual class rank is not computed.

Grades for all degree students are:

Honors	Work done in the course is significantly superior to the average level of performance in the School.
Pass	Successful performance of the work in the course.
Low Pass	Work done in the course is below the level of performance expected for the award of a degree.
Credit	The course has been completed satisfactorily; no particular level of performance is specified.
Failure	No credit is given for the course.
Requirement Completed	Indicates JD pre-participation in Moot Court or Barristers' Union

## Grade normalization (Curve)

There is no required "curve" for grades in the law school classes. Individual class rank is not computed.<sup>13</sup>

## Awards<sup>13</sup>

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Neale M. Albert Fund	Gift in honor of Neale M. Albert. LL.B. 1961, for the best student paper on the subject of art law.
Charles G. Albom Prize	Established by alumni and friends of Charles G. Albom, LL.B. 1934, for excellence in the area of judicial and/or administrative appellate advocacy in connection with a Law School clinical program.
Thurman Arnold Appellate Competition Prize	Established by alumni and friends of the School for the best student argument in advanced Moot Court competition.
John Fletcher Caskey Prize	In honor of John Fletcher Caskey, LL.B. 1924, for the best presentation of a case on final trial in the Thomas Swan Barristers' Union.
The Joseph A. Chubb Competition Prize	Established by a gift from Joseph A. Chubb, B.A. 1962, LL.B. 1966, for legal draftsmanship.

The Barry S. Cohen, J.D. 1950, Prize	Awarded for the most meritorious writing on a subject related to literature and the law.
Felix S. Cohen Prize	Gift in honor of Felix S. Cohen for the best essay relating to legal philosophy, with special reference to human rights, jurisprudence, protection of the rights of Indians and aliens, and comparative ethical systems and legal ideals.
Edgar M. Cullen Prize	Gift of William B. Davenport, B.A. 1867, in memory of Edgar M. Cullen, formerly Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York, for an outstanding paper written by a member of the first-year class.
John Currier Gallagher Prize	Gift from Mrs. Gallagher in memory of her husband, John Currier Gallagher, Ph.B. 1879, LL.B. 1881, for the student showing most proficiency in the presentation of a case on final trial in the Thomas Swan Barristers' Union.
Ambrose Gherini Prize	Gift of Ambrose Gherini, M.A. and LL.B. 1902, for the best paper on a subject of international law.
Jerome Sayles Hess Prize for International Law	Established by a bequest of Harriett Peloubet Hess, widow of Jerome Sayles Hess, B.A. 1903, for excellence in the area of international law.
Jewell Prize	Gift of the Estate of Marshall Jewell, M.A. Hon. 1873, for a member of the second-year class who has written an outstanding contribution to a Law School journal other than The Yale Law Journal.
Quintin Johnstone Prize in Real Property Law	Established by the CATIC Foundation, for excellence in the area of real property law.
Florence M. Kelley '37 Family Law Prize	Established in memory of New York City judge Florence M. Kelley, a member of the Class of 1937, by her husband, David Worgan, for exceptional interest or achievement in the area of family law.
William T. Ketcham, Jr. Prize	Established by a bequest of William T. Ketcham, Jr., B.A. 1941, LL.B. 1948, for student scholarship in the field of private international law.
Raphael Lemkin Prize	Awarded from proceeds of the scholarship fund established in memory of the distinguished scholar and activist Raphael Lemkin for outstanding student papers in international human rights.
Judge William E. Miller Prize	Gift from Victor S. Johnson, Jr., LL.B. 1941, in memory of William E. Miller, LL.B. 1933, formerly judge of the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, for the best paper on a subject concerning the Bill of Rights.
C. LaRue Munson Prize	Gift from C. LaRue Munson, LL.B. 1875, for excellence in the investigation, preparation, and (where permitted) presentation of cases under a law school clinical program.
Joseph Parker Prize	Bequest of Eliza Townsend Parker of New Haven, in memory of her father, for the best paper on a subject connected with legal history or Roman law.
Israel H. Peres Prize	Hardwig Peres in memory of his brother, Israel H. Peres, B.A. 1889, LL.B. 1891, a chancellor of the Tenth Chancery Division of Tennessee, for the best student contribution to The Yale Law Journal.

Clifford L. Porter Prize	Awarded annually for outstanding student performance in taxation.
Edward D. Robbins Memorial Prize	Gift of Mrs. Robbins in memory of her husband, Edward D. Robbins, B.A. 1874, LL.B. 1879, for a member of the third-year class who has written an outstanding contribution to a Law School journal other than The Yale Law Journal.
Benjamin Scharps Prize	Gift of Tessie K. Scharps in honor of her brother, Benjamin Scharps, B.A. 1884, for a member of the third-year class for a meritorious essay or research project.
Colby Townsend Memorial Prize	Established by gifts from friends in memory of Colby Townsend, B.A. 1933, M.A. 1937, LL.B. 1938, for a member of the second-year class for the best individual research done for academic credit.
William K. S. Wang Prize	A gift from William K. S. Wang, J.D. 1971, to recognize superior performance in the introductory course in corporate law.
Francis Wayland Prize	Gift from Francis Wayland, M.A. Hon. 1881, dean of the Law School from 1873 to 1903, for the student showing greatest proficiency in preparing and presenting a case in negotiation, arbitration, and litigation.

<b>Non-endowed Prizes</b>	<b>The Law School has the following non-endowed prize funds.</b> Some of these prizes are now supported by other Law School resources.
Burton H. Brody Prize in Constitutional Law	Gift from Burton H. Brody, B.S. 1945, J.D. 1950, for the best paper on a subject related to the protection of privacy afforded by the U.S. Constitution.
Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition Prize	To be awarded annually to one or two students for the best paper(s) on the subject of copyright law.
Benjamin N. Cardozo Prize (1947)	Gift from an anonymous donor in honor of Justice Cardozo for the best brief submitted by a student in Moot Court.
Michael Egger Prize	For the best student Note or Comment on current social problems in The Yale Law Journal.
Thomas I. Emerson Prize	For a distinguished paper or project on a subject related to legislation.
Margaret Gruter Prize	For the student writing the best paper on how ethology, biology, and related behavioral sciences may deepen our understanding of law.
Quintin Johnstone Prize in Real Property Law	Established by the CATIC Foundation for excellence in the area of real property law.
Khosla Memorial Fund for Human Dignity	Established by Dinesh Khosla, LL.M. 1977, J.S.D. 1981, for a student who demonstrates an active engagement in advancing the values of human dignity in the international arena.
Stephen J. Massey Prize	Established by gifts from classmates and friends in memory of Stephen J. Massey, J.D. 1984, for work on behalf of clients and in other community service.

Potter Stewart Prize	Established by the friends of Justice Stewart upon his retirement for the student team that presents the best overall argument in Moot Court.
Harlan Fiske Stone Prize	Gift from an anonymous donor in honor of Chief Justice Stone for the best oral argument in Moot Court.

## Journals<sup>14</sup>

The **Yale Law Journal** is one of the nation's leading legal periodicals. The Journal publishes articles, essays, and book reviews by legal faculty and other professionals, as well as student notes and comments. An editorial board of second- and third-year students manages and produces eight issues of the Journal per year. The Journal's online component YLJ Forum features original essays on timely and novel legal developments as well as responses to articles from the print journal.

The **Yale Law & Policy Review** publishes pieces on a wide range of issues at the intersection of law and policy, including affirmative action, campaign finance reform, urban policing, education policy, and the war on terrorism.

The **Yale Journal of Law and Feminism** publishes works concerning a broad range of legal issues as they pertain to gender, sexuality, or feminist theory.

The **Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities** explores the intersections among law, the humanities, and the humanistic social sciences. It is a biannual publication edited by students from the Law School and several graduate departments in the University, and advised by a board of distinguished scholars.

The **Yale Journal of International Law** contains articles and comments written by scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and students on a wide range of topics in public and private international law. Published twice a year, the journal is a primary forum for the discussion and analysis of contemporary international legal problems.

The **Yale Journal on Regulation** is a national forum for legal, political, and economic analysis of current issues in regulatory policy.

The **Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal** provides a broad range of perspectives on issues at the intersection of human rights and development. The journal is edited by students and advised by members of the Law School faculty.

The **Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics** is an interdisciplinary journal whose staff members come from all of Yale's graduate and professional schools. The journal publishes pieces on many topics, ranging from civil rights enforcement in health care delivery to bioterrorism.

The **Yale Journal of Law and Technology** offers its readers a cutting-edge, dynamic environment in which to acquire and produce knowledge about the interface between law and technology. The journal publishes scholarly articles, incisive think pieces, and lectures and written pieces by guests of the Law & Technology Society as well as other scholars and professionals.

## Moot Court<sup>15</sup>

The Morris Tyler Moot Court competition takes place each semester at Yale Law School, culminating in the Harlan Fiske Stone Prize Finals in the fall and the Thurman Arnold Prize Finals in the spring. All second- and third-year law students are eligible and encouraged to participate.

## Clinical Programs<sup>16</sup>

Students can begin taking clinics—and appearing in court—during the spring of their first year. Clinic students represent real clients with real legal problems in more than 20 clinics.

The **Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO)** provides legal representation to individuals and organizations in need of legal services and unable to afford private attorneys. Students, supervised by Law School faculty members and participating attorneys, interview clients, write briefs, prepare witnesses, try cases, negotiate settlements, draft documents, participate in commercial transactions, draft legislation and regulatory proposals, and argue appeals in state and federal courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Connecticut Supreme Court.

The **Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Law Clinic** is a Law School course that gives students firsthand experience in human rights advocacy under the supervision of international human rights lawyers. The clinic undertakes a number of litigation, research, and advocacy projects each term on behalf of human rights organizations and individual victims of human rights abuse.

The **Capital Punishment Clinic** involves students spending two to three weeks at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta or the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL. Students become a part of a team representing people facing the death penalty and student participation may include interviews with witnesses, jurors, or clients, as well as legal research, analysis, and writing.

The **Education Adequacy Project** is a clinic devoted to representing clients who wish to improve the quality of educational opportunities being provided to children.

The **Environmental Protection Clinic** is an interdisciplinary clinic that addresses environmental law and policy problems on behalf of client organizations such as environmental groups, government agencies, and international bodies. The clinic has a special focus on advocacy to promote solutions to global warming, but also engages in advocacy on other complex and significant environmental issues.

The **Ethics Bureau** advises lawyers on how to proceed when faced with violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and other ethical dilemmas. Students draft amicus briefs in cases involving professional responsibility; help people with ineffective assistance of counsel claims; and offer ethics advice to nonprofit organizations.

The **Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project** provides legal assistance and policy advocacy for displaced Iraqis.

The **Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic** serves as both a vigorous advocate for its clients and as a supportive teaching institution for students in developing critical litigation skills. The MFIA Clinic is supervised by David Schulz, a partner at Levine, Sullivan, Koch & Schulz LLP in New York City, and one of the foremost media lawyers in the country, and Jack Balkin, the Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment at Yale Law School.

The **Nonprofit Organizations Clinic** provides legal assistance to nonprofit organizations that cannot afford to retain private counsel. Students help in the process of organization and incorporation, in obtaining tax exemption, and solving related issues.

The **Prosecution Externship** allows students to assist state or federal prosecutors with their responsibilities, both before and at trial. Placements are available in New Haven and surrounding cities and in a variety of fields, including misdemeanors, felonies, or specialized areas such as career criminal, traffic, or appellate work.

The **San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project** is a partnership between Yale Law School and the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. Students work with San Francisco Deputy City Attorneys to conceive, develop, and litigate innovative public-interest lawsuits, including those involving consumer protection, nuisance abatement, wage theft, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, reproductive rights, Internet privacy, healthcare, housing, environmental protection, fairness in arbitration, childhood health and nutrition, payday lending, and access to legal services for immigrants.

The **Yale Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic** provides clients with the highest quality pro bono representation before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Clinic maintains an active docket of cases at both the certiorari and merits stages.

## Placement Facts<sup>17</sup>

### Starting Salaries (2011 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$160,000
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$61,036

### Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	89.6%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	91.4%

### Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	35.8%
Business and Industry	4.2%
Government	3.3%
Public Interest Organizations	11.3%
Judicial Clerkships	41%
Academia	4.2%
Unknown	0%

Law school careers details based on 2012 data.

## Externships/Internships

### Externships<sup>18</sup>

The **Prosecution Externship** allows students to assist state or federal prosecutors with their responsibilities, both before and at trial. Placements are available in New Haven and surrounding cities and in a variety of fields, including misdemeanors, felonies, or specialized areas such as career criminal, traffic, or appellate work.

### Internships<sup>19, 20</sup>

The **Law and Media Program** facilitates summer internships with public interest and for-profit organizations, where students can get valuable experience in media law, defense of the First Amendment and the protection of journalism and journalists.

Each summer the **Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization of Yale Law School** has a fellowship program of approximately 20-25 part and full time students, from Yale and other law schools.

## Student Organizations<sup>21</sup>

- The Africa Law and Policy Association (ALPA)
- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- The Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA, formerly PANA)
- The Association of Law Students with Significant Others (ALSSO)
- Barristers' Union
- The Black Law Students' Association
- The Capital Assistance Project (CAP)
- The Catholic Law Students' Association
- The Court Jesters
- The Green Haven Prison Project
- Habeas Chorus
- The Initiative for Public Interest Law at Yale, Inc.
- The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
- The Latino Law Students' Association
- The J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- The Lowenstein Human Rights Project
- The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project
- The Middle Eastern and North African Law Students' Association
- The Morris Tyler Moot Court of Appeals
- The Muslim Law Students' Association
- The Native American Law Students' Association (NALSA)
- YLS OutLaws
- The OWLS, or Old Souls
- The Pro Bono Network
- Project for Law and Education at Yale (PLEY)
- The Rebellious Lawyering Conference
- Six Angry Men
- The South Asian Law Students' Association (SALSA)
- SPIF - Student Contribution



- The Thomas Swan Barristers' Union
- The Temporary Restraining Order Project
- Universities Allied for Essential Medicine
- The Women of Color Collective
- The Yale Entertainment and Sports Law Association
- The Yale Environmental Law Association
- The Yale Federalist Society
- The Yale Graduate Law Students' Association
- Yale Health Law and Policy Society (YHeLPS)
- The Yale Jewish Law Students' Association
- The Yale Law & Business Society
- The Yale Law Christian Fellowship
- The Yale Law International Association
- The Yale Law National Security Group (NSG)
- The Yale Law Democrats
- The Yale Law Republicans
- Yale Law Social Entrepreneurs
- Yale Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Yale Law Students for Life
- The Yale Law Veterans Association
- Yale Law Women
- The Yale Project for Civil Rights
- The Yale Society of International Law (YSIL)

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