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## University of California–Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law



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### Overview<sup>2</sup>

Berkeley Law is one of 14 schools and colleges at the University of California, Berkeley. It is consistently ranked as one of the top law schools in the nation.

The Law School has produced leaders in law, government, and society, including Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren, Secretary of State of the United States Dean Rusk, Attorney General of the United States Edwin Meese, United States Secretary of the Treasury and Chairman of the Federal Reserve G. William Miller, and former Solicitor General of the United States Theodore Olson.

Berkeley Law is committed to excellence in education and scholarship, as well as equality of opportunity. The school aspires to use its substantial intellectual capital to help solve real-world problems and create a more just society through clinics, research, and policy engagement. A Berkeley Law degree is a tool for change, both locally and globally, and the school nurtures academic and personal growth, respects a diversity of ideas, and stimulates independent thought and critical reasoning.

### Student-Faculty Ratio<sup>3</sup>

12.5:1

### Admission Criteria<sup>4</sup>

|                      | LSAT    | GPA       |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| 25th-75th Percentile | 163-169 | 3.66-3.89 |
| Median*              | 167     | 3.78      |

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

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Approximate number of applications | 5885  |
| Number accepted                    | 1050  |
| Acceptance rate                    | 17.8% |

## Class Ranking and Grades<sup>5</sup>

Students can receive one of five grades in courses at Berkeley Law: High Honors (HH), Honors (H), Pass (P), Pass Conditional/Substandard Pass (PC), or No Credit (NC). In first-year J.D. classes, the curve for honors grades is strict-the top 40 percent of the class receives honors grades, with 10 percent of the class receiving High Honors and the next 30 percent receiving Honors. There is no required curve for the grades of Pass and below, and faculty members are not required to give any Substandard Pass or No Credit grades. In second- and third-year classes, up to 45 percent of the class can receive honors grades, of which up to 15 percent of the class can receive High Honors. In small seminar classes, the curve still exists, but it is further relaxed. A very few courses are graded on a Credit (CR)/No Pass (NP) basis.

Students are graded on a curve, which strictly limits recognition for excellence. At Berkeley Law, the grading system has remained constant for more than 25 years. There has been no grade inflation, even though the credentials of the school's students-whether measured by undergraduate GPA, LSAT score, or prior life attainments-are far stronger than they were 25 years ago.

An Honors grade represents a substantial achievement and a High Honors grade an outstanding one. For internal purposes, the Berkeley campus translates both Honors and High Honors grades into its system as A's. (However, if you receive a transcript which lists letter grades from a Berkeley Law student, please return it to the student and require that he or she provides a transcript from the law school Registrar's Office, not from the main campus.)

A student with mostly Honors grades is doing excellent work in very competitive company. And a transcript with a rough mixture of Honors and Pass grades represents strong performance that would likely stand above the class median at schools of comparable quality.

In evaluating student records with more Pass grades, it is important to remember that a significant number of students receive such grades even though they have written examinations that placed them above or near the class median. At schools with more conventional grading systems, median performances often earn a grade of B+. Thus, even a record with no or few High Honors or Honors grades may conceal considerable academic distinction. For example, each year a few Berkeley Law students whose exam performance places them at or above the class median in their first-year courses fail to achieve a single Honors grade. Sometimes such students can provide letters from their instructors documenting their strong performance. In other cases, one must speak to academic references, review writing samples, weigh journal commitments, or evaluate the quality of the undergraduate record in order to form a fair estimate of the student's achievement and potential.

## Honors<sup>6</sup> and Awards<sup>7</sup>

| Name of Award     | Awarded for/to              |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Order of the Coif | Top 10% of graduating class |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Jurisprudence Prize                 | Highest ranking student in section/class     |
| Prosser Prize                       | Second highest ranking in section/class      |
| Best Brief Award                    | Best oral arguments                          |
| Best Oral Argument                  | Best oral arguments                          |
| McBaine Moot Court Awards           | Advanced Moot Court Competition              |
| Thelen Marrin Award for Scholarship | Best GPA from first 5 semesters              |
| Thelen Marrin Award for Writing     | Best published student article               |
| Stephen Finney Jamison Award        | Best student scholar advocate                |
| Anthony F. Dragonette Mem. Award    | Top 3L - Civil Trial Practice                |
| Alvin & Sadie Landis Scholarship    | Top student in Local Gov. Law or Water Law   |
| Francine Diaz Memorial Award        | 3L minority woman/Public Interest Law        |
| Class of 1995 Student Service Award | 3L contributing most to Boalt Hall community |
| Brian M. Sax Prize                  | Excellence in clinical advocacy              |
| Harmon Environ. Law Writing Award   | Most outstanding environmental law writing   |
| Nat'l Assoc. of Women Lawyers Award | Excellence/promoting women's welfare         |
| Am. Bankruptcy Inst. Medal of Excel | Selected by Bankruptcy professor             |

## Journals<sup>8-19</sup>

The **California Law Review** is the preeminent legal publication at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Founded in 1912, the California Law Review publishes six times annually on a variety of engaging topics in legal scholarship. The California Law Review is edited and published entirely by students at Berkeley Law.

The **Ecology Law Quarterly's** primary function is to produce two high quality journals: a quarterly print version and a more frequent, cutting-edge online journal, Ecology Law Currents. UC Berkeley School of Law students manage every aspect of ELQ, from communicating with authors to editing articles to publishing the journals. In addition to featuring work by leading environmental law scholars, ELQ encourages student writing and publishes student pieces.

The **Berkeley Technology Law Journal** is a student-run publication of the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley. BTLJ started in March 1985, published its first issue in Spring

1986, and has since covered emerging issues of law in the areas of intellectual property, high-tech and biotech. BTLJ strives to keep judges, policymakers, practitioners, and the academic community abreast of this dynamic field.

The **Berkeley Journal of Employment & Labor Law** is a student-edited law journal focusing on current developments in labor and employment law. It was founded in 1975 as the Industrial Relations Law Journal. Today, BJELL semiannually publishes works reviewing issues connected to employment discrimination, labor law, public sector employment, employee benefits, and other related issues.

The **Berkeley Journal of International Law** is recognized as a leading international law journal in the United States. BJIL infuses international legal scholarship and practice with new ideas to address today's complex challenges. BJIL is committed to publishing high-impact pieces from established and newer scholars likely to be referenced and relied on for a cutting edge approach to topics of international and comparative law. As the center of Berkeley's international law community, BJIL hosts professional and social events which engage likeminded students, academics, and practitioners in pressing international legal issues.

The **Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice**, a continuation of Berkeley Women's Law Journal, was founded in 1984 by a group of students at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law who came together with a vision of "preserving our voices of diversity and maintaining our commitment to social change within the often-stifling confines of a law school environment."

The **Berkeley La Raza Law Journal** is entering its thirtieth year of producing knowledge designed to capture the imagination of legislators, stir the consciences of judges, and provide a dynamic tool for practitioners concerned with the impact of their work on behalf of the Latina/o community.

The **Asian American Law Journal** is one of only two law journals in the United States focusing on Asian American communities in its publication agenda. Known as the Asian Law Journal until 2007, AALJ was first published in October 1993 in a joint publication with the California Law Review. AALJ's first independent issue was published in May 1994.

The **Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law** provides a forum for the discussion of regional, national, and international criminal law issues. Since its inception in 2000, the journal has published cutting-edge scholarship by professors, judges, research fellows, clerks, and law students from across the country.

The **Berkeley Business Law Journal** is a Berkeley Law student-run organization that publishes an annual print journal, a blog, and hosts events related to business law. BBLJ works closely with the Berkeley Center for Law, Business and the Economy to further enhance its presence nationwide.

The **Berkeley Journal of Middle Eastern & Islamic Law** is a digital, student-run publication of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

The **Berkeley Journal of Entertainment and Sports Law** is committed to providing a wide selection of intellectual and practical discussions from scholars, practitioners, and students on current legal issues that impact the sports and entertainment industries, domestically and internationally.

## Moot Court<sup>20</sup>

The James Patterson McBaine Honors Competition is Boalt Hall's moot court competition and is open to all Boalt second- and third-year law students. The Competition format is modeled after U.S.

Supreme Court practice. Cases chosen for the competition involve cutting-edge issues of great public importance. A recent case examined the constitutional and common law protections journalists have when subpoenaed to reveal the identity of confidential sources in a federal criminal trial.

### Clinical Programs<sup>21</sup>

The **Death Penalty Clinic** offers law students a rich opportunity for hands-on training; seeks justice for individual clients by providing them with the highest quality representation; and exposes and tackles problems endemic to the administration of the death penalty.

The **East Bay Community Law Center** is the community-based component of Berkeley Law's Clinical Program. EBCLC was founded by Berkeley Law students in 1988 to provide legal services to low-income and underrepresented members of the community near the law school.

The **International Human Rights Law Clinic** allows students to design and implement creative solutions to advance the global struggle for the protection of human rights.

The **Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic** offers law students the unparalleled opportunity to learn about lawyering, government institutions and the complexities involved in technology-related law, while also providing representation to individuals, nonprofits, and consumer groups that could not otherwise obtain counsel.

### Placement Facts<sup>22</sup>

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

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Private sector (25th-75th percentile) | \$145,000 - \$160,000 |
| Private sector - Median               | \$160,000             |
| Public service - Median               | \$60,000              |

#### Employment Details

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Graduates known to be employed at graduation                | 80.8% |
| Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation | 88.1% |

#### Areas of Legal Practice

| Graduates Employed In         | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Law Firms                     | 65.4%      |
| Business and Industry         | 5.1%       |
| Government                    | 8.8%       |
| Judicial Clerkships           | 9.5%       |
| Public Interest Organizations | 9.5%       |
| Academia                      | 1.7%       |
| Unknown                       | 0%         |

## Externships/Internships<sup>23, 24</sup>

### Externships

**Judicial Externships** - Students work part-time or full-time for local, federal or state judges and chambers in the San Francisco/Bay Area. Students externing for a judge usually work 16 to 40 hours per week over 14 weeks.

### Internships

**Domestic Violence Law Practicum** - Students work on real cases involving domestic violence at various Bay Area legal agencies. The work focuses on restraining orders, family law, welfare, immigration, employment issues, prosecution of batterers, or post-conviction issues of battered women in state prisons. Students also work with the instructor on policy matters, including writing amicus briefs.

## Student Organizations<sup>25</sup>

- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Berkeley Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society
- Berkeley Energy Resources Collaborative
- Berkeley Law Chess Club
- Berkeley Law Foundation
- Berkeley Law Mindfulness Group
- Berkeley Law Project for Survivors of Sexual Violence
- Berkeley Law Students for Sensible Drug Policy
- Berkeley Information Privacy Law Association
- Boalt Association of Military Veterans
- Boalt Hall Animal Law Society
- Boalt Hall Federalist Society
- Boalt Hall Healthcare and Biotechnology Law Society
- Boalt Hall Human Rights Committee
- Boalt Hall Jewish Students Association
- Boalt Hall Patent Law Society
- Boalt Hall Queer Caucus
- Boalt Hall Women's Association
- Boalt.org
- Board of Advocates
- Catholic Community at Boalt
- Christians at Boalt
- Environmental Law Society
- First Generation Professionals
- GradFood
- International Law Society
- J.S.D. Student Organization
- La Raza Law Students' Association
- Law & Society Graduate Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Law Students of African Descent

- Middle Eastern Law Students' Association
- Men of Color Alliance
- National Lawyers Guild - Boalt Chapter
- Native American Law Students' Association
- Pilipino American Law Society
- Restorative Justice Committee
- Runners Not Gunners
- SCOTUS Club
- Slavic Union at Berkeley Law
- South Asian Law Student Association
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Students for Environmental and Economic Justice
- Student Organization for Advanced Legal Studies (SOALS)
- Students Opposed to Domestic Violence
- Vietnamese American Law Society
- Women of Color Collective

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