

The 2004 BCG Attorney Search Guide

TO CLASS RANKING DISTINCTIONS AND LAW REVIEW ADMISSION AT AMERICA'S TOP 50 LAW SCHOOLS

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY BOSTON COLLEGE BOSTON UNIVERSITY BYU, RUBEN CLARK LAW SCHOOL COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CORNELL UNIVERSITY DUKE UNIVERSITY EMORY UNIVERSITY FORDHAM GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HARVARD UNIVERSITY NORTHWESTERN NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NYU) OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, MORITZ SCHOOL OF LAW SOUTHERN METHODIST STANFORD UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HASTINGS UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES (UCLA) UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS UNIVERSITY OF UTAH UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY WAKE FOREST WASHINGTON AND LEE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY YALE



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CONTENTS

05	Decoding Law School Grading Systems
22	What Making Law Review Means At The Top 50 Schools
27	BCG Law School Comparison Grid
30	Baylor University
33	Boston College
38	Boston University
44	BYU, Ruben Clark Law School
48	College of William and Mary
53	Columbia University
59	Cornell University
63	Duke University
68	Emory University
72	Fordham University
78	George Mason University
83	George Washington University
89	Georgetown University
99	Harvard University
104	New York University (NYU)
108	Northwestern University
113	Ohio State University, Moritz School of Law
117	Southern Methodist University
122	Stanford
126	University of Alabama
130	University of Arizona
134	University of California Berkeley
140	University of California Davis
144	University of California Hastings

150 University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
156 University of Chicago
160 University of Colorado
165 University of Connecticut
171 University of Florida
176 University of Georgia
180 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
184 University of Indiana
189 University of Iowa
195 University of Kentucky
199 University of Maryland
203 University of Michigan
208 University of Minnesota
213 University of North Carolina
218 University of Notre Dame
222 University of Pennsylvania
227 University of Pittsburgh
231 University of Southern California
235 University of Texas
241 University of Utah
244 University of Virginia
249 University of Washington
252 University of Wisconsin
257 Vanderbilt University
264 Wake Forest University
268 Washington and Lee University
273 Washington University
278 Yale University

DECODING LAW SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEMS: HOW TO SEPARATE THE BEST FROM THE REST

THE TRANSCRIPT – WHAT IT SAYS AND DOESN'T SAY

Increasingly large numbers of hiring partners are guilty of making hiring decisions based on faulty assumptions that may no longer be true or relevant, when it comes to Law schools. The purpose of this guide is to diminish reliance on out dated assumptions and apprise law firms of the most up to date information on how law school transcripts translate in terms of law student achievement.

For starters, you have probably noticed that most law schools refuse to rank their students. They give all sorts of reasons for this, to include the fact that such fine distinctions are meaningless, and that their students are selected from the cream of the undergraduate crop, leading to a quality candidate, no matter what their achievement in law school. In fact, some law schools such as Yale do not use numerical or A-B-C-D-Fail grading systems but opt instead for Pass/Fail designations. This brings us to your dilemma, which is how to determine just how well an attorney candidate actually did vis-à-vis his or her law-school peers. Here's an oft experienced hypothetical.

You receive a resume from John Doe. He attended Law School X, which the *U.S. News & World Report* designates as one of America's top ten. You notice that this candidate has a 'B' average. You assume that someone with a 'B' average from a top-ten law school will have placed in approximately the top third of his or her class. What you might not know is that at this top-ten law school, a 'B' is the average grade.

The law school in question, like most others, is merely trying to present its graduates as attractively as possible. Constructing the grading system so that all of them can be 'B' students is but one way this can be accomplished.

Your job as a recruiter for your firm or business is to get the best attorney you can. This usually means selecting someone who has excelled over others, finishing at least at the top half of his or her class. With the tools this book provides, you will be able to do this: you'll have at your disposal the key markers that tell you how well a student has performed vis-à-vis others.

One way to decipher comparative achievement is to look at honors distinctions an attorney may have earned upon graduation, namely – Summa, Magna, Cum Laude, or With Honors. We'll tell you what these designations really mean, because they differ from law school to law school. You might also check to see if your candidate was a member of any honors societies such as Order of the Coif or Law Review. But a caution is in order here. You must search in this book for the law school in question and check to see what such an honor designates. Again, qualifications for law review, differ depending on the law school.

DEMYSTIFYING THE HIRING PROCESS

Firms seek the best intellectual capital they can buy. This intellectual capital tends, according to popular wisdom, to be concentrated at a handful of law schools, no more than fifteen and perhaps as few as ten or less in number. Such schools hold such leading positions because they are known to be the toughest to enter, meaning the average grades and LSAT scores of their entering classes are higher than those of competing schools.

HAIR SPLITTING

Within these law schools, Yale, and then Harvard are, arguably, held in highest esteem, with, say, Stanford, the University of Chicago and Columbia also highly regarded but a step behind. Thus, even though the differences between, Stanford's 3.67 – 3.93 median grade point and Yale's 3.75 – 3.97 median grade point may seem like monumental hair splitting, such distinctions become meaningful in the world of competitive national and international law firms, which like to boast that their high hourly fees are justified because only they can afford to harness the best legal talent available to solve a corporation or individual's problems.

Selection processes in all cultures comes down to perception, demonstrated performance and personal preference. Pre-teen boys choose teams based on observed or perceived ability and, to a minor degree, on gut feeling. Selection processes organized by adults do not vary all that much from the pre-teen model; although in economic entities such as law firms, perceived reputation of a candidate's law school and demonstrated performance in that law school by the candidate as compared to peers, usually trump consideration of a candidate's personal qualities unless the candidate is impossibly ugly or lacks even a modicum of social skills.

Most law firms choose attorneys by entering a bidding war. Big international firms routinely pay the highest salaries, so, for the most part; they buy the 'best' talent. Everyone else chooses from what is left. This is not to say there is not a lot of talent bypassed by this process. It should also not be implied that all attorneys rated highest by law firms decide to work there. Attorneys can and do choose work in government, in small boutique operations, and in public interest law. They also opt for lines of work other than the law. But having said this, it is still an operable assumption that the best college students end up at the best law schools and will be hired by the most prestigious, highest paying firms, which are working on the highest-profile local, national and international issues.

No selection process, to include that of pre-teen boys, is perfect. Later in this article, we shall introduce new research that raises questions as to how law firms currently make their hiring decisions; but first we will describe the system currently employed to measure and select the best attorneys.

IDENTIFYING TALENT

So how do law schools identify the ‘best’ talent? And once this talent is trained, how do law firms identify it? There are three parts to this answer: College and law school grades, the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) score, and the ‘quality’ of the law school attended. Attorneys presumed to have the most talent are those who, in comparison with their peers, have accumulated the highest grades when measured by as many as sixty or seventy different ‘evaluation events.’ These events begin during a student’s college freshman year. They continue through four years of college followed by three years of law school. Results of these ‘evaluation events’ are then averaged out. The resulting number is used to place the student on a scale that starts with perfection (Typically, all ‘A’s’, based on a 4.0 G.P.A) and proceeds downward. Students with the best college grades and LSAT scores become eligible for entrance into the best law schools. A student’s G.P.A. in law school determines class ranking (Top 10%, 30%, etc.). A high class ranking makes the lawyer eligible for the highest paying, most prestigious national and international law firms.

In addition to the G.P.A., this same attorney talent pool is also measured by a single LSAT score. This one-time ‘evaluation event’ is combined with the cumulative G.P.A. to provide a numerical picture of a newly minted attorney and how he or she compares with others ranked by the exact same criteria.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE LAW SCHOOL¹

Higher grades and LSAT scores, predictably result in admission to a higher ranked law school. In fact, the law school an attorney attends may well be the most important factor in talent selection, as we shall see. For example: If a law school boasts of a student population with an average score on the LSAT in the top 2% of that year’s test-taking population, plus a cumulative college grade-point average exceeding 3.60, then, as a whole, this law school’s students will arguably be more talented than students from a different law school where LSAT scores fall in the top 20-30% range and cumulative college grade-point averages are in the area of 3.2. Using this logic, a graduate in the top half of the class at a highly competitive law school will, in the mind of a law firm recruiter, be considered more talented than a graduate in the top fifth of the class at a less competitive law school. This, comparison is, of course, somewhat of an over simplification, and we shall examine the problem with such an assumption in such logic in a moment.

To select a first-year class, law schools use two primary criteria – college grades and LSAT score. College grades measure ability to excel at intellectual activity over an extended period. In contrast, the LSAT reputedly measures legal aptitude at a given point in time. Some law schools factor in the relative ‘quality’ of the undergraduate university and/or evidence of grade inflation when computing grades. So, whereas grades require some subjective evaluation, the LSAT score does not: it stands immutable and is not subject to interpretation and manipulation. Unlike grades, what makes the LSAT such a powerful influence is that once a law school or law firm knows a candidate attorney’s LSAT score, it knows with some certainty how this candidate’s raw ‘legal aptitude’ ranks in comparison with others regardless of the quality of the student’s undergraduate institution or the relative rigor of the courses taken.

But it is not enough to have a high G.P.A. and a high LSAT score. It is arguably more important to parlay these high scores into admittance to a top law school. Because the highest paying and most prestigious law firms only interview at the relatively few law schools which contain students with both superior LSAT and G.P.A scores. Thus, if a student has superior scores but for one reason or another does not attend a top law school, he or she risks being overlooked.

¹ For anyone interested in an in-depth study of law school comparisons and their inherent flaws, see “Ranking the Law Schools: The Reality of Illusion?” by Scott Van Alstyne published in *the American Bar Foundation Research Journal*, No. 3, 1982.

The problem that law schools such as Yale have is choosing from among so many good students. Yale could probably choose a law-school class filled with 4.0-G.P.A. students with LSATs of 166 or higher. Thus, the selection process requires examination of other factors. These include a student's outside intellectual interests, such as, say, a doctorate in nuclear physics, and non-intellectual interests, such as presidency of one's senior class, stature as a college athlete, or some other means of distinguishing one's candidacy from the typical academically gifted applicant.

IDENTIFYING THE BEST LAW SCHOOLS

Identifying the best law schools is possible by isolating a number of objective and subjective factors. These factors can include the average G.P.A. of a law school's entering class, the average LSAT of this class, the acceptance or 'yield' rate of the class (What percentage of all applicants actually attended), and library size. Admittedly, these are random choices. They are used because they can be numerically described, although, as we shall see, using such statistics does not completely rule out subjective judgment, as in historical reputation and prestige, which goes along with a profession that always retains an air of aristocracy about its long standing educational institutions.

Let's, for a moment, concentrate only on the LSAT score. In the 2004 *U.S. News & World Report* on law schools, twelve schools were cited for attracting an entering class with LSAT scores of 166 or higher:² *

OVERALL RANK	LAW SCHOOL	2002 FRESHMAN CLASS MEDIAN LSAT SCORE RANK
5	New York University	171
1	Yale University	171
4	Columbia University	170
3	Harvard University	170
6	University of Chicago	169
12	Duke University	168
14	Georgetown University	168
Tie for 12th	Northwestern University	168
2	Stanford University	168
Tie for 7th	University of Michigan	167
Tie for 7th	University of Pennsylvania	166
9	University of Virginia	166

2. Abbie Willard, Ph.D., a Georgetown University Law Center assistant dean for Career Services, in her article *Law School Rankings: Through the Education and Employment Looking Glass*, Page 4, found in its entirety on <https://www.nalp.org/schools/rank1.htm>, writes that "U.S. News' two types of information collection – opinion polls and statistical reporting – are unsatisfactory for different reasons: individual perceptions (of judges and lawyers) are flawed on the one hand, and statistics cannot convey subjective quality on the other. Even the variety of data requested has been challenged because deans and hiring partners disagree among themselves and with one another as to any meaningful and measurable definitions of quality." But Dr. Willard does not completely dismiss these annual rankings. She adds on the same page, that "Although this ranking system has been criticized as not providing a balanced view of what individual law schools have to offer and as being to reliant on subjectively reported data, it has also been praised for modifying its research techniques, more precisely defining its terms, and adapting its analysis and report in response to the needs of the profession." What Dr. Willard is saying in sum is that although the *U.S. News & World Report* law school rankings are flawed, they represent, at the present moment, the best relatively unbiased source we have. *This article compiled using 2004 rankings. The rest of the book reflects the 2005 changes however since this article deals mainly with the top 5 to 10 schools, and the changes in the status of those schools is negligible from year to year.

Any law firm partner glancing at this list will bring to it his own informal ranking system, noting that certain old stand-bys always appear on such lists: schools such as Harvard, Yale, the University of Chicago, Stanford, Columbia, Michigan, and Virginia. These seven law schools may change one or two places up or down, but they are always ranked in the top ten. Other schools, such as NYU, Duke, Georgetown, Northwestern and Pennsylvania are, for whatever reason, seldom accorded the same respect. This may be the point of the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings – to show skeptics that when certain objective criteria are applied, such as LSAT scores, college cumulative G.P.A. and other criteria, other schools deserve a fresh look.³

For raw legal aptitude, which is what the LSAT is presumed to measure, you have a cluster of schools at 169-171 (Yale, NYU, Harvard, Columbia and Chicago), another cluster at 166-168 (Northwestern, Duke, Stanford, Georgetown and Penn), and a third cluster (Not shown) at 165 (Cornell, Berkeley, UCLA, USC and Washington & Lee). What is, you might argue, the difference between a 168 and a 171 on the LSAT? It could be an emotionally good or bad day for the test taker? Yet, such small differences in score become significant when applying to law schools, which know that if they start admitting too many people with just slightly lower test scores than previously, they jeopardize their position in the upcoming year's *U.S. News & World Report* ranking.

You might then ask, well, what happens when you factor in college cumulative-grade average? Here are the top twelve schools in this area of measurement, based on a 0-4 grade-point average, with 'A' represented by the numeral '4':

SCHOOL	FIRST-YEAR STUDENT'S CUMULATIVE G.P.A RANK	FIRST-YEAR STUDENT'S CUMULATIVE LSAT RANK
Yale	3.75 – 3.97	1
Harvard	3.76 – 3.94	3
UC-Berkeley	3.68 – 3.90	10 (Tie)
Stanford	3.67 – 3.93	2
Chicago	3.54 – 3.76	6
UCLA	3.52 – 3.80	16
Columbia	3.51 – 3.85	4
Cornell	3.50 – 3.79	10(Tie)
NYU	3.50 – 3.81	5
Virginia	3.49 – 3.78	9
BYU	3.48 – 3.82	31
Georgetown	3.48 – 3.79	14
Vanderbilt	3.45 – 3.81	17

3. Note that Cornell and the University of California at Berkeley, which tied for 10th place in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, missed the cut. The median LSAT score at these schools was 'only' 165, which, in the world of law-school rankings, is to say that seemingly miniscule differences account for certain law schools being ranked over others.

Clearly the old standbys are duplicated in this list, along with some that are considered a little less prestigious: NYU, Yale, Columbia, Harvard, Chicago, Georgetown, Stanford and Virginia. Thus, based on raw legal aptitude and cumulative college grade point averages, these eight schools can be presumed to contain the most talent.

One other parsing of the *U.S. News & World Report* data might be useful here, and that is the selectivity, or, to put it another way, how hard is it to get into a school? Such a question speaks to how ‘desirable’ a school is in the collective mind of law students and law firms in a given year. Here we get some surprises:

SCHOOL	ACCEPTANCE RATE (%)	OVERALL RANK
Yale	7.1%	1
Stanford	9.1	2
Berkeley	11.5	10 (Tie)
Harvard	12.6	3
Maryland	13.0	57
George Mason	13.2	40
Columbia	14.5	4
UCLA	14.5	16
George Washington	15.0	22 (Tie)
Chicago	16.4	6
Penn	16.4	7 (Tie)
Northwestern	17.4	12 (Tie)
Arizona State	17.4	59

This list may not be as meaningful as the other two, because it assesses only the difficulty of gaining acceptance but does not take into consideration the ‘quality’ of the applicants applying. As a general rule, applicants tend to apply to law schools where they have a chance of admission, even if this chance seems remote. For instance, we know, based on *U.S. News & World Report* statistics, that the University of Michigan had an acceptance rate for its 2002 class of 21.4%, much higher than that of George Mason, whose acceptance was 13.2%. But George Mason was accepting candidates with much lower scores than did Michigan.⁴

Nevertheless, if you consider all three measures – cumulative college grade point, LSAT score and yield rate, five schools made all three lists. They are:

- Chicago
- Columbia
- Harvard
- Stanford
- Yale

4. The median grade point of the 2002 entering class at George Mason university was 3.21 – 3.72 and the average LSAT score 156 – 163, whereas at the University of Michigan’s the median G.P.A. was 3.43 – 3.77 and the median LSAT was 163 – 168.

These, then, arguably, are America's premier law schools. Forming a second tier, the following five schools made two of the three lists:

Georgetown
Northwestern
University of California at Berkeley
University of Pennsylvania
University of Virginia

This study has not focused on any inherent qualities of the law schools themselves, such as who has the most influential faculty, as measured by serious, academic books published and papers authored in prestigious journals. There would also seem to be no way to establish which school has the best pure teaching faculty.⁵ However, before leaving the subject, we can try one more parsing of the *U.S. News & World Report* statistics – those having to do with law library size. Thorough scholarship in any field can depend on resources at hand. Large research libraries attract scholars and encourage more detailed scholarly inquiry. The average law school listed in the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking has a library of around 500,000 volumes. Here is a list of the twelve law schools with the largest libraries:

LAW SCHOOL	NUMBER OF LIBRARY VOLUMES
Harvard	2,106,921
Yale	1,062,683
Georgetown	1,055,578
Columbia	1,041,263
NYU	1,028,363
Iowa	1,028,049
Texas	1,012,401
Minnesota	941,142
Michigan	923,007
Virginia	860,608
Cal-Berkeley	836,708
Pennsylvania	762,963

When library size is factored in to G.P.A., LSAT scores and applicant yield rate, the only law schools appearing on three of the four lists were:

Harvard
Yale
Columbia
Georgetown

The only law schools which appeared on all four lists were:

Harvard
Yale

5. Reputation counts as well. The University of Michigan Law School missed the cut because its yield rate and median G.P.A. fell a tad behind the others. But most impartial observers would include this law school among the most prestigious

We have gone through this particular exercise to help gain an understanding of how law schools differ based only on numerical comparisons. We have observed that these differences are primarily a function of test scores. Library size did correlate at the highest end of the ranking spectrum although the correlation did not mirror the ranking hierarchy other than with Harvard and Yale, and even in this rarified atmosphere, Yale's grade and LSAT statistics exceeded Harvard whereas Harvard's library was the larger of the two.

WHO GETS PICKED FROM THE HIGHEST RANKING SCHOOLS?

Let's assume that you now have a good 'feel' for the pecking order among law schools. You are a recruiter for a law firm so prestigious and high paying that it has its choice of any law graduate from any law school. How does such a law firm separate out one candidate from hundreds who on paper, with minor variations, appear equally desirable? Given the fact that the average law firm would love to hire almost any attorney with a Harvard or Yale law degree, the most prestigious law firms can be even pickier.

The rule of thumb used by such firms is that if you have your choice, you don't want any attorney who can't outperform at least 70% of his or her class. Some international New York law firms go further and routinely select only from the top 10% of graduating classes from at most eight or nine law schools. That way, these firms argue, you hire the best of the very best.

The problem with selecting only from the top 30% or top 10% of a class, as we shall see, is that law schools are not always forthcoming in allowing law firms (or anyone else who might inquire) to learn just where a student ranks. This is done to give every graduate a shot at the best possible job. But there are ways to get this information for some candidates.

SLICING THE ELITE PIE THINNER

LAW REVIEW is offered to a select group of students after completion of their first law-school year. The offer is usually based exclusively on grades, and typically only those students in the top 10% of their class are selected. Achieving membership on Law Review at an elite school, at the end of one's first year, is a likely means to extrapolate that a student finished in the top 10% of his first year class. But at some schools, the rules are different. One can write one's way on to Law Review by publishing or presenting to a committee scholarly writing judged worthy of Law Review membership. At these schools, you can be in the bottom half of your class and, by writing your way on, become a Law Review editor. Law firms seldom check. However, it should be noted that membership in Law Review by any means implies scholarship and the intellectual ability to compete successfully.

A FEDERAL CLERKSHIP is another good barometer of academic performance because these appointments are competitive, especially at the federal level, and the presumption is that federal judges, for the most part, pick students with the best grades, an assumption likely to be true in the vast majority of cases. A federal judge may get 2,000 or more applications to fill just two positions. There is a pecking order here as well. Federal Appeals Court clerkships outrank clerkships sponsored by individual federal judges, and federal clerkships are considered more prestigious than those offered by state court judges, who can be known to favor the children of family friends and the like. The ultimate clerkship would be serving a justice of the United States Supreme Court. Again, law firms usually don't pry into the niceties of clerkships. An applicant who makes Law Review at a prestigious law school and then receives a federal clerkship is assumed to have finished very high in his or her class.

NEW RESEARCH CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL SELECTION METHODS

The final question this essay will ask, is this: What about the law student at one of the lesser highly competitive law schools? Is a student who finishes in the top 10% of her class at, say, Duke, the equal or superior candidate to a Harvard student who only finished in the top half of her class?

Justin N. Bezis specializes in intellectual capital and the American society's strategies for its deployment. In a recent article titled "An Inquiry into the Implications of Using Percentage Rankings of Heterogeneous Scholastic Populations," Bezis asks how, if comparing two types of law schools – a prestigious national one and a less-prestigious regional one – a law firm can "(1) Maximize the chance of selecting a high-skill student and (2) minimize the chance of selecting a low skill student." This sounds like a simple enough question, but law firms have differing ways of dealing with this question, says Bezis. One way, Bezis mentions, is for a law firm to interview "about the top 5–10% at the regional law school and the top 10–20% at the national law school. The logic of this approach is based on the assumption that the top 20% of the national law school 'are likely' to be similar in 'quality' to the top 10% at the regional law school. This is where Bezis' research gets interesting.

Bezis assumes for purposes of discussion that both the national law school and the regional law school use just two grades – 'Exemplary' and 'Pass.' He goes on to postulate that "both schools base class rank on the number of 'Exemplary' grades that each student received. He further assumes that both schools use five evaluation events to determine class rank. Students in the first strata have all E grades, students in the second strata have four E grades, and students in the third strata have three E grades, etc."⁶ Now let's assume that the law school populations of both the national and the regional law school are broken into high, medium and moderate levels based on college G.P.A. and LSAT scores.

Bezis' research finds that "...high-level students have an 80% predictability of an E grade in each course and a 20% chance of a Pass grade in each course. Medium-level students have a 70% chance of an E and a 30% chance of a Pass grade. Moderate-level students have a 50% chance of an E and a 50% chance of a Pass grade."

Such predictions fall within the realm of the assumed and for this reason may not seem particularly news-worthy. Bezis notes on page two of his study that one would expect to find 'the cream of the crop' rising to fill the top stratum. That would be what conventional wisdom would predict. Instead, what Bezis found was that "Less than 15% of students in the highest stratum had the highest LSAT and college G.P.A. scores."⁷

CONCLUSIONS

What we learn from the Bezis study is that law-firms' conventional wisdom is both flawed and not flawed. It is flawed in its assumption that students in the top 10% at an elite school are superior to other students in that school. Statistically, Bezis says, the top 10% of any class will not be filled with only the students with the highest LSAT and college G.P.A. scores. So, when recruiting at an elite school, if you recruit only from the top 10% you may be missing superior candidate who ranked lower.

6. Bezis, Justin N., "An Inquiry into the Implications of Using Percentage Rankings of Heterogeneous Scholastic Populations." Draft article provided to BCG Attorney Search. Available by e-mailing JamieBarnes@BCGsearch.com.

7. Bezis notes that "High grades and high True Exit Attributes (High G.P.A. and LSAT scores) are correlated but not coincident since a number of variables including test design, grading error, and random factors can cause high-TXA students to have relatively low grades.

However, buttressing conventional wisdom, Bezis also notes that a law firm is still statistically better off choosing a medium-performing student at an elite university than it is in selecting a high-performing student at a less prestigious regional school. Why, because the same dynamics are operative in both elite and regional law schools – namely, the academically top-performing students are not always those with the best natural ability and proven track record. The elite university will have many more students with high G.P.A. and LSAT test scores who do not rank in the top 10% or 20% of their class.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND PREDILECTIONS

If 90% of a law firm’s hiring decision is based on a candidate’s academic performance in law school and the quality of the law school the candidate attended, there are other factors that enter into the hiring decision.

Each law firm is a microcosm of human society, with its own myths and cultural touchstones. As a result, over time certain habits and patterns of thought become imbedded and repeated. Such habits and patterns, which may appear strange to outsiders, are honored, because they foster uniqueness as well as inclusiveness for members, something every culture seeks, to define its boundaries vis-a-vis what it considers outsiders. There are exceptions. A firm can be won over by a candidate during an interview and get an offer, but this is more the exception than the rule. Generally, in addition to the candidate’s academic credentials, the firm will only choose to interview candidates that meet certain preconceived expectations.

Typical examples of a firm’s cultural predilections applicable to this discussion include some of the following, note that some are considered more legitimate than others; we consider them all here whether right or wrong, they exist:

- (1) Managing partners may support law students and alumni from their own law school. Alumni networks are one of the most common networking and recruiting techniques and are a fairly accepted form of a firm’s cultural bias.
- (2) The firm’s unspoken gender or racial biases.
- (3) A firm only hires from the top 20% of the class and only from a handful of ‘name’ law schools;
- (4) A firm is partial to locally-bred lawyers.
- (5) A firm likes only tall lawyers.

Given that such extraneous factors frequently enter into a hiring decision, most candidate searches begin with a set of rational considerations which center around the quality of the school, the candidate’s grades, and the honors received.

THE RATIONAL APPROACH

Thomas Cushing, in an interesting article appearing in the September, 2003 issue of *The Recorder*,⁸ argues that law firms are going about the process of attorney selection the wrong way. He quotes *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis, a best-selling analysis of how the Oakland Athletics baseball team manages to compete with the New York Yankees despite a payroll and fan base that is dramatically smaller. He writes:

8. Cushing, Thomas F., “The Oakland A’s Know Something You Don’t,” *The Recorder*, Wednesday, September 3, 2002, Pg. 4.

Traditionally, firms have applied a narrow set of criteria to their search process ...law school, rank/honors and years of practice in some area of specialization...points are also given or deducted for those candidates who have moved too much, or not enough; and there is a strong preference for straight-and-narrow careerists...This approach might be deemed the low-risk model.

Cushing cautions law firms to approach the hiring process differently, as does the management of the Oakland A's. He counsels law firms to ask such questions as, "What are your most important business drivers – client service, cost, quality, speed or specialized expertise? What gets rewarded?" He goes on to suggest, "Next, consider individuals who are particularly successful within the organization...as well as characteristics of any prior incumbents who contributed to successes. What personal attributes most contributed to their performance?"

This kind of approach, Cushing believes, focuses first on the specific need and how it is interrelated within a specific law firm's culture and only after 'designing' this hypothetical lawyer and the characteristics which define him or her, can attorney candidates be found who fit these identified parameters. What Cushing is saying is that in pursuing a 'low risk' model – identifying law school, honors awarded and the like – the law firm is metaphorically putting the cart before the horse.

This chart shows not only the quantifiable academic-performance markers but intuitive/subjective 'cultural' markers as well:

QUANTIFIABLE	INTUITIVE/SUBJECTIVE
Law School Ranking	'Quality' of law school
Law School Grades	Social Intelligence
LSAT	Personal Appearance
Law School Honors (Law Review, Order of the Coif, Federal Clerkship, etc.)	The candidate's cultural 'fit'
	Other concerns (Nepotism, Ethnic/Religious/ Sexual preference/prejudice, etc.)

Now that we have said all this, a return to reality is necessary. Law firms, rightly or wrongly, seek quality first and worry about 'fit' later. And because this is so, we have produced this book to demystify the process as best we can. So, for starters, we shall examine law-school quality and how this is presently decided.

LAW SCHOOL QUALITY

We have already covered this subject in some detail, noting year after year the top seven or so law schools are always ranked in the *U.S. News & World Report* top ten; to include Yale, Stanford, Harvard, University of Chicago, Columbia, Michigan, and Virginia. As was also noted, even within this list, there are gradations, with Harvard and Yale historically appearing more prestigious than the others.

Yet, each year there are inexplicable changes, dramatic ones such as the University of Washington unaccountably slipping from 25th ranking in 2003 to a tie for 45th in the 2004 rankings, Brigham Young moving from 37th ranking to 31st, heavy-weight Cornell from 13th to a tie for 10th, George Mason from 47th to a tie for 40th, George Washington from 25th to 22nd and into a tie with Notre

Dame, which advanced from last year's 24th place. Finally, the University of Kentucky law school dropped out of the 2004 top 50, to be replaced by Maryland, which joins the top 50 in a tie for 45th place. What happened in the space of 12 months to cause such dramatic shifts?

There are several possible answers. The admissions committee manages to move the average G.P.A. of its entering law school class from, say, 3.45 to 3.46. Several new judges provide subjective judgments as to law-school quality and have a higher impression of the school than the judges they replaced. Regardless, what does seem evident is that the lower you go down the rankings, the more fluctuation you get.

This fact alone somewhat invalidates the rankings when you get beyond, say, the fifteenth place. Outside of the 15 elite schools, the rankings become less and less definitive, changing due to miniscule changes in the scores achieved in the yearly ranking process. Finally, like the monetary value of the 'good will' in the sale of a business, law schools build up 'good will' of their own over the centuries. They gain 'mind share' and once they do this, it is difficult to change the established perception. Thus, Harvard and Yale will always be rated highly even if the most meaningful and defensible judgment criteria do not rate them as highly as public perception does.

FINAL THOUGHTS

You now have a macro view of law schools, the status system in which they fit, how law firms seek candidates and the rules by which these law firms are rationally and subjectively guided. The rest of the material in this book takes a micro look at each law school listed in the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2004 Top 50 Law School Rankings.

We shall go into exhaustive detail about each ranked law school. In the process, you will learn how each school determines who will be offered Law Review membership, random student opinions concerning available clinical programs, plus the relative importance accorded to moot court competition by various law schools.

We noted last year, and it is worth reiterating, that many of the law schools we discuss in this book are, to say the least, reticent about their grading systems, class rank, and how they determine who has achieved the top fifth, third or half of the class. We have deliberately dug to uncover such information when and where we can.

Our goal is to help you decode the transcript you receive from a specific law school so as to learn how a student stacks up against his or her peers. In the process, we have scoured a variety of different sources, which we have been careful to footnote, should you wish to investigate a particular statistic in more detail.

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THE LAW SCHOOL BIBLE

The goal of this book is to give law firms a 'law school bible' in which they can find complete information in one place on individual law schools. To this end, we have gathered as much information as we can from as many sources as possible and organized it so that it is easily found for the top 50 law schools as identified by the 2004 *U.S. News & World Report* Law School rankings. The goal is to demystify the grading and ranking systems for the nation's top 50 law schools and provide the reader with an objective and greater understanding of what it means to be a member of the particular journals and law reviews at these schools.

We will address a law school's geographic location, faculty strength and accessibility, class size, library and study and research facilities, academic honors and awards offered, moot court and clinical programs, student organizations and extra-curricular activities, entering class acceptance percentages and GPA and LSAT scores, OCIP program, post-law school employment statistics, plus an overall sense of the atmosphere existing at each school.

OUR SOURCES

As noted, we started with 2004 law-school rankings provided by the *U.S. News & World Report*. Of all the various guides available on law schools, we concentrated on the Princeton Review's 2004 Complete Book of Law Schools, The ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools and the NALP Directory. Just to be sure, we also checked each of the 50 top law schools' websites, and contacted Admissions Offices and Offices of Career Services. Each law school discussed in this book, was given our completed version of information about that school, and invited to provide corrections or verification of the data, in order to present the most current and accurate information available to date. Finally, we did our own informal and admittedly random sampling of recent graduates of the top-50 schools, and we used some of these quotes to provide a personal flavor to

what otherwise might have been the mere recitation of facts. Upon occasion, there were complaints as to tone, and we made changes when we felt they would not compromise the kind of objectivity we sought.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT

We have done our best to provide you with consistent information for each of the top-50 law schools listed. There were instances when law schools were reluctant to provide the information we requested. In addition, information between guides occasionally conflicted. We have done our best to eliminate such discrepancies, but if any should come to your attention, please let us know.

DECODING GRADING SYSTEMS AT AMERICA'S TOP 50 LAW SCHOOLS

The assignment of a comparative value to an individual's performance, when parsed by letter grades such as A,B,C,D and F, or numbers, 9.6, 8.4, etc. can be very subjective: A paper or an exam considered a 'B' at the University of Virginia could conceivably be an 'A-' at Yale or an 'A' somewhere else. Some schools grade on a bell curve and others may give out A's and B's to 2/3rds of the class. Some schools, like Yale and Berkeley, use words to separate the good from the average to poor performance. All these different systems for establishing comparative performance create a problem for law firm interviewers when trying to assess an applicant's transcript. What most law firms do to steer clear of such a dilemma is to select only students finishing in the top third to top 10% of their class; but the problem with this approach is that many law schools deliberately do not rank their students. As a result, a student with a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average could place only in the top half at one school or in the top third at a school with a tougher grading system.

STANDARD GPA

The 4.0 GPA model is the most commonly used system for evaluating student performance. Of the top 50 schools, 25 employ this system, although they do so in different ways. For instance, almost one half of the 50 schools surveyed allow for the highest grade in this system to be a 4.3, or A+. Schools using the 0.0--4.3 scale include Boston University, Emory, Fordham, UCLA, Georgia, Michigan, UNC, Texas, Virginia, and Vanderbilt. Duke and the University of Southern California also award numerical grades above a 4.0, but they are distinct in that they allow for GPAs as high as 4.5 at Duke and 4.4 at USC, even though grades that high are rarely awarded.

Reflecting on all of this, one might assume that schools with a 4.3 GPA system would, on the whole, consistently show higher GPA numbers, but this is not necessarily so, due to the fact that few 4.3 grades are ever awarded and might be earned by no more than one or two students in any particular class. What we did find was that schools employing a 4.3 show grades about one-half a grade point higher in their class-ranking cut-offs, meaning a greater percentage of students get slightly higher grades at these schools. Still, everything considered, we have found no meaningful differences in grade points between 4.3 and 4.0 schools.

We have determined that any grade fluctuation between schools depends on how an individual law school sets the curve and how rigorously professors are required to adhere to it. A curve for a traditional GPA is usually set anywhere from a 2.7 to a 3.1, which is the range in which a majority of students will fall. The difference between a 2.71 and a 3.1 can be significant in terms of the final cumulative placement in either the top or bottom half of a class. At those schools with a hard and undeviating curve, a 2.7 median would translate into the midpoint where students in the 50th percentile of their class would be congregated. But this would rarely happen. Curves are almost always restricted to larger classes, and many schools have rules that only those mandatory classes offered on a consistent basis, such as Property or Contracts, and offered to at least x number of students, will be required to grade according to the curve.

What can be said with some certainty is that the curves in such classes do tend to set the mean in GPAs somewhat and the amount that grades are improved by non-curved classes is fairly consistent. Thus, we can conclude that a school with a 2.7 curve will have lower GPAs on average than a school with a 3.1 curve. The difference would most likely be less than .4, but this is not as insignificant as one might think. For example, the University of Connecticut School of Law sets a B mean, which means a 3.0. Southern Methodist University uses a B- mean, which at SMU is a 2.7. The difference in cumulative GPAs on the average is approximately .25 higher at University of Connecticut in order to finish in the top 33%. Students surveyed at some schools, SMU and George Mason, for example, indicated that their school's unusually strict B- curves often put them at a disadvantage against students of other schools whose GPA stratification does not mirror their own, which is bound to be the case. Since some schools, such as Cornell, have curves as high as B+, a cumulative GPA from Cornell will appear much more impressive than one from George Mason, despite the fact that the lower George Mason GPA might mean a higher class standing.

MODIFIED GPA SCALE

Cornell, New York University, Northwestern, George Mason, George Washington and the University of Notre Dame all modify the standard GPA system, designating a smaller range of possible grades. All of these schools use a GPA scale that ranges from 1.33 to 4.33 (Or 4.0 in Notre Dame's case). Stanford uses a scale from 2.1-4.3. Such narrower ranges tend to produce grades that are essentially equivalent to the standard scale at the higher ranks, but lower-performing students tend to look as if they have a higher GPA. In Stanford's case, only a .4 difference stands between a fairly respectable B- and failure to graduate.

To further sow confusion, we have found that the University of Arizona uses only the numbers 0,1,2,3 and 4 in its grading system. There are no '-' and '+' gradations. This has both benefits and drawbacks. A grade that might be a B+ at another school becomes devalued under this system. On the other hand, a B- at another school is upgraded to a B at Arizona. Regardless, the cumulative GPA will look the same regardless of the system, as like regular GPAs, the Arizona cumulative GPA is not rounded out to the closest whole number.

NUMBER SYSTEM

The second most used GPA system other than the standard one involves giving grades, such as Harvard does, on a 0-8 scale. 6-8 correlates to the entire A range, with 6 being an A- and 8 being an A+. Since 6.013 was the minimum requirement to be in the top 10% of the class, which corresponds to somewhere between an A- and an A, the corresponding letter grades seem a bit higher than the number grades, for no other school has a 3.8 (the traditional A- grade in the 4.0 scale) as the top 10% cut-off grade. The numerical system for the rest of the schools using this type of GPA system is explained in the chart below:

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
University Of Minnesota	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	5-7	0-4
Ohio State University		100-93			92-85			84-77		76-69	
University of Chicago		86-80			79-74			73-68		67-60	59-55
University of Colorado		100-93	90-92	86-89	83-85	82-80	79-76	75-73	72-70	69-60	59-50
University of Iowa		92-85		84-80	79-75	74-70		69-65		64-60	59-50
Wake Forest University		100-91			90-81			80-71		70-66	66 or below
Washington University	100-97	96-94	93-91	90-88	87-85	84-82		81-79		78-74	73-70
University of Wisconsin		95-87		86-84*	84-83		82-80**	79-77			

*This grade range is classified as an AB. **This grade Range is classified as a BC

A quick glance at this chart shows how difficult it is to compare GPAs from different schools. For example, note the various designations of what an 'A' means. Ohio State and Colorado say it is 93–100, Chicago indicates 80–86, Iowa 85–92, Washington University of St. Louis 94–96, and Wisconsin 87–95. These differences in how numerically to designate an 'A' can be found with 'B' and 'C' grades as well.

Despite similarities between most of the schools, differences in ranges and their meaning make it at times impossible to do a side-by-side comparison. For example, the University of Wisconsin uses a 77–95 range, with almost half of the range qualifying as an A grade, while the University of Chicago uses a 60–86 range that has a smaller set of numbers for each corresponding letter grade. Despite the differences, these 60–100 scales may be the most clear-cut, understandable grading method. With a larger set of numbers, it is easier to see where students stand vis-à-vis their classmates. For example, a student with an 86 at Chicago and a student with a 60 are on opposite sides of the 77 median curve, just as a student with a 3.7 and another with a 2.5 would be at another school employing a 4.0 grading system.

LETTER GRADES

Three of the top 50 law schools (Indiana, Florida and Penn) give out letter grades as their main grading system. This essentially carries the same meaning as the more traditional university GPA, as letter grades are often the basis for the number grades and can be directly translated into a GPA. Florida does things somewhat differently, as it only offers some of the available letter grades to students. It does not offer an A+ grade and no letter grade comes with a '-.' All of the regular grades – A,B,C,D and F – still correspond to the standard -4.0,3.0,2.0 and 0.0- but the grades with an '+' affixed are set at .5 higher than the regular grade (i.e., a B equates to a 3.0 and a B+ to a 3.5), which affects the cumulative GPA. A normal system would put an A- at a 3.8 or a 3.7, and a B+ at a 3.3, but Florida law professors are given only the .5 option. Since the class ranking charts indicate that Florida requires a 3.55 to rank in the top 10% of the class (This is much lower than what most schools who use the traditional ranking system require), it is more likely that Florida's professors end up grading harder and are less likely to give out grades with a '+' due to the fact that a '.5' when added makes a greater impact than, say, a .3.

OTHER

Would it surprise you to learn that at least two law schools we know of do not use numerical or letter grades? Actually, this is true of two of the top schools in the nation, Yale Law School and the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall Law School. The idea was to take the stress out of the law school experience by eliminating rigid categorizations. Thus, when a law firm glances at a transcript from either of these schools, there will arise a general impression of how the student did but no precise comparison (top 10%, etc.) is possible.

On a Yale transcript, you will find three passing citations – Low Pass, Pass, and Honors. Boalt Hall also offers three passing citations – Pass, Honors, and High Honors, plus a Fail citation in instances where the class was not passed. Students are lumped into large, seemingly amorphous categories where the qualitative difference between the best of the group and the worst can have significance; additionally, a student can miss the next higher category by a proverbial whisker but the law-firm interviewer will have no way of knowing this based on any transcript notations.

One way of decoding such a grading structure is to concentrate on larger classes such as Contracts and Property, where the class sizes are large and the student competes against many others at one time. Here, honors or high honors will have more significance. Ergo, the more honors designations in large, well populated courses, the greater likelihood the student has finished in the top half or top third of the class.

CONCLUSION

The wish to conceal class ranking is understandable from several points of view. At the top schools, every student possesses outstanding undergraduate grades and a 'superior' score on the LSAT. Because, such schools argue, such care is taken to make sure there is quality going in, a law firm can assume quality going out as well. To carry the argument further, when a law student positions its graduates as equally worthy, it assumes that hiring decisions will be focused on the 'emotional fit' and the on-going needs of the firm and not exclusively on grades.

When you come right down to it, the most effective way to gage the performance of a student is to observe this student's class ranking in relation to his or her peers. It makes no difference if only large classes such as Property and Contracts are used. Law firms are better off with more precise data. While this article has given you suggestions on how to decipher student performance regardless of the grading system used, the following coverage of Law Review, federal clerkships and the *U.S. News & World Report's* top 50 law schools, will give you a more focused and individual insight which should prove useful in any and all of your future hiring efforts.

WHAT MAKING LAW REVIEW MEANS AT THE TOP 50 SCHOOLS

Making Law Review may not be a *sine qua non* with the very best law firms, but it comes as close as any requirement can, with the exception of top grades. Why? Because top grades, at the majority of law schools, almost automatically translate into Law Review. Thus, the employer's assumption that if a candidate made Law Review, that candidate most likely finished in the top 10–15% of the class.

There is another assumption about Law Review – namely, that anybody awarded this distinction knows how to, in a legal sense, write. Moreover, the student's writing has received extensive mentoring and on-going critique from professors. This two-edged aspect to Law Review membership – top grades plus exceptional writing ability – understandably operates as a powerful lure for legal employers everywhere.

What this article attempts is to delineate the criteria different law schools use to choose Law Review members. Much of this material comes from testimonials provided to us by former Law Review members and some of it has been given to us forthrightly by individual schools, and when this occurs, we identify the school so that you will know.

THE STANDARD LAW REVIEW SELECTION PROCESS

The committee doing the selection first looks at a candidate's first-year grades. In addition, there likely is a spring write-on competition held by present Law Review members. All of this typically takes place after all first-year exams have been completed.

This kind of process has many variations, as you shall see. Some schools wait until the beginning of the second year to start the process. A few have writing competitions only. Others take from the top 15%, whereas others select only from the top 10%. One might argue that regardless of how one makes Law Review, whether by writing one's self on, gaining membership through high grades, or a combination of the two, the accomplishment in itself represents the type of achievement and outperforming of the competition (one's classmates) that will always warrant serious consideration by the hiring committee of any law firm. Such an argument does have merit, for many reasons including the inherent writing experience gained by Law Review participation.

Only seven of the Top 50 schools currently choose new Law Review members based solely on their writing abilities. These are: Boalt Hall, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Stanford, UCLA and UC Davis. The most common approach, as indicated earlier, is to select new members based on grades and a writing competition. Some of these law schools place more importance on a student's writing skills. These law schools include: Boston College, Boston University, Brigham Young, Georgetown, Harvard, New York University, Northwestern, Georgia, Michigan, Utah, Virginia, Vanderbilt, Washington & Lee and Yale.

The remaining 21 schools have devised a variety of criteria for selecting new Law Review members. Washington College of Law gets the overwhelming majority of their class through both the writing competition and grades, but the overwhelming majority are chosen because their grades fall in the top 10% of their class. For example, of its 95 members, 65 of Washington's successful Law Review candidates were admitted through a grade-on process and the remaining 30 wrote their way on.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY: allow the top 15% to grade-on, after the first year. Fourth quarter students may write, so long as their GPA is 2.5 or higher.

At **WILLIAM & MARY**, half of each new Law Review class comes from ranking in the top 10% of their class and the other half from a writing competition held late in the first year.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY uses a variety of criteria. A student can write his or her way on to Law Review, be eligible due to a combination of grades and success in the writing competition, or in grades, writing and diversity factors. And lastly, there is a publishable notes program held during the fall semester of the second year that allows students another chance at Law Review membership.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, like Columbia, offers multiple roads to Law Review membership. Those students possessing the top 16 cumulative GPAs in their class are automatically asked to join, provided they finish in the top 10% of the writing competition. The writing competition's top 12 performers are also invited to join without consideration of their grades. Additional students are usually asked to join based on three criteria: their grades, their performance during the first-year writing competition, and the contents of the personal statements they submit. Finally, Cornell often selects a few entering third-years based on grades alone.

DUKE UNIVERSITY relies solely on grades and the writing competition. One third of the 27 members admitted each year are elected solely on their first-year grades, another third solely on the writing competition, and the remaining third on a combination of the two.

EMORY usually fills approximately half of its second year positions through performers in the top 10% of their class, leaving the rest of the positions open for students who have good GPAs and good writing-competition scores.

FORDHAM takes approximately 65% of its students on a grade-on basis, provided that they are in the top 8% of their class (a more stringent cut-off than found at a majority of the top 50 schools, which typically include 10%). Remaining positions on Law Review are given to students who excelled in the writing competition, but with an important caveat: they must still be ranked in the top 25% of their class.

GEORGE MASON and **GEORGE WASHINGTON** take 80% of their candidates from the top 10% of the class with the remaining 25% gaining admission through a writing competition.

INDIANA takes 75% of its Law Review members from the top 10% of the class with the rest earning membership through a write-on.

MARYLAND Students are selected based on a written petition submitted at the end of their first year for day students and their second year for evening students. Grades play a small role in the selection, specifically, 25% of the available positions are determined by a combination of petition scores and grades.

OHIO STATE splits membership 50/50 between grades and the write-on conducted as part of a first-year legal writing class. In addition, there is a writing competition.

KENTUCKY uses a grade and write-on combination where 20 or so spots are filled by the top 15% while the rest of the class can compete in a write on competition that determines membership for the remaining 11 spots.

SOUTHERN METHODIST invites those students whose grades fall within the top 16% of their class. Remaining positions numbering about 15 are taken by students excelling in the writing competition.

NORTH CAROLINA has 39 positions on its Law Review staff, and approximately one third of those are filled by those with the highest GPAs. The remaining 2/3rds are split evenly among those who excelled in the writing competition and those with a combination of superior grades and writing skills.

ALABAMA has 71 Law Review positions to fill and fills about 6% of them with students who grade on. The remaining 40% are selected from the write-on competition. Arizona has a similar breakdown, the only difference being that Arizona selects grade-on candidates only from the top 10% of the class.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HASTINGS COLLEGE OF LAW offers Law Review to 14 students based on their GPA and to 14 students based on their write-on competition performance. Another 14 students are chosen for their combination of high GPA and write-on ability.

CHICAGO selects about 18 new students yearly for Law Review based both on first-year grades and performance on the first-year write-on competition. Approximately 10 other students are then selected based solely on demonstrated writing skills.

CONNECTICUT uses a writing competition as the main source of Law Review selection; but the possibility to grade on does exist. However, usually less than 10 students in a Connecticut class make Law Review in this fashion.

FLORIDA awards the top 5% of each section in its third semester the chance to join; but this, in effect, means membership comes from the top 5% of the class as all sections are similar in size. Additionally, those who place highly in the writing competition are admitted along with others nominated by the faculty for exceptional work.

NOTRE DAME splits membership in Law Review evenly among those who stand out in the write-on competition and those who achieve superior grades. Notre Dame takes 13 students a year based on cumulative GPA, 13 students for writing excellence, and 13 for a combination of GPA and writing ability.

PENNSYLVANIA fills half their Law Review membership from results of the write-on and fills the other half with students whose combined write-on scores and grades are the highest.

PITTSBURGH students are selected for membership on the editorial board on the basis of academic achievement or superior writing and analytical ability. Most law students selected are in the top 10–15 percent of their law school class

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA honors approximately 60 new students each year with the offer of Law Review membership. Fifteen are invited based on first-year grades. Remaining positions are filled based on grades and writing ability as demonstrated in a mandatory first-year course.

TEXAS selects about 40 entering second-year students based both on first-year grades and writing-competition scores. Approximately 10 additional students are made offers based on demonstrated writing skills.

WASHINGTON'S Law Review consists of 50 student members of whom 25 are selected based on cumulative GPA and 25 based on demonstrated writing ability.

WISCONSIN favors students who excel in the writing competition. A full 75% of its Law Review members are elected based on this criterion. The remaining 25% are selected based on their first-year grades.

WAKE FOREST and **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITIES** make offers to those entering second-years who have placed in the top 10% of their first-year class. Write-on candidates and those with good write-on scores and GPA make up the rest of the Law Review staff.

CONCLUSIONS

If you have patiently read through all the various permeations possible in filling a Law Review staff position, you probably have come to some conclusions: (1) Top grades can, in almost all instances, get you on Law Review and (2) Writing ability gives even an average student a chance to attain this coveted status, as does a combination of decent grades and good writing. However, it should be noted that most average students fall into that category because often enough they do not write as well as those students who outperform them in class.

Certainly, any candidate who has made Law Review is going to get strong consideration for a permanent position with a law firm based on this accomplishment alone; for this achievement automatically signals that the candidate has excelled over a significant majority of his or her classmates. Furthermore, any candidate who makes Law Review at a top 10 school has beat out a formidable group of competitors.

BCG LAW SCHOOL COMPARISON GRID

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN

GRADUATION HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

LAW SCHOOLS	US NEWS RANK	LSAT	GPA	APPLIED	NUMBER ACCEPTED	NUMBER ENROLLED	PERCENT ACCEPTED	ORDER OF COIF	SUM CUM LAUDE	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	CUM LAUDE HONORS OR DEANS LIST	JUDICIAL CLERKS
Baylor University	50	159-164	3.45-3.90	2082	436	94	20.9%	N/A	3.8	3.6	3.4	10%
Boston College	29	161-165	3.45-3.78	7818	1291	281	16.5%	Top 10%	3.67+	3.5-3.67	Top 33%	17%
Boston University	23	163-166	3.35-3.66	7246	1396	268	19.30%	N/A	Top 1%	Top 10%	Top 33%	9%
Brigham Young	34	161-166	3.48-3.82	1018	230	158	22.6%	Top 10%	Top 2%	3.55-3.79	3.35-3.54	15%
College of William and Mary	29	161-165	3.38-3.79	3373	665	206	19.7%	Top 10%				19%
Columbia	4	167-173	3.52-3.82	8322	1143	395	13.7%	Kent Scholar 3.8+		Stone Scholar 3.41+		18.5%
Cornell	12	165-168	3.50-3.75	4706	778	194	16.5%	Top 10%	Special Award	Top 10%	Top 30%	12..2%
Duke	10	162-169	3.47-3.81	4373	875	202	20.0%	N/A	3.8+	3.5+	3.25+	13%
Emory	23	160-165	3.37-3.73	4150	901	223	21.7%	Top 10%	3.8+	3.453	3.354	14%
Fordham (2002)	34	163-167	3.32-3.75	6947	1195	318	17.2%	Top 10%	Top 4 Students	3.75+	3.5	3%
George Mason	38	159-165	3.11-3.74	4372	402	91	9.2%	N/A	Top 1%	Top 10%	Top 25%	20%
George Washington	20	162-167	3.34-3.74	11687	1568	405	13.4%	Top 10%	3.67+ Top 3%	3.3+ Top 10%	3.0 Top 40%	10.7%
Georgetown	14	167-170	3.42-3.78	11632	1940	451	16.7%	Top 10%	3.87+	3.64	3.44	11%
Harvard	2	169-174	3.76-3.94	7247	849	554	11.7%	N/A	7.2%	17.2%	47.2%	22%
New York University	5	168-173	3.52-3.82	8639	1617	430	18.7%	Top 10%	Top 1/2 students	Top 10%	Top 25%	16%
Northwestern	10	162-169	3.47-3.81	5222	823	242	15.8%	Top 10%	Top 1%	Top 3%	Top 30%	13%
Ohio State	42	155-162	3.36-3.79	2500	655	266	26.2%	Top 10%	3%	N/A	25%	7%
Southern Methodist University	47	155-163	3.20-3.77	2720	631	261	23.2%	Top 10%	3.8+ 1 - 2 students	3.6+ Top 2%	3.2+ Top 20%	8%
Stanford	3	166-171	3.73-3.95	5139	386	170	7.5%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	Top 33%	32.7%

BCG LAW SCHOOL COMPARISON GRID

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN

GRADUATION HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

LAW SCHOOLS	US NEWS RANK	LSAT	GPA	APPLIED	NUMBER ACCEPTED	NUMBER ENROLLED	PERCENT ACCEPTED	ORDER OF COIF	SUM CUM LAUDE	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	CUM LAUDE HONORS OR DEANS LIST	JUDICIAL CLERKS
U of Alabama	40	159-163	3.2-3.65	1326	312	181	23.5%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 15%	Top 25%	15%
U of Arizona	43	158-164	3.23-3.73	2589	455	153	17.6%	Top 10%	Top 7%	Top 14%	Top 25%	23%
UC Berkeley	13	160-168	3.65-3.90	7503	769	286	10.2%	Top 10%	NA	Top 15%	Top 35%	13%
UC Davis	33	158-163	3.40-3.72	4334	800	193	18.5%	Top 10%	Wilkin Award	Hopkins Prize	N/A	6%
UC Hastings	38	160-165	3.39-3.70	6915	1410	427	20.4%	Top 10%	1 student	Top 5%	Top 15%	4%
UC Los Angeles (UCLA)	16	162-168	3.51-3.83	7286	965	302	13.2%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	5%
U of Chicago	6	167-171	3.44-3.74	5075	747	194	14.7%	Top 10%	82+ Average	80+ Average	78 Average	29.4%
U of Colorado	50	160-164	3.43-3.78	3109	717	171	23.1%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	Top 10%	18%
U of Connecticut	43	158-164	3.15-3.62	2471	427	163	21.3%	N/A	Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 24%	18.9%
U of Florida	43	153-162	3.37-3.83	3356	468	185	17.6%	Top 10%	4.0	3.5	3.1	6%
U of Georgia	31	158-164	3.23-3.82	2701	598	261	22.1%	Top 10%	Top 2%	Top 8%	Top 35%	12.9%
U of Illinois	27	159-164	3.12-3.61	2777	595	225	21.4%	Top 10%	3.75	3.5	3.25	11%
U of Indiana	40	159-164	2.99-3.68	2952	927	221	31.4%	Top 10%	Top 1%	Top 10%	Top 30%	8%
U of Iowa	23	157-164	3.27-3.79	1721	416	220	24.2%	Top 10%	85+	12.5%	37.5%	12%
U of Kentucky	50	157-162	3.26-3.76	1481	399	146	26.9%	Top 10%	3.8+ 14 students	3.6+	3.4+	19%
U of Maryland	43	156-162	3.30-3.70	4065	569	207	14%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	Top 33%	21.1%
U of Michigan	7	164-169	3.43-3.76	5439	1164	406	21.4%	Top 10%	4.0	3.7+	3.4+	22%
U of Minnesota	19	160-165	3.36-3.82	2388	752	281	31.5%	Top 10%	13.5-14.49	12-13.49	11 and up	26.9%
U of North Carolina	27	157-164	3.42-3.84	3012	594	235	19.7%	Top 10%	0.3%	5.3%	16.1%	14%
U of Notre Dame	20	161-166	3.38-3.79	3700	499	184	13.5%	N/A	3.8	3.6	3.4	7.1
U of Pennsylvania	7	164-170	3.45-3.83	5130	770	261	15.0%	Top 10%	Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 25%	15%
U of Pittsburgh	47	157-162	3.03-3.63	2114	607	240	28.7%	3.48 Top 10%	1-2 students	Top 10%	Top 20%	12%
U of Southern	18	164-167	3.50-3.72	7032	1251	219	17.8%	Top 10%	4.4	3.9+	3.4+	5%

BCG LAW SCHOOL COMPARISON GRID

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN

GRADUATION HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

LAW SCHOOLS	US NEWS RANK	LSAT	GPA	APPLIED	NUMBER ACCEPTED	NUMBER ENROLLED	PERCENT ACCEPTED	ORDER OF COIF	SUM CUM LAUDE	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	CUM LAUDE HONORS OR DEANS LIST	JUDICIAL CLERKS
U of Southern California (USC)	18	164-167	3.50-3.72	7032	1251	219	17.8%	Top 10%	4.4	3.9+	3.4+	5%
U of Texas	15	160-166	3.41-3.83	6066	992	503	16.4%	Top 10% 47 Students	4.3-4.05 3 Students	4.3-3.85 16 Students	4.3-3.35 124 Students	11%
U of Utah	47	158-163	3.36-3.78	1287	298	126	23.2%	Top 10%	N/A	3.56 = Top 10%	3.23+ Top 33%	22%
U of Virginia	9	165-170	3.55-3.81	4588	996	369	21.7%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	3.48 Top 25%	16.7%
U of Washington	34	159-166	3.44-3.79	2712	524	192	19.3%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 5%	Top 20%	16.4%
U of Wisconsin	31	158-164	3.14-3.60	3110	708	261	22.8%	Top 10%	90+	87.5+	85.5	8%
Vanderbilt University	17	162-166	3.46-3.82	3600	682	198	18.9%	Top 10%	N/A	N/A	Top 20%	14%
Wake Forest	34	160-163	3.15-3.60	2442	580	189	23.8%	N/A	N/A	91+	Top 10%	12%
Washington and Lee	23	163-167	3.11-3.68	2273	575	124	25.3%	Top 10%	Top 1.7%	Top 10.9%	Top 17.7%	27%
Washington University in St. Louis	20	161-166	3.20-3.80	3472	802	237	23.1%	Top 10%	N/A	Top 10%	Top 33%	5.9%
Yale	1	169-175	3.80-3.97	3773	241	194	6.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38%

RANK
50

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE
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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Located in infamous Waco, Texas, the university offers a quality life in a friendly environment, along with a cost of living that is lower than in larger metropolitan areas. Located in the heart of Texas, on the banks of the scenic Brazos River, the City of Waco has a population of over 200,000 and offers an exceptionally diverse and rich array of cultural and recreational opportunities. Students can enjoy quality theatre and music, the acclaimed Waco Civic Theatre presents a full season of musicals, plays, children's theatre, classical films and musical performances. Theatrical and musical performances are also held at the historic Waco Hippodrome Theatre.

Baylor offers not only training in all facets of the law, but also purports to teach students how to practice it more effectively than their peers. Through the unsurpassed Trial Advocacy Program and problem-solving techniques, students are said to be equipped with the practical, hands-on lawyering skills needed to emerge from law school ready and able to practice law effectively. The "Practice Court" is an unusual third year required course teaching advocacy skills aforementioned.

Baylor makes a debut appearance on the *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools at Number 50 in the 2005 rankings. There were only 94 students enrolled in the school's fall 2003 entering class, with a faculty to student ratio of 18.1.

Baylor claims to use a rigorous grading standard as compared to other top law schools. Students are graded on an A to F grading system, resulting in grade point averages considerably lower than those of similarly-ranked students at other law schools. By way of comparison, a second-year student at Baylor Law School in the top 25% of the class would have a GPA of 3.12, while a second-year student in the top 25% of the class at UT Law School would have a GPA of 3.41 and above.¹

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: N/A, 25th - 75th Percentile: 159 - 164
- Median GPA: N/A, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.45 - 3.9
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,082
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 436
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 20.9

*Unless otherwise cited, the above statistics come from
http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03148.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:

APPROXIMATE CLASS RANK AFTER FALL 2003 GRADES

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS		SECOND YEAR STUDENTS	
Top 10%:	3.34	Top 10%:	3.35
Top 25%:	3.12	Top 25%:	3.12
Top 33%:	3.01	Top 33%:	2.98
Top 50%:	2.82	Top 50%:	2.84

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:²

Order of the Coif:	N/A
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	3.8 or higher
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.6 or higher
<i>Cum laude</i> :	3.4 or higher

ACADEMIC AWARDS:³

Over 70 or so awards with distinction, or cash prize are available.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

The *Baylor Law Review*⁴ is a legal periodical published three times each year by the students of the Law School under the supervision of the faculty. It is edited and prepared by the *Baylor Law Review* editorial staff. The *Law Review* furnishes valuable supplemental training for exceptional students, and membership on the editorial board is usually considered by prospective employers to be an important factor in the selection of graduates for employment. Any Baylor Law student who has completed three quarters at Baylor Law School and whose grade point average after three quarters falls within the top 15% of the student's entering class shall be entitled to membership on the *Baylor Law Review*. Any Baylor Law Student who does not qualify based on first-year grades, but who, after completion of the student's fourth, fifth, or sixth quarters, has a GPA equal to or greater than average of the preceding four classes of first-year grade-ons, shall be entitled to membership. Fourth-quarter (or above) students may compete in a write-on competition in the Fall and Spring quarters. Each competitor has two weeks to draft an article or comment on a pre-selected topic. The Editor-in-Chief and the Senior Executive Editors choose the new members based on the writing samples. Competitors must have a cumulative core GPA of 2.5 or higher.⁵

MOOT COURT⁶

All Baylor law students have the opportunity to participate in two intrascholastic moot court competitions, the Dawson, Sodd & Beard Moot Court Competition held each fall and the Strasburger & Price, L.L.P., Moot Court Competition held each spring. Students may also participate in the annual Naman, Howell, Smith and Lee Client Counseling Intrascholastic Competition each winter. Additionally, each year Baylor student teams enter the National Mock Trial Competition, the Texas Fall Invitation Mock Trial Competition, the American Trial Lawyer's Association Mock Trial Competition, the National Moot Court Competition sponsored by the New York City Bar Association, the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition, the Texas Young Lawyers Moot Court Competition, the American Bar Association's National Negotiations Competition, and the American Bar Association's National Client Counseling Competition. A number of regional and national championships have been won in recent years by Baylor teams.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS⁷

Attorney General, Child Support Division, Externship Clinical Experience in Criminal Law
Judicial Externship

ORGANIZATIONS⁸

Baylor University Student Bar Association, Christian Law Fellowship, Christian Legal Society, Civil Rights Society, Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society, Hemphill Inn Chapter of Phi Delta Phi, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, James P. Alexander Senate of Delta Theta Phi Minority Law Student Association, R.E.B. Baylor Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, Texas A & M Club, Women's Legal Society, Baylor Law Auxiliary, and The Federalist Society

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 100+⁹

Graduates known to be employed at graduation: 71.¹⁰

Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation 97.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 69
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 10
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 14
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 3
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

1 <http://law.baylor.edu/CareerSvcs/general/classrank.htm>

2 <http://law.baylor.edu/Students/stucatz.html>

3 Id.

4 <http://law.baylor.edu/LawReview/about.htm>

5 <http://law.baylor.edu/LawReview/membership.htm>

6 <http://law.baylor.edu/Students/stucatz.html>

7 http://law.baylor.edu/faculty_curriculum/electives.htm,

8 http://law.baylor.edu/current_students/student_organizations.htm

9 <http://law.baylor.edu/CareerSvcs/students/studentsdefault.htm>

10 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03148.php

11 Id.

RANK
29

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BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

Founded in 1929, Boston College Law School received ABA approval in 1932. Located in Newton, a suburb of Boston, the law school is more than a mile away from the larger main campus of Boston College. Many law students who know they will be living in the library welcome the isolation.

Like many of the top law schools, Boston College offers its students a wide array of quality legal publications and clinical programs. The Urban Legal Laboratory and the Legal Assistance Bureau are especially popular.

Boston College Law School is currently ranked Number 29 in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Boston College Law students enjoy smaller class sizes. There were 281 students enrolled in the school's fall 2003 entering class. The student-faculty ratio of 14.4 tempts even the most timid students to try and capture a little of their professors' time outside of class.¹

The Boston College Career Services Center reports that Boston College Law School awards the traditional letter grades of A (4.0) through F (0.0). Official class rank is not computed, but the Office of Career Services can provide a statistical chart of approximate percentile ranges (e.g., top 10%, top 50%) based on grade point average.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 165, 25th - 75th Percentile: 161 - 165
- Median GPA: 3.67, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.45 - 3.78
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,818
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,291³
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 16.5⁴

*Unless otherwise cited, the above statistics come from <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/admission/profile/>.

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

	B+	3.3	C+	2.33			
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.67	B-	2.67	C-	1.67	F	0.0

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁶

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	3.67 or higher
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.5 - 3.67
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 1/3

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁷

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
James W. Smith Award	Graduating student with highest academic rank.
Susan Grant Desmaris Award	Student with public service achievement & leadership.
William J. O'Keefe Award	For outstanding contribution to law school.
St. Thomas More Award	For intellectual & moral qualities of St. Thomas More.
West Publishing Company Awards	For outstanding scholarship and significant contribution.
Bureau of National Affairs	Student with most satisfactory academic progress.
John F. Cremens Award	Students with most outstanding work in clinical programs.
Cornelius J. Moynihan Award	For scholarship and co-curricular leadership.
Richard S. Sullivan Award	For overall contribution to the law school community.
Lyne Woodworth & Evarts	For outstanding editorial work on publications.
Wendell F. Grimes Award	For achievement in advocacy competitions.
White Inker Aronson Award	For service to the law school and service to others.
John O'Reilly Award	For contribution to the life of the law school & students.
Law School Alumni Association	For scholarship & service to the law school and the legal profession.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁸

Boston College Law offers students considerable opportunities to participate in a journal or review. The school's law reviews and Uniform Commercial Code Reporter Digest are staffed by more than one-half of the second- and third-years. Membership on all publications is determined either by first-year grades or by the annual writing competition held in spring. Approximately the top 10 percent of the first-year class is invited to participate on a review via grades; the remaining positions are filled by the writing competition. The reviews are accorded equal status by the law school. However, since the law reviews and the Digest have different structures, they also have different requirements.

For the reviews: second-year staff members are required to complete two written assignments and perform the production work needed to publish the review's volumes. Production work entails proofreading and checking articles for both correct citation form and substance. A written

requirement for first semester of 2L takes different forms in the various reviews. During the second semester of the second year, each journal requires an in-depth, comprehensive article of publishable quality on a topic appropriate to that journal's area of law. The requirements for third-year review members are predominately editorial. The third-year staff become editorial board members whose responsibilities include editing all student and outside authors' manuscripts.

The **BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW** is the oldest scholarly publication at the Law School and publishes five yearly issues with articles concerning important legal aspects of national interest written by prominent outside authors and students. The review, however, does not publish articles on the topic of third world issue, environmental or international law, out of deference to the other journals. The Review also allows staff members to conduct in depth research on a topic of particular interest to the member. Second year staff members compose a state of scholarship paper and a student note. Third year members either edit student papers or outside academic articles for publication. The Review also organizes, sponsors, and publishes articles from academic symposia. The written requirement, which must be completed the first semester of second-year, takes the form of a case note for the *Boston College Law Review's Annual Survey of Labor and Employment Law*.⁹

The **BOSTON COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS LAW REVIEW** is the nation's second oldest law review dedicated solely to environmental law and has maintained a national reputation as one of the country's leading environmental journals since its inception in 1971. Environmental affairs are defined broadly by the Review, and each issue may address a wide range of topics. Its staff consists of approximately 15 second-year and 15 third-year students who publish four issues during the academic year. During the fall semester, each second-year staff member participates in a unique clinical placement program. The clinic offers students the opportunity to work in an actual practice environment and to become involved in non-academic research and drafting projects. Placements range from governmental agencies to public interest organizations to Boston law firms.

The **BOSTON COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW REVIEW** publishes two issues annually, with articles addressing a variety of international and comparative law issues; it is one of only two law reviews in the country that publishes an annual survey of European Union law. The Review focuses on far reaching topics that include issues such as money laundering through offshore financial centers, U.S. law and policy on assassination of foreign officials and shark finning in international waters, bribery in international business and terrorism. Students selected for staff positions are strongly encouraged to register for International and International Business Law courses.¹⁰ The first written requirement takes the form of a chapter for *International & Comparative's* survey of European Community law.

The **BOSTON COLLEGE THIRD WORLD LAW REVIEW** is published twice annually and its scope includes issues affecting underrepresented populations, human and civil rights, immigration, women's and children's issues, and issues of disproportionate economic impact. Even though the title suggests an international focus, the *Review* includes writings on underrepresented and marginalized populations, wherever they exist. The founders of this Journal created this publication to focus on issues of populations that share a common history of oppression, colonialism and underrepresentation, and continue to be marginalized in the current economic and political process. The review's 30-member staff with 15 second-year and 15 third-year students, is comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests. The first-year written requirement is a book review for *Third World*, second year staff members are required to complete a book review and a full-length note in the spring.¹¹

The **UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE REPORTER DIGEST (UCCRD)** is a quarterly publication of a national commercial service that summarizes and comments on all reported cases under the Uniform Commercial Code. The UCCRD is the school's most widely read and profitable publication. The Digest staff consists of approximately eighteen second-year staff writers and eighteen third-year

editors. As a prerequisite, each member of the Digest staff must register for Secured Transactions in the fall semester of second year. Each week, second-year members draft annotations on significant Code cases. In addition, second-year staff members write narrowly focused notes on current Code topics each semester.

MOOT COURT¹²

Boston College Law School supports several annual moot court competitions that help students develop writing, courtroom-advocacy, and client-counseling skills. The moot court competition is an optional activity at Boston College Law School, and students who choose to participate write appellate briefs and argue a minimum of four times. The top eight teams go into final rounds. First-years may take part in the Client Counseling Competition and the Negotiations Competition. Third-year students may participate in the Mock Trial Competition and may be selected for the National Mock Trial Team.

The Wendell F. Grimes Moot Court Competition, designed for second-year students, is an internal competition and a prerequisite for selection for the external teams. The Philip C. Jessup Moot Court team strives to compete internationally as well as regionally and nationally. Organized by the American Society of International Law, students write briefs on both sides of a legal issue and argue an appeal in a case that could come before the International Court of Justice. The National Environmental Moot Court team challenges students to draft a brief and compete in mock oral argument in a simulated appellate case involving a cutting edge environmental issue. The Braxton Craven Moot Court team briefs and argues issues of constitutional law at the regional and national level. The John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court team briefs and argues a criminal procedure problem at a national competition held for participating law students in New Jersey. The Frederick Douglas Moot Court team competes against other law school teams in a competition sponsored by BALSAs, which focuses on issues important to minorities.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹³

Boston College School of Law offers its students what is widely regarded as one of the best clinical curricula in the country in a wide range of practice areas. Its in-house clinics include the Civil Litigation Clinic, which allows students the opportunity to work as practicing lawyers, representing actual clients at the Boston College Legal Assistance Bureau (LAB), the Criminal Justice Clinic, Homelessness Litigation Clinic, Immigration Law Practicum, Juvenile Rights Advocacy, and the Women and the Law Clinic. The externship programs include the Attorney General Program, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia Program (which offers a unique opportunity to work on-site in The Hague), the London Program (given at King's College), and the Semester in Practice Program. Observational Clinics include the Judge and the Community Courts, which places students in clerkships like fieldwork, and the Judicial Process, which allows students to intern one day per week with a series of Massachusetts Superior Court Judges (Trial Court).

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁴

The Law Students Association (LSA) is the elected student government in the law school. The LSA ensures that students are appointed to important law school committees and presents student interests to the faculty and administration. It also offers a broad range of professional, social, and recreational activities for students. The LSA sponsors basketball, hockey, softball, soccer, golf, rugby, and volleyball teams.

Other student organizations include the American Bar Association, Law Student Division, Arts, Media, Entertainment and Sports Law Organization, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Board of Student Advisors, Children's Rights Project, Christian Legal Society, Civil Liberties Union, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Inner City Youth Outreach Tutoring Program, Intellectual Property and Technology Forum, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Lambda Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Law for Life, Law Revue, National Lawyers Guild, Owen M. Kupferschmid Holocaust/Human Rights Project, Phi Alpha Delta, Public Interest Law Foundation, Reproductive Choice Coalition, Sui Juris, St. Thomas More Society, Veterans Association and Women's Law Center.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 400+¹⁵

Graduates known to be employed at graduation: 84.7¹⁶

Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation 93.0

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁷

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 71
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 17
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 5
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry : 5
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/about/ataglance/>.
- 2 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/services/academic/programs/>
- 3 The *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report which was accessed on the worldwide web at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/premium/main/lawrank.php>
- 4 Id.
- 5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 26.
- 6 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 27.
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 26.
- 8 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/lawreviews/membership/>; <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/lawreviews/bclawreview/>
- 9 Additional information provided via fax correspondence between Maris L. Abbene, Director of Career Services, Boston College Law School and BCG Research Staff.
- 10 Id.
- 11 Id.
- 12 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/services/academic/programs/advocacy/>
- 13 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/services/academic/programs/clinical/>
- 14 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/services/studentorgs/>
- 15 <http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/services/career/employers/>
- 16 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03072.php
- 17 Id.

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Boston University School of Law ("BUSL") has dedicated itself to welcoming qualified men and women, without regard to background or belief, since it opened its doors 127 years ago.¹ Its "open door" admission policy has attracted students from all over the country and abroad, and the school prides itself on being a community of top legal scholars, teachers, students, and alumni.²

Boston University School of Law is currently ranked Number 23 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. BUSL's founding principle, that legal education should emphasize not just theory and analysis but practical applications, still governs the school's curriculum today. Along with offering one of the nation's broadest selections of legal classes and seminars (approximately 150³), it has been ranked as America's Best Teaching Faculty for five straight years by *Princeton Review's The Best Law Schools*.⁴ BUSL has an exceptional student-faculty ratio of 10.7. There were 267 students enrolled in the school's fall 2003 entering class.⁵ This is one area where size may indeed make a difference; the faculty's accessibility to students is renowned.

The Boston University Career Center provides extensive information regarding the law school's grades and ranking methodology. A B+ curve is adhered to in all classes with more than 25 students and is recommended for smaller classes. For students, who have completed their first year, the Registrar will inform the top three students in each section of their section ranks and provide cutoffs for the top 10%, 25%, and one-third of each section. For students, who have completed the second or third year, the Registrar will inform the ten top students of their ranks and provide cutoffs for the top 10%, 20%, and 33% of the class, with respect to their cumulative GPAs.⁶

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164, 25th - 75th Percentile: 163 - 166
- Median GPA: 3.52, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.35 - 3.66
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,246
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,396⁷
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 19.3⁸

*Unless otherwise cited, the above statistics come from <http://www.bu.edu/law/admissions/profile/index.html>.

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

Boston University has a letter-grading system. The minimum passing grade in each course is a D. The numerical equivalents for letter grades are as follows:

A+	4.3	B+	3.3	C+	2.3		
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):¹⁰

Boston University Law School has instituted two separate curves for their larger courses. The first-year courses are slightly stricter than the large second- or third-year courses in terms of the A grades handed out, but otherwise the curves are very similar. First-year courses have a B curve and while professors who teach second- and third-year courses with less than 25 students do not have to follow the curve, they are advised to stick to a B+ median.

FIRST-YEAR COURSES WITH ENROLLMENT OF 26 OR MORE:

A+	0 – 5%	
A+, A, A-	20 – 25%	(A+ subject to 5% limitation above)
B+ and above	40 – 60%	(subject to limitations on A range above)
B	10 – 50%	(subject to limitations above and below)
B- and below	10 – 30%	(subject to limitations below on ranges C+ and below)
C+ and above	5 – 10%	
D, F	0 – 5%	

SECOND- AND THIRD-YEAR COURSES AND SEMINARS WITH ENROLLMENT OF 26 OR MORE:

A+	0 – 5%	
A+, A, A-	20 – 30%	(A+ subject to 5% limitation above)
B+ and above	40 – 60%	(subject to limitations on A range above)
B	10 – 50%	(subject to limitations above and below)
B- and below	10 – 30%	(subject to limitations below on ranges C+ and below)
C+ and above	5 – 10%	
D, F	0 – 5%	

Surveys of students and alumni have indicated that the above information is current and accurate, and that professors adhere strictly to the recommended curve in all first-year courses and most second-year courses. Survey respondents felt that even though the professors stick to the curves, they can use the ranges in a way that creates dramatically varied results in some classes. Further, students added that professors can refrain from giving any grades below a B- in second- and third-year courses and may also give out more grades in the A range.¹¹

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ¹²	3.70	3.53	3.46	N/A	N/A	2.0

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹³

<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	Top 1%
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	Top 10%
<i>Cum laude:</i>	Top 33%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁴

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
G. Joseph Tauro Distinguished Scholar	Top 10% of each first-year section.
G. Joseph Tauro Scholar	Top 25% of each first-year section.
Liacos Distinguished Scholar	Top 10% of second-year class.
Liacos Scholar	Top 25% second-year class.
Hennessey Distinguished Scholar	Top 10% of third-year class.
Hennessey Scholar	Top 25% of third-year class.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁵

Boston University School of Law hosts six scholarly law journals run by its students. Students are selected for journal membership on the basis of first-year grades and a writing competition held in the summer after first-year. The current staff members of the publications elect an editorial board each spring. Student surveys indicated that the Law Review and all other journals are extremely competitive, with first-year grades weighing much more heavily than the writing contest. Survey participants felt that grades were the major factor in gaining membership, although grades and writing are supposedly weighed 50% each. Nine spots are reserved for the top three students in each of the three sections, with the remainder being made up by the top 10%.¹⁶

The **BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW** was established in 1921 and is published five times a year. Approximately 10% of the first-year students are admitted on the basis of grades and a writing competition. The grades and the writing competition account for 50% of the judgment criterion respectively. Transfer students are given the opportunity to participate in the writing competition in order to garner a place on the Review. The Law Review contains articles contributed by law professors and practicing attorneys from all over the world, along with notes written by student members.

The **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE** is published quarterly since 1975, jointly with the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, and is an interdisciplinary periodical produced in conjunction with the Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. The Journal contains professional articles, student notes and case comments, summaries of recent legislative and judicial developments, and book reviews in the area of health law and policy. The Journal specializes in medico-legal topics, exploring a broad range of issues that relate to health law and policy, ethical and environmental aspects of medical practice, research and education.

The **ANNUAL REVIEW OF BANKING & FINANCIAL LAW** is sponsored by the Morin Center for Banking and Financial Law, and covers a broad range of corporate law practice including banking law and regulation, securities law and regulation, commercial law, bankruptcy, administration and constitutional law.

The **BOSTON UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL** is published biannually and strives to publish groundbreaking professional articles and student-written notes analyzing the most current issues of public and private international law, foreign and comparative law, and trade law. The selection criteria for this journal includes a student's interest in the field of international law and policy

The **JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW** is a biannual publication with a subject matter that encompasses the fields of biotechnology, computers, communications, intellectual property, the Internet, technology transfer, and business for science and technology-based companies. Professional articles, symposia, student-written notes, legal updates, and case notes appear in each print issue as well as online immediately following the completion of the editorial process. Second-year members must evaluate, edit, and check citations for articles and student works as well as complete a full length note on an area relating (at least tangentially) to the intersection of law and science and technology. Third-year members may be elected to editorial or executive positions on the Journal and play an active leadership role in publication and the note writing process.

The **PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL** is published three times a year and focuses on constitutional law, criminal law, family law, legal ethics, environmental issues, education law, and civil rights law. An interest in legal theory and public interest practice is especially important in the selection criterion for membership on this journal.

MOOT COURT¹⁷

BUSL requires participation in the Newton Esdaile Appellate Moot Court Program by all first-year law students as a part of their second semester research and writing requirement. Further, BUSL's advanced moot court programs, which are merit-based and voluntary, allow students to tackle complex cases that demand thorough research and excellent oral and written presentations. Upper-level competitions are open to second- and third-year students who meet the specified requirements. Applications are solicited each April. Students have indicated that participation is highly competitive, with strong oral advocacy being the most heavily considered factor.¹⁸

The **EDWARD C. STONE APPELLATE COMPETITION** is open to all second-year students. Students work in teams of two, and each team writes a brief and delivers an oral argument. The sixteen students with the highest combined brief and oral argument scores are invited to participate in the second-semester Homer Albers Prize Moot Court Competition. Participation in Stone is a prerequisite for students desiring to become Stone Directors. Each director is responsible for writing a Stone moot court problem and a bench memorandum during the summer as well as helping to administer the Stone Competition in the fall.

The **ALBERS MOOT COURT COMPETITION** is open to the top sixteen participants from the Stone Competition. Students work in teams of two and advance in the competition by team, not by individual performance. All Albers participants brief and argue the same case. Each team argues twice, once on the side it briefed and once on the other side. After these preliminary rounds, teams advance to a quarter-final elimination round where they argue before panels composed of BUSL professors. The top four teams then advance to the semifinal round, where they argue before panels composed of local judges. The winning teams from the semifinal round advance to the final round. The final round argument is held before a panel consisting of three judges from the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals. Final arguments for the Albers competition have been held before such respected jurists as Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia, Byron R. White, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and David Souter. Participation in Albers is a prerequisite for students becoming Albers Directors. The Albers Directors work together to write the Albers moot court problem and bench memorandum during the summer and fall and administer the Albers Competition in the spring. Students surveyed felt that this competition was very competitive, and hence extremely prestigious.¹⁹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

BUSL offers Clinical Programs in the following areas: Civil Litigation, Legislation Clinics (which allow student drafters to work with state senators and representatives, mayors, city councils, administrative agencies, and public interest groups to create legislative solutions to problems in the general and specialized Health & Environmental and Intellectual Property areas), Criminal Trial Advocacy, Legal Externships, Judicial Internships which give third-year students the unique opportunity to serve as apprentices to trial judges of the Massachusetts Superior Court, and Legislative Internships.

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

BUSL supports more than 25 student organizations including the Student Bar Association, Arts Law Association, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Student Association, Communication, Entertainment and Sports Law Association, Coffeehouse, Corporate Law Society, Criminal Justice Society, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Health Law Association, Hockey Team, Jewish Law Student Association, Latin American Law Student Association, Legal Follies, OutLaw, Older, Wiser Law Students, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Project, Science and Technology, Shelter Legal Services, South Asian American Law Students Association, Student Advocates for Ending Domestic Violence and the Women's Law Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 450+²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 96.8²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 100
(including 25% those with unknown status)

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

Percent of grads employed by private firms: 72

Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 9

Percent of grads employed by the government: 6

Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1.5

Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6

Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 3

Survey participants felt that the school clearly encourages students to work for large private firms which account for majority of campus interviews.²⁵

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.bu.edu/law/admissions/index.html>
2 <http://www.bu.edu/law/about/>
3 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 128.
4 <http://www.bu.edu/law/faculty/>
5 <http://www.bu.edu/law/admissions/profile/index.html>
6 <http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/curriculum/Articles/ArtIX.html#4>
7 The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php.
8 Id.
9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 30.
10 http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/curriculum/03-04_Academic_Regs.pdf
11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
12 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 30.
13 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 30.
14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 30.
15 <http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/journals/index.html>
16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
17 <http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/mootcourt/programs.html>
18 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
19 Id.
20 <http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/clinics/>
21 <http://www.bu.edu/law/studentlife/organizations.html>
22 Provided by Boston University School of Law's Office of Career Services.
23 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03073.php.
24 Id.
25 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.

RANK
34

BYU, J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SCHOOL

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ADMISSION'S PHONE
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BYU, J. REUBEN CLARK LAW SCHOOL

Although it has only been around for approximately 26 years, the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (BYU) has managed to achieve notoriety for its impressive curriculum, externship program, and the far-reaching accomplishments of its alumni. BYU is currently ranked Number 34 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The fairly young school boasts an award-winning moot court team, claims nine graduates who have become clerks to the U.S. Supreme Court, and has an enviable placement record throughout the country and in all branches of the legal profession. Its students have gone on to demonstrate a strong commitment to serving their communities.¹

With a total enrollment of about 158 students, the school offers personal, individualized instruction; in fact, the majority of classes are taught in sections of 20 or fewer and the school has a student-faculty ratio of 16:8. In contrast to the law school's cozy atmosphere, the University's main campus and its some 30,000 students create an abundance of athletic, cultural, and social opportunities.² Surrounded by the majestic Rocky Mountains, BYU offers intensive learning in a stimulating setting – nurturing the mind, body, and spirit is central to the mission of the school.³

BYU does not provide a clear description of law student grades and curve, but the law school tends to adhere to a B+ average. Additionally, the Career Services Office provides cut-offs for various graduate honors.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163, 25th – 75th Percentile: 160 – 166
- Median GPA: 3.72, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.48 – 3.82
- Number of applications for the incoming class of 2005: 1,018
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 230
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 22.6

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which can be accessed on the worldwide web http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03156.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION:⁶

Superior	3.7 – 4.0
Excellent	3.4 – 3.6
High Pass	3.0 – 3.3*
Pass	2.7** – 2.9
Low Pass	2.2 – 2.6
Failing	1.6 – 2.1

* Brigham Young publishes the annual GPA required to make the top 33% of the class. This GPA ranges from 3.33-3.38, depending on the year.

**Students who fail to maintain a grade point average of 2.7 at the end of the second, fourth, and sixth semesters at the Law School may be terminated from the school.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Top 2%
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.55 – 3.79
<i>Cum laude</i> :	3.35 – 3.54

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Order of the Barristers	For moot court participation.
John S. Welch Award	Winners (10) of the co-curricular writing competition.
A.H. Christensen Award	Oral Advocacy selected by committee.
Hugh B. Brown Award	Class presentation and performance.
Achievement and Service Award	Variety of criteria.
CodeCo Award	For superior writing skills.
Women Lawyers of Utah	Advancement of women in society.
National Association of Women Lawyers	Advancement of women in society.
Utah Bar Foundation	High standards of professional responsibility.
BYU Research and Writing Award	For outstanding papers.
J. Reuben Clark Award	For academic excellence, integrity and service.
High Grade Awards	For excellence in law school.
Little Brown Award	For academic excellence.
Scholarly Writing Awards	For superior written work.
Bureau of National Affairs	For scholastic progress.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
West Publishing Award	For outstanding scholastic achievement.
Foundation Press Award	For excellence in constitutional law.
Research Institute of America	For interest and ability in tax law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

All members of the journals and reviews at BYU are selected on a combined basis of grades and writing.

LAW REVIEW is a quarterly publication and the selection criterion is stringent. A student must be in the top 10% of the first year class and place in the top 60% of the writing competition to be selected. Second-year law students who remain in the top 10% of their class may also join the Law Review for the following year and need not participate in the write-on competition. The Law Review includes a broad spectrum of scholarly publications from professionals and BYU law students.

JOURNAL OF PUBLIC LAW, The BYU Journal of Public Law publishes scholarly articles addressing topics in public law, including the relationship between governments and their citizens, the association among governments, and the effects of governmental entities upon society. Participation is based on a post spring finals writing competition and class ranking; all those who comprise the top 20% of the first year class may participate. Transfer students may not use their ranking from their former school, but are required to participate in the writing competition or to submit a substantial writing sample in order to gain a position.

JOURNAL OF LAW & EDUCATION is a biannual journal and is the only student run publication in the nation dedicated to education law. The ELJ publishes work by legal scholars, practitioners, administrators, educators, and students from BYU and other institutions. The Journal focuses on providing highly practical information in addition to intellectual discourse.

MOOT COURT¹⁰

All first-year students participate in moot court by writing an appellate brief and giving an oral argument. Participation during the second and third year is by invitation only. During the first semester of their second year, Moot Court members will participate in an intra-school competition to determine BYU's National Moot Court team. This team goes on to represent the school in regional and national competitions. All members also have the opportunity to act as editors and judges for the first year competitions. In years past, the Law School has sent teams to eight different competitions around the country.

The Willem C. Vis International Moot Court Competition is a contest between law faculty and legal organizations from countries all over the world. Competitors meet in Vienna, Austria, and argue through several preliminary and elimination rounds. The moot court problems deal with disputes in the international sale of goods, as governed by the Convention on the International Sale of Goods, and teams of two argue on behalf of clients from opposite countries in the setting of an arbitral tribunal. Teams must prepare written memoranda for both sides in the dispute months before the competition begins. Awards are given to the top briefs written, best oralists, and most successful teams in the competition.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

BYU offers clinical programs in the following areas: Civil Trial Practice, Criminal Trial Practice, Courthouse Assistance Domestic Relations Project, Volunteer Immigration Project, Elder Law Project, Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project, Tuesday Night Bar and Child Advocacy.¹¹

ORGANIZATIONS¹²

The law school's extracurricular organizations include the American Constitution Society, Aggie Law Society, Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, Business Law Society, Corporations and Securities Society, Federalist Society, Government & Politics Legal Society, Health Care Law Association, International & Comparative Law Society, International Society of Family Law, Japanese Legal Studies Society, Joint Degree Society, Law & Economics Society, Law Partners, Law Without Borders, Minority Law Students Association, National Lawyers Association, Native American Law Students Association, Natural Resources Law Society, Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, Private Practice Law Society, Public Interest Law, Spirit of the Law, Sports & Entertainment Law Society, Student Advocates for Traditional Family Policy, Student Bar Association, Student Intellectual Property Law Association, Terry L. Crapo Law Society and the Women's Law Forum.

BYU's law school-sponsored programs include the World Family Policy Center, American Society of Comparative Law, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, International Society of Family Law, Foreign and International Law Directory, Symposium on the ALI's Family Dissolution Principles, and the Community Lawyer and Society of Biblical Literature – Biblical Law.¹³

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 100+

Percentage of 2002 grads employed at graduation: 92.4¹⁴

Percentage employed nine months after graduation: 98.6

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁵

Percent of grads employed by private firms: 58

Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 15

Percent of grads employed by the government: 15

Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1

Percent of grads employed by private industry: 10

Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 3

FOOTNOTES

1 http://www.law2.byu.edu/Services/letter_from_dean_hansen.htm

2 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 104.

3 http://www.law2.byu.edu/law_school/prospective_students/general_info.htm

4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.

5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 34.

6 http://www.law2.byu.edu/Admissions/degree_requirements.htm

7 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 35.

8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 35.

9 Id. at 34.

10 <http://www.law2.byu.edu/Organizations/co-curricular.htm#MOOT>

11 Correspondence dated December 27, 2002 from Mary Hoagland of the Brigham Young University Career Services Office to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.

12 Id.

13 <http://www.law2.byu.edu/Organizations/>

14 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03156.php

15 Id.

RANK
29

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WILLIAM AND MARY SCHOOL OF LAW

At the request of Thomas Jefferson, the First Chair of Law was established in 1779 at the College of William & Mary.¹ The William & Mary School of Law is located in the heart of historic Williamsburg, Virginia, halfway between Richmond and Virginia Beach, and three hours south of Washington, D.C.

The school is currently ranked Number 29 in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.² As the nation's oldest law school, William & Mary continues its tradition of providing a valuable legal education in an environment that fosters the development of character and leadership in its students. The school's curriculum reflects its long-standing dedication to professional responsibility and the honing of legal skills beyond the traditional study of law.

With 206 students enrolled in its fall 2003 entering class, the William & Mary School of Law is small and close-knit, but still competitive.³ The school has a student-faculty ratio of 16.7,⁴ and its library is home to some 375,000 volumes including the Thomas Jefferson Collection and other valuable works.

The law school uses a modified grading scale of A+ (4.3) to F (0.00). Classes with more than 30 students must adhere to a B+/B curve.⁵

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁶

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class

- Median LSAT: 164, 25th – 75th Percentile: 161 – 165
- Median GPA: 3.65, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.38 – 3.79
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,373
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 665
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 19.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which can be accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.67	F 0.00

Students' cumulative GPAs are rounded to the nearest tenth; students with the same GPA then "share" the same percentage class rank. These percentage ranks do not necessarily correspond to the quality point equivalents (4.00, 3.67, 3.33, etc.) or to predetermined percentages (top 10%, top 25%, top 33%, etc.).

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):⁸

Each faculty member must adhere to the following grade curve in all classes with 30 students or more unless an exception is given by Vice Dean:

A/A-*	15–25%
B+**	23–25%
B	20–30%
B-	10–20%
C+ or Lower	5–15%

*Some students surveyed felt that the A's were more restricted than indicated by this distribution.

**In calculating percentages with B range, faculty take into consideration the whole class not the total percentage allowed in B range. Second- and third-year courses also adhere to the curve, with the exception of small seminars.⁹

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ¹⁰	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.30

*Student surveys indicated that a 3.0 GPA roughly corresponds to a top 50%.¹¹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif: Top 10%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
American Bankruptcy Award	Student who has excelled in the area of bankruptcy law.
Book Awards	Student earning highest grade in each eligible course.
Dean's Certificate	Students who exhibited leadership within the law school.
Drapers' Scholar	Student selected to represent the law school as Drapers' Scholar at Queen Mary & Westfield College of the University of London.
Family Law Book Award	Student showing most promise and potential for practice of family law.
Gambrell Legal Skills Award	Top students in Legal Skills (12).
William Hamilton Prize	Top independent research paper in legal history.
Hermann Prize tion	Student showing most promise in enhancing the administration of justice through technology use.
l'Anson Award	Evidence of great promise through scholarship, character and leadership.
Kaufman & Canoles Writing Award	Students producing the best memoranda in Legal Skills (3).
Kruchko & Fries Award	Performance in labor/employment courses.
Order of Barristers	Excellence in oral arguments (8).

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Rachel Carson Award	Student who has excelled in environmental law.
Robert R. Kaplan Award	Student excellence in legal writing.
Spong Alumni Award	Presented to top Gambrell winner.
Thomas Jefferson Prize	Student publishing best note in Bill of Rights Journal.
Thurgood Marshall Award*	Best exhibits the ideals of distinguished public service.
Virginia Trial Lawyers Award	Best demonstrates skills and integrity of a trial lawyer.
Wythe Prize	Character, leadership, and service to the law school.

*Student Surveys indicated that the Thurgood Marshall award is considered the most prestigious among the student body¹⁴.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

Membership on William and Mary Journals is based on a writing competition conducted jointly by all four journals at the end of students' first year of law school. The *William and Mary Law Review* uses grades as part of its selection process as well.

The **WILLIAM & MARY LAW REVIEW** is among the most frequently cited journals in the country. The Review is published by 70 second- and third-year students and covers a wide array of scholastic topics, similar to those covered in other such publications. The Law Review membership is extended to 36 first-year students every year and grades weigh heavily for this particular journal with the top 15% filling the first available slots. Further, first-year students may vie for the remaining spots by participating in an extensive writing competition held toward the end of their first year. Each selection method is used to select half of the students. All interested students must participate in the writing competition, including those invited on the basis of top academic credentials. Promotion to the editorial board is based upon proficiency in legal writing and editing as well as dedication to the Review.¹⁵

The **WILLIAM & MARY BILL OF RIGHTS JOURNAL** was ranked seventh in a recent national empirical evaluation of 285 specialized law reviews. It is a scholarly journal of professional and student articles and is edited and operated by students of the William and Mary School of Law. The Journal is published three times per year, in winter, spring, and summer.¹⁶ Membership is determined on the basis of a writing competition. This journal is considered about equal in prestige with the Law Review among students due to its great historical reputation.¹⁷

WILLIAM & MARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY REVIEW is a student-run legal journal devoted to the discussion of timely issues in environmental law and policy. It is published tri-annually by the students of the William and Mary School of Law and the Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Program of the College of William and Mary with support from the Publications Council of the College of William and Mary. First-, second-, and third-year law students are invited to participate in the publication of the Review, and second-year law students are expected to complete a note on a topic in the field of environmental law and policy. Members are chosen by the editorial board on the basis of their completed application which consists of a blue book exam, writing sample, resume, and statement of interest. Writing ability and blue-booking skills are weighed most heavily.¹⁸ Student surveys indicated that this journal follows the *Law Review* and the *Bill of Rights Journals* in prestige and it is well-respected.¹⁹

WILLIAM & MARY JOURNAL OF WOMEN & THE LAW is a relatively young journal at the Law School with a self-described goal of facilitating discourse on gender-issues, as they relate to the law. The Journal attempts to tackle a wide range of substantive legal fields including criminal law, torts, contracts, wills and trusts among others, but does so through the lens of gender issues prevalent in each topic.²⁰ A writing competition is required to gain admittance on this journal. Founded in the early 1990's, this journal is a publication that is still building a reputation for itself.²¹

MOOT COURT²²

William and Mary College of Law purports that their Moot Court program is a great opportunity for students to engage in both trial advocacy and competitive argumentation. The school prides itself on having won several prestigious Moot Court awards. First-year students are required to participate in the Legal Skills program, which provides an opportunity for brief writing and argument. The program is run by the Moot Court Board, which is comprised of third-year students, who have been selected during their second-year to serve in this capacity. Selection to represent William and Mary at a competition is based on a stiff competition which involves the drafting of an appellate brief and argument by around 120 individuals until a winner is selected. Those who achieve outstanding status on Moot Court can be inducted into the Order of the Barristers.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²³

The William & Mary School of Law offers the following eight clinical programs: Attorney General's Externship, Court of Appeals Externship, Department of Employee Dispute Resolution Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Federal Tax Practice Externship, Legal Aid Clinic, and the Summer Governmental/Public Interest Externship. Students have indicated that those desiring to work in Virginia benefit the most from the Court of Appeals externship and the Attorney General's Externship.²⁴

ORGANIZATIONS²⁵

The William & Mary School of Law's organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union, American Constitution Society, Amicus Curiae, Asian Law Students Association, Bill of Rights Institute Student Division, Black Law Students Association, Christian Law Fellowship, Federalist Society, Honor Council, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Law and the Arts Society, Law Republicans, Law Students Involved in the Community, Lesbian and Gay Law Association, Marshall-Wythe Democrats, Military Law Society, National Lawyers Guild, National Trial Team, Negotiation and Client Counseling, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Public Service Fund, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Student Bar Association, Student Intellectual Property Society, Student Legal Services, Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and the William & Mary Students for Individual Liberty.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200 – 225²⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 81.7²⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.0

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 53
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 19
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 16
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

Students surveyed praised the Career Center at William and Mary for excellent guidance, yet disagreed with some of the statistics above. Students pointed out that many of their fellow classmates were unemployed upon graduation and some believed that a greater percentage took government jobs due to the recently shrinking private sector.²⁹

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.wm.edu/law/about/historytradition.shtml>.
- 2 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/brief/lawrank_brief.php.
- 3 <http://www.wm.edu/law/about/quickfacts.shtml>.
- 4 The Princeton Review, *Complete Book of Law Schools*, 2004 Edition, 117.
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 2003 admission statistics provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 23, 2004 between Robert E. Kaplan, Associate Dean and BCG research staff.
- 7 *Id.*
- 8 <http://www.wm.edu/law/academicprograms/regulations/grading.shtml>
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, *National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003*, 702.
- 11 *Id.*
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, *National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003*, 702.
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, *National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003*, 702.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 http://www.wm.edu/law/prospective/studentlife/pub_lawreview.shtml
- 16 http://www.wm.edu/law/prospective/studentlife/pub_borj.shtml
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 http://www.wm.edu/law/prospective/studentlife/pub_enviro.shtml
- 19 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 20 http://www.wm.edu/law/prospective/studentlife/pub_womenlaw.shtml
- 21 Information provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 23, 2004 between Robert E. Kaplan, Associate Dean and BCG research staff.
- 22 National Association for Law Placement, *National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003*, 701.
- 23 *Id.*
- 24 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 25 National Association for Law Placement, *National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003*, 702.
- 26 Information provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 23, 2004 between Robert E. Kaplan, Associate Dean and BCG research staff.
- 27 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03160.php
- 28 *Id.*
- 29 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.

RANK
04

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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WEBSITE ADDRESS
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REGISTRAR'S PHONE
(212) 854-4330

CAREER SERVICES PHONE
(212) 854-0652

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Columbia University School of Law has a renowned faculty and a highly regarded moot court program that teaches students how to write excellent briefs. Columbia is currently ranked Number Four on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Graduates of this school are heavily recruited and their training and writing skills are considered to be among the best in the country.

While some would-be applicants are intimidated by the idea of attending law school in a place as big as New York City, others appreciate the exceptional professional opportunities and abundant resources that the University's international reputation provides. The eclectic charm of Columbia's Morningside Heights neighborhood, and the limitless recreational activities offered by a city that truly is a microcosm of the world, help define the unique experience that is attending Columbia Law School.¹

Though the fall 2003 entering class size of approximately 395 students is rather large,² it has made it possible for the school to provide some of the country's finest clinical programs and other unique resources to the students. Fortunately, the school has managed to keep the student-faculty ratio to a workable 13.2.³

Given the competitive nature of entrance standards, Columbia has decided not to issue any GPA percentile or ranking designation to its students. Two scholarly distinctions, the James Kent Scholars and Harlan Fiske Stone Scholars, are available to graduates who excel even beyond their very competitive class pool.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 170, 25th – 75th Percentile: 167 – 173
- Median GPA: 3.68, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.52 – 3.82
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 8,322
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,143⁵
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 13.7%

*Unless otherwise cited, all the above statistics are taken from
http://www.law.columbia.edu/prosp_students/jd_prog/applic_inf/Class_Profile?#rtregion:main

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:

With a resolution passed in December 1994, the Faculty of Law established the grading system of A, B (with plus and minus designations), C and F. Some courses and clinics offer a grade of CR (credit) as an option, while other courses grade CR or F. There are two designations of honors: Kent and Stone Honors. Columbia has no class rank or grade distribution.⁶

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

JAMES KENT SCHOLAR:

A student shall be named a Kent scholar if during an academic year the student has earned at least 15 graded law credits toward his or her degree, and in that year either:

- 1) Achieved a grade point average of 3.800, or
- 2) Received grades all or all but one of which are A+, A or A- (the exception being no lower than B), and, if the lowest grade is put aside, at least half of which are A or A+.

HARLAN FISKE STONE SCHOLARS:

Students of all three years are recognized as Harlan Fiske Stone Scholars for superior academic achievement. A student shall be named a Stone scholar if during an academic year the student has earned at least 15 graded law credits toward his or her degree, the student received no grade lower than B-, and the student's academic average for the year is at or above 3.410.

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Alfred S. Forsyth Prize	For a student demonstrating qualities of intellect and selfless dedication to the advancement of environmental law.
Andrew D. Fried Memorial Prize	Best essay in intellectual property published in the VLA Journal of Law and the Arts.
Walter Gellhorn Prize	LL.M. candidate with the highest academic average.
Lawrence S. Greenbaum Prize	Best final argument presentation in the moot court competition.
Carroll G. Harper Prize	Highest achievement in intellectual property studies and writing.
Paul R. Hays Prize	Outstanding first-year student in civil procedure.
Pauline Berman Heller Prize Fund	Highest ranked graduating female student.
Moot Court First-Year Brief Prize	Best brief in moot court competition.
Jane Marks Murphy Prize	For interest and proficiency in clinical advocacy.
John Ordronaux Prize	For general proficiency in legal study, usually determined by academic average.
Simon H. Rifkind Prize Fund	Best overall first year moot court performance.
Samuel I. Rosenman Prize	Awarded to a third year student in a public law course with outstanding qualities of citizenship and leadership.
Emil Schlesinger Labor Law Prize	Student most proficient in the subject of labor law.
Whitney North Seymour Medal	Greatest promise of becoming a distinguished trial advocate.
Young B. Smith Prize	Most proficient first-year student in the law of torts.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Robert Noxon Toppan Prize	Best written constitutional law examination.
Valentin J.T. Wertheimer Prize in Labor Law	For a creative approach to labor, equal employment, or collective bargaining law.
Charles Bathgate Beck Prize	First-year student who submits the best examination paper in the course relating to real property law.
David M. Berger Memorial Prize	Third-year student interested in international law and world peace.
Harold Brown Book Prize	Based on need.
Class of 1912 Prize	First-year student who is most proficient in contracts.
Milton B. Conford Book Prize in Jurisprudence	Student who writes the best original essay on a legal subject.
E.B. Convers Prize	Member of the graduating class who writes the best original essay on a legal subject.
Archie O. Dawson Prize	Outstanding first-year law student in each of the following courses: civil procedure, constitutional law and criminal law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

Columbia publishes a total of fourteen law journals.

THE AMERICAN REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION is a quarterly law review published by the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law at Columbia University. The Review publishes scholarly articles, commentaries on recent developments, case notes, and bibliographical information. Students are selected for editorial staff positions on the basis of an application submitted after their first year.

COLUMBIA BUSINESS LAW REVIEW publishes three issues yearly. Students are involved in the editing of leading articles in business law, as well as the production of student-written notes. The Review is governed by an administrative board consisting of third-year student editors. The staff of the Review consists of law students selected on the basis of academic performance during the first year of law school and writing ability as demonstrated through the writing competition held annually after the spring term. Second-year staff members assist in the substantive production of the review in addition to researching and writing a student note on a business-related topic developed with the assistance of a third-year editor.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF ASIAN LAW** is published semi-annually under the auspices of the Centers for Chinese, Japanese and Korean Legal Studies. The staff is selected from applications received at the end of the first year for J.D. candidates, while applications from LL.M., J.S.D. and Special Students are received at the beginning of the academic year. Selections for editorial board positions are made from among the staff at the end of the second year.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER AND LAW** publishes interdisciplinary works related to feminism and gender issues. The staff is selected from applications received at the end of each semester. Selections for the editorial board are made from the staff at the end of each year.

COLUMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW, is a student-edited legal journal, which publishes student and professional articles on contemporary human rights and civil liberties issues both in the United States and around the world. The staff is selected from applications received after the students' first year. Members of the editorial board are chosen from the second-year staff.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF EAST EUROPEAN LAW** is dedicated to the study of legal changes in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, as well as Central and Eastern Europe. The staff is selected from applications received at the end of the first year on the basis of academic performance.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW** is designed to be a valuable aid to the section of the legal community committed to the preservation and improvement of the environment. The Journal is edited by a student board of editors chosen from among the staff at the end of the second year. Students are selected for second-year staff positions on the basis of writing samples.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF LAW AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS** is published four times a year, and contains articles that analyze a specific legal question in light of related economic, political, or sociological considerations. The journal is written and edited entirely by students. Staff members are selected on the basis of their academic performance coupled with a competitive writing exercise at the end of the first year. Members of the board of editors are selected from the second-year staff.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW** publishes material on all aspects of transnational, international and comparative law, both public and private. Each issue is entirely student-edited and includes articles by professional authors and by student members of the journal. Students are selected for staff positions at the end of the first year on the basis of grades and the writing competition. Selections for editorial positions are made from among the staff at the end of the second year.

COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW publishes articles and book reviews of scholarly and professional interest by academic authors and practicing attorneys, as well as notes by members of the Law Review. Staff members are selected in four ways: solely on the basis of the first-year writing competition; based on a combination of writing competition score and grades and diversity criteria; or through participation in the publishable notes program held during the fall semester of the second year. In addition to writing a note, staff members bear major responsibility for substantive and technical accuracy of the review's eight issues. Third-year students are responsible for selecting material for the issues and editing the professional and student work.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF LAW AND THE ARTS** is a quarterly publication on all aspects of law and the arts, entertainment, media and intellectual property, both domestic and international. Each issue is entirely student-edited and includes both articles and student notes. Students are selected for staff positions at the end of their first year on the basis of the combined writing competition and their academic performance. Second-year responsibilities include the satisfactory completion of a note along with administrative and production duties, which include a few hours per semester in the journal's office and completion of cite-checking assignments. Selections for the editorial board are made from among the staff at the end of the second year.

The **COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF EUROPEAN LAW (CJEL)** is published under the auspices of the Columbia University School of Law and the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law, in cooperation with the Institute for European Law of the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium. The CJEL staff is open to all second- and third-year J.D. candidates, although preference is given to students with demonstrated interest, prior training or experience in European affairs.

COLUMBIA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW is a solely online journal. It features articles from scholars and practitioners and provides a forum for scholarship regarding the changing technological landscape and its influence on law and social policy. Editorial staff selection is accomplished through Columbia's first-year writing competition. Members of the staff are selected based on their expressed interest as well as past experience and/or education. A scientific or technical background is helpful but not required for membership.

THE NATIONAL BLACK LAW JOURNAL has been committed to scholarly discourse exploring the intersection of race and the law for over 28 years. The Journal aims to build upon the tradition by publishing articles that make a substantive contribution to current dialogue taking place around issues such as affirmative action, employment law, the criminal justice system, community development and labor issues. The Journal is committed to publishing articles that inspire new thought, explore new alternatives and contribute to current jurisprudential stances.

MOOT COURT

Moot court competition is required of all first-year students at Columbia. Second-year student editors are selected on the basis of the first-year moot court brief competition. Included are the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition and the Harlan Fiske Stone Honor Competition.¹⁰ The latter is a three-round elimination competition in appellate advocacy. Prizes are awarded for the best brief, as scored by judges in the final round of 16 and the best oral argument as decided by the bench, based upon the final argument.

The Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition¹¹ is open to all first- and second-year students. The Jerome Michael Jury Trials Program¹² provides a case for trial to a jury for groups of second- and third-year students. Judges are generally sitting state court trial judges. Students are responsible for obtaining players to perform the roles of witnesses. To qualify, students must enter both a fall and a spring qualifying round, at least one of them after completing a course in Evidence, the second of which shall be the spring round in the year of the Cup Trial for which the student is qualified. Qualifying rounds will be ranked by the presiding judge by awarding ranks of "first" and "second" (no ties) and declaring the best overall performance, taking into account professional comportment, conversance with law and legal principles, and effectiveness in examination and argument.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹³

Columbia School of Law offers eight clinical programs: Child Advocacy Clinic, Prisoners and Families Clinic, Clinical Seminar in Law and the Arts, Mediation Clinic, Nonprofit Organizations Clinic, Human Rights Clinic, Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic and the Environmental Law Clinic.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁴

The plethora of student organizations at Columbia Law School is a testament to its diversity. Among the school's active organizations are the American Civil Liberties Union, Columbia Society of International Law, Older and Wiser Law Students, Amnesty International, Columbia Unemployment Action Center, Public Interest Law Foundation, the Arab Law Students Organization, DeVinimus, Public Interest Law Students Association, Asian and Pacific American Law Students Association, Domestic Violence Project, Rightslink, Black Law Students Association, Entertainment Art and Sports Law Society, The St. Thomas More Society, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Society for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Coalition Against Capital Punishment, Europeans at Columbia, Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Columbia Coalition for Life, The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, Society for Law, Science and Technology, Columbia Criminal Law Society, The J. Reuben Clark Law Society, South Asian Law Students Association, Columbia Harlem Tutorial Program, Jewish Law Students Association, the Southern Law Network, Columbia Law Health Forum, Latin American Law Students Association, Student Legal Action Network, Columbia Investors Club, Law Revue Show, Student Senate, Columbia Outlaws, Married Students' Group, Texas Association of Students, Columbia Law School Republicans, Native American Law Students Association, Yearbook – Pegasus, Columbia Law School Society of Cincinnatus, Neighborhood Kids Tutorial Program, Columbia Law Women's Association and Nihon Houritsu Kenkyukai.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 550¹⁵

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 97.2¹⁶

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁷

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 72.3
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 18.5
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 1.8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3.9
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 3.1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.3

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.law.columbia.edu/prosp_students/about_cl_law
- 2 http://www.law.columbia.edu/prosp_students/jd_prog/applic_inf/Class_Profile?#rtregion:main
- 3 The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report*, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report*, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php
- 6 http://www.law.columbia.edu/careers/career_services/employers/About_Columbia_/Grading_and_Hon?#rtregion:main.
- 7 http://www.law.columbia.edu/academics/registrar/Acad_Recog
- 8 www.law.columbia.edu/academics/curriculum_2001_2002/rules/Academic_Recognition.htm.
- 9 http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/student_service/Law_Journals
- 10 <http://www.law.columbia.edu/academics/>
- 11 <http://www.law.columbia.edu/academics/>
- 12 <http://www.law.columbia.edu/academics/>
- 13 <http://www.law.columbia.edu/focusareas/clinics>
- 14 http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/student_service/Student_Organiz?exclusive=filemgr.download&file_id=87260&rtcontentdisposition=filename%3DStudent%20Organizations%20Contact%20Information.pdf
- 15 Provided by the Columbia University School of Law's Office of Career Services.
- 16 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03104.php
- 17 Provided by career services office.

RANK
12

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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REGISTRAR'S PHONE

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(607) 255-5873

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Located in the small picturesque and somewhat isolated city of Ithaca in upstate New York, Cornell University Law School offers a formidable winter climate that all but guarantees its students will quickly adapt to the heavy study schedule required of them. This Ivy League law school also boasts an intimacy and camaraderie rare at top-tier law schools.

Cornell University Law School is currently ranked Number 12 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The school's curriculum prepares its students for all areas of practice, with particular strength in the area of business/corporate law.¹

Cornell's selective admission standards, which combine grades with strong emphasis on each applicant's achievements, ensure that the student body is made up of people with wide-ranging interests and backgrounds. Cornell's students like the small size of each entering class; there were just 194 students enrolled in the fall 2002 entering class. The excellent student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 11:1 encourages stimulating conversations with professors in the classroom and during office hours.

The law school utilizes a modified 4-point scale with the range being between 4.3 and 0.00. A strict B+ curve is in place with a few deviations. No other ranks or distinctions among the wide percentile ranks are provided or encouraged by the career services center.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 165, 25th - 75th Percentile: 165 - 168
- Median GPA: 3.6, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.50 - 3.75
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4706
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 778
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 16.5%

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:³

A+	4.33	B+	3.33	C+	2.33		
A	4.00	B	3.00	C	2.00	D	1.00
A-	3.67	B-	2.67	C-	1.67	F	0.00

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)⁴

Faculty members are required to grade all courses, including seminars, so that the mean grade for J.D. students in the course does not exceed 3.35. This policy is subject only to very limited exceptions.

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁵	3.71	N/A	3.46	3.33	N/A	2.3

*Cornell institutes a rigorous curve for most classes and the median for this curve has moved to a B+, over the B median it had three years ago. Students have indicated that the above percentile rankings are more or less accurate, although they may vary slightly from year to year. Cornell Law School does not issue a formal class rank, but rather, places like-performing students into broader percentage groups, which helps to mitigate the arbitrariness of grades, according to some students.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Special award by faculty.
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	Top 10%
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 30% unless receiving other honors.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

The **CORNELL LAW REVIEW**⁹ has been in operation for 85 years and is run under faculty supervision by JD students. The Law Review is the school's most prestigious publication. Second-year students vie for a spot on the staff by completion of the writing competition during the end of their first-year. Of the students who participate in the writing competition, those with the top sixteen cumulative grade point averages will be offered membership on the Law Review provided they have scored above the tenth percentile on the writing competition. After those individuals are removed from the pool, the individuals with the top twelve writing scores are offered membership on the Law Review. A composite score is determined by looking at an individual's 1) cumulative GPA, 2) writing score, and 3) personal statement score, if a personal statement is submitted.

The **CORNELL INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL**¹⁰ was founded in 1967 and is one of the oldest and most prominent international law journals in the country and the school's second most prestigious publication. Members are selected on the basis of grades and/or the writing competition.¹¹ The Journal is published three times a year, and includes articles that reflect the sweeping changes taking place in public and private international law.

CORNELL JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY¹² is a relatively new publication, having its inception in 1992, and it is dedicated to publishing articles, commentaries, book reviews, and student notes that explore the intersections of law and public or social policy. The Journal accepts and solicits manuscripts written by members of the academic and professional community.

MOOT COURT³

First-year Cornell Law students are not obligated to participate in Moot Court. Instead the Moot Court Board is a voluntary organization that allows both upper-class and first-year students to practice their oral advocacy and research and writing skills. Each year the Board administers two upper-class competitions and one first-year competition. Upper-class students compete in teams of two, submitting an appellate quality brief and arguing in preliminary and direct elimination rounds. The first-year competition emphasizes oral advocacy and requires only the submission of a summary of an argument. Student members of the moot court board judge early rounds. Faculty members and members of the federal and state judiciary judge later rounds.

The moot court board also sponsors student participation in external competitions with other law schools nationwide. Students who submit satisfactory briefs in two Cornell upper-class competitions fulfill the second of the two curricular writing requirements. Students, who participate in two competitions, either two upper-class competitions, or one upper-class and one first-year competition, or one extramural and one Cornell competition, are eligible to be on the Moot Court Board.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS⁴

Cornell Law School's clinical programs include the Capital Punishment Clinic, Public Interest Clinic, Legislative Externships, Judicial Externship, Neighborhood Legal Services Externship, Law Guardian Externship, Women and the Law, Government Benefits Clinic, Youth Law Clinic, Capital Trial Clinic, Wrongful Convictions, and Computer Applications in Law Practice.

ORGANIZATIONS⁵

Cornell Law School's organizations and student activities include the American Indian Law Students Association, Asian American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Herbert W. Briggs Society of International Law, Cornell Christian Legal Society, Cornell Criminal Justice Society, Cornell Law Community Volunteer Program, Cornell Law School's Society of Law and the Arts, Cornell Law Students Association, Cornell Prison Project, Corporate Law Society, The Tower (student newspaper), Entertainment and Sports Law Union, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, James R. Withrow, Jr., Program on Legal Ethics, Jewish Law Student Association, Lambda Law Students, Latino American Law Students Association, Latter Day Saints Law Students Association, Law Partners' Association, Moot Court Program, National Lawyer's Guild, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Law Union, Science and Law Student Association and the Women's Law Coalition.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 425¹⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.3¹⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.9

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 74.4
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 12.2
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 2.8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1.7
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 3.9
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 82.
- 4 https://support.law.cornell.edu/students/forms/view_grading_explanation_January_2004.pdf
- 5 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 82.
- 6 https://support.law.cornell.edu/students/forms/view_grading_explanation_January_2004.pdf
- 7 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 8 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 82.
- 9 <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/clr/wc.htm>.
- 10 <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/ilj/home.html>
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have included survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 12 <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/cjlpp/>
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 81.
- 14 Id.
- 15 <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/students/activity.htm>
- 16 Figure reported in 2002 by Cornell Law School. http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/career/career_empstats.asp
- 17 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03105.php
- 18 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 219.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS Science Drive and Towerview Road Box 90367 Durham, NC 27708	MAIN PHONE (919) 613-7000	ADMISSION'S PHONE (919) 613-7020	WEBSITE ADDRESS http://law.duke.edu
	REGISTRAR'S PHONE (919) 613-7027	CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE (919) 613-7031	

DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Though all lawyers like to believe they attended the best law school in the country, Duke seems to have some of the most enthusiastic graduates. This may be due in part to the school's professors, who truly enjoy interacting with the students.

Surrounded by thousands of acres of undeveloped woodlands and 50 acres of gardens, Duke University has one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. Durham, North Carolina boasts some of the finest hiking and camping areas around and beautiful weather. Triangle cities (Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill) surround Research Triangle Park, a 5,000-acre science and technology park unparalleled in the United States.¹ Duke Law School is a leader in technological innovation with web-based teaching materials, "smart" classrooms and interactive video technology allowing face-to-face interaction between students and renowned international legal scholars overseas.²

Duke University School of Law is currently ranked Number 10 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Since the entering class size of about 202 students is small compared to many other top law schools, those who attend Duke often feel they are able to develop stronger bonds with classmates and faculty. Although the student-faculty ratio of approximately 12:4 is a bit high, students quickly discover that professors have an open-door policy consistent with the school's congenial environment.

The Law School does not provide rank, and adheres to the bell curve distribution for grades in all large classes. The curve is designed to achieve a GPA of around 3.1 for majority of the graduating class.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁴

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 168, 25th – 75th Percentile: 162 – 169
- Median GPA: 3.68, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.47 – 3.81
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4,373
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 875
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 20

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

Duke Law School has a numerical grading system with a top grade of 4.5. In classes with more than 40 students, the median grade is suggested to be 3.1 and cannot exceed 3.2. No more than 5% of the grades in a large class may exceed 4.0, and according to students, it is a rarity for a grade to exceed 4.2 in most any class.⁶

For smaller-sized classes other than first-year classes, the median grade shall not exceed 3.5. It is expected that for classes in which the grading is based upon an exam, the median would ordinarily approach the typical median defined above for larger classes.

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

The following grade distribution percentages for larger classes are guidelines designed to reflect general expectations:

PERCENTAGE OF CLASS ⁷	5 – 15%	15 – 25%	30 – 45%	15 – 30%	0 – 5%	0 – 5% (failing grade)
NUMERICAL GRADE	3.8 – 4.5	3.4 – 3.7	3.0 – 3.3	2.5 – 2.9	1.6 – 2.4	1.5 or less

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Honors and High Honors are based upon upper-level grade performance and usually require a 3.5 or higher for Honors.

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
James A. Bell	Based on need.
Neill Blue	Based on merit.
J. Paul Coie	Based on need/merit.
Dunspaugh-Dalton	Based on merit.
Samuel Fox Mordecai Scholars	Based on merit.
Jack Knight Memorial	Based on merit.
E.R. Latty	Based on need/merit.
William Louis-Dreyfus	Based on need/merit.
Hunton & Williams	Based on need/merit.
Miller & Chevalier	Based on need/merit.

* 24 additional awards are given annually

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

The case note competition at Duke Law is a joint effort among all journals. From an administrative point of view, the competition is refereed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Publications Office. The logistics are completely at the discretion of the participating journals.

DUKE LAW JOURNAL (DLJ)¹¹ is published six times per year and is among the most prestigious and influential legal publications in the country. It is Duke Law School's most highly coveted academic journal.¹² DLJ accepts most of its members as rising second-years. Each year, DLJ extends offers to 27 students. The students in the first-year class that participate in the case note competition and have the nine highest GPAs automatically receive offers regardless of their case note scores. The students with the nine highest scores in the case note competition also receive offers regardless of their grades.

The **ALASKA LAW REVIEW**¹³ is a scholarly publication that examines legal issues affecting the state of Alaska. It is composed of second- and third-year law students, and governed by a faculty advisor committee. Selection is based 50% on GPA and 50% on writing. It is among the school's most prestigious publications.¹⁴

The **JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**¹⁵ was first established by the law school in 1990. Published on a semi-annual basis, the Journal draws upon the law school faculty's academic specialties and the school's J.D./LL.M in International and Comparative Law degree program. The Journal publishes articles from international scholars and practitioners as well as student notes. Its some 37 editors are selected by their writing skills.

LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS¹⁶ is the school's oldest journal, established in 1933. Usually the topics reflect an interdisciplinary perspective with contributions by lawyers, economists, social scientists, scholars in other disciplines, and public officials. The Journal occasionally publishes student notes related to past symposia. Selection is based 60% on GPA and 40% on writing. The Journal is among the school's most prestigious publications.¹⁷

The **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY FORUM**¹⁸ began as an interdisciplinary Journal, but in recent years has taken on traditional journal form, with lead articles and comments submitted by noted scholars and practitioners and notes submitted by students. The Journal is published biannually and editors are chosen by demonstrated interest.

The **JOURNAL OF GENDER LAW & POLICY**¹⁹ was established in 1994. It is an interdisciplinary publication devoted to discussion and consideration of gender issues in the context of law and public policy. Editors are chosen based on demonstrated writing ability.

The **DUKE LAW & TECHNOLOGY REVIEW**²⁰ is an electronic legal publication focusing on the evolving intersection of law and technology. Unlike traditional journals, which focus primarily on faculty-written articles, the Review focuses on student-written pieces called issue briefs or "iBriefs," that keep pace with the changing field. Editors are chosen for their writing abilities.

MOOT COURT²¹

Duke Law School hosts the Hardt Cup for first-year law students. The competition consists of three parts, the first of which is a mandatory component of the Legal Research and Writing Program. All students prepare appellate briefs and participate in oral argument. Participation in future rounds is voluntary and strongly encouraged, and a student can gain access to the Moot Court Board through participation in the subsequent rounds of the competition. Second- and third-year students may participate in the Dean's cup during the spring. Judging and selection to the Board are based on oral advocacy and brief scores. However, the majority of students who go on to the Dean's cup or get on the Board are former winners of the Hardt Cup competition.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²²

The Duke University School of Law offers the following clinical courses and programs: AIDS Legal Assistance Project, Children's Education Law Clinic, Poverty Law Seminar/Clinic and the International Legal Clinic.

ORGANIZATIONS²³

Duke Law School's student organizations include the Alibi, ABA Law Student Division, American Civil Liberties Union, American Constitution Society, Asian Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Business Law Society, Christian Legal Society, Dispute Resolution Club, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, Duke Bar Association, Duke Golf Association, Duke Law Baseball League, Duke Law Death Penalty Network, Duke Law Democrats, Duke Law Drama Society, Duke Law Republicans, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Graduate and Professional Student Council, Hispanic Law Students Association, Howard W. Hunter Society, Innocence Project, Intellectual Property and Cyberlaw Society, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Judicial Board, Lawyers as Leaders, Male Law Students' Association, Moot Court Board, Native American Law Students Association, OutLaw Parents Attending Law School, Public Hearing-A Cappella Choir, Public Interest Law Foundation, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Wine Tasting Club and the Women Law Students Association.

Number of employers interviewing on campus most years: 350²⁴

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.2²⁵

Percentage of grades employed after nine months of graduation: 100

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 73
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 13
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 1
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2.1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.duke.edu/admis/dukeTriangle.html>
2 <http://www.law.duke.edu/admis/dean.html>
3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
4 2003 statistics received via e-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Bruce A. Elvin Assistant Dean of Career Services, and BCG research staff.
5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 106; <http://www.law.duke.edu/general/info/so3.html>
6 Id.
7 <http://www.law.duke.edu/general/info/so3.html>
8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 106.
9 Id.
10 <http://publications.law.duke.edu/>
11 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/dlj/>
12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
13 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/alr/>
14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
15 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/djcl/>
16 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/lcp/>
17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
18 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/delpf/>
19 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/djglp/>
20 <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/dltr/>
21 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 106.
22 Id.
23 <http://www.law.duke.edu/studentaffairs/studentOrganizations.html>
24 2003 statistics received via e-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Bruce A. Elvin Assistant Dean of Career Services, and BCG research staff.
25 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03117.php
26 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03117.php

RANK
23

EMORY UNIVERSITY

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Atlanta, GA 30322

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ADMISSION'S PHONE
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EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Located just miles from the national business and legal center of Atlanta and within sight of its skyline, Emory University provides a pleasant setting for the pursuit of higher learning. If need be, students can find solitude in Emory's 631 acres of rolling hills and shady groves of oak, pine, and maple trees; or if the mood strikes them, they can take a short trip from campus to the cultural, educational and financial hub of the South.¹

Emory University School of Law is currently ranked Number 23 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report*. Emory has a world-class and readily accessible faculty, a small and diverse student body, and offers exceptional programs in foreign, comparative and international law, intellectual property, advocacy training, environmental law, child welfare law and advocacy, and law and religion, as well as a comprehensive field placement program.² The school has a student-faculty ratio of 18.8, and the entering class of 2005 was comprised of 223 students.

In 1995, the oddly-shaped Hugh F. MacMillan Library was built directly adjacent to the law school's Gambrell Hall. The library is a state-of-the art facility housing approximately 360,000 volumes and over 5,500 serial subscriptions.³

Emory Law's grades are on a modified A+ to F scale with an A+ being a 4.3 and a GPA of 3.216 being the cut-off for top 50%. Only the top 10% are provided with individual rank and the rest are divided into percentile ranks.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164⁵, 25th - 75th Percentile: 160 - 165
- Median GPA: 3.60⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.37 - 3.73
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4,150⁷
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 901
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 21.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis03039.php>

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

Emory University School of Law uses a letter grading system, with grades ranging from A+ to F.

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁹	3.624	3.453	3.354	3.216	3.024	2.25

Top 10% of the students are given an individual rank while the rest of the students may only use their percentile ranking.¹⁰

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹¹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
With High Honors:	3.80 cumulative GPA
With Honors:	3.45 cumulative GPA
Dean's List:	3.35 semester GPA

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹²

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Georgia Association of Women Lawyers	For academic achievement, dignity, integrity, service to the law school community, etc.
Georgia Tax Conference Award	Outstanding students in taxation and accounting. (3)
Moffett Litigation Award	Outstanding student in trial preparation and litigation.
The Order of Barristers	Selected from appellate advocacy program. (10)
Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.	Students who have excelled in real estate courses. (3)
BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law	Superior academic performance in labor and employment law.
Barbara S. Rudisill Award	For academic achievement, compassion toward fellow students, commitment to success in legal education, and financial need.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

The Emory University School of Law publishes three journals: Emory Law Journal, Emory International Law Review,¹⁴ and Bankruptcy Developments Journal.¹⁵ The journals offer membership based on a joint writing competition. This competition is open to all members of the Emory University School of Law who will be embarking on their second year of law school. The same writing sample can be submitted to all three journals for consideration; however, each journal will select candidates based on its own grading and selection process.

EMORY LAW JOURNAL (ELJ)¹⁶ is issued quarterly, and is edited entirely by students, and publishes professional and student articles on a broad range of legal topics. Candidates for the Board of ELJ are selected in two ways. Students whose academic standing ranks them as one of the top 14 students in the first-year class are automatically offered candidacy. Up to an additional 14 students are selected on the combined basis of grades and performance in the writing competition. The precise number selected depends on the quality of the case notes submitted. The executive notes & comments editor and the editor-in-chief reserve the discretion to offer candidacy to authors of truly excellent papers without regard to grades.

EMORY INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW puts out two issues per year and is dedicated to the scholarly discussion of international law. Candidates are selected on the basis of the writing competition.¹⁷

BANKRUPTCY DEVELOPMENTS JOURNAL selects candidates on the basis of the writing competition.¹⁸ Student members are responsible for writing notes and editing articles written by respected attorneys in the bankruptcy field. The Journal is published twice a year.

MOOT COURT¹⁹

While membership in the Moot Court Society is open to all full-time students at the Emory Law School with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.35, several other requirements must be met before membership is actually granted. To satisfy the requirements for membership, a candidate must successfully compete in two intra-school competitions. Those students who are selected for “Special Teams” may complete membership requirements by satisfactory participation on their team in lieu of participating in a second intra-school moot court competition.

Moot Court Society is comprised of 40 members. On the basis of their brief-writing and oral advocacy scores, the top 18 competitors from the Fall Competition will become Special Team Members. Special Team members are then placed on a team which will compete in various inter-school competitions around the country. The remaining candidates are chosen from the top scores of the Spring Competition. Once the candidacy requirements have been satisfactorily met, these 40 candidates become eligible as members of the Moot Court Society.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

Emory offers an extensive and well-supervised field placement program. Its litigation program is especially strong.²¹ In addition to its Kessler-Eidson Trial Techniques Program, its in-house clinics include the Turner Environmental Law Clinic and the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Emory University School of Law’s student organizations include the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, American Bar Association/Law Student Division, Asian American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Democratic Law and Policy Research Group, Emory Federalist Society, Emory Gay and Lesbian Advocates, Emory Public Interest Committee, Emory Student Lawyers Guild, Environmental Law and Conservation Society, Immigrant Assistance Project, Intellectual Property Society, International Law Society, JD/MBA Society, Hispanic Law Student Association, Legal Association for Women Students, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Moot Court Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Student Bar Association and Student Legal Services.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 126²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 86.6²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 96.4

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 69
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 14
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ <http://www.law.emory.edu/administration/deanmsg1.html>
- ² <http://www.law.emory.edu/academics/gen-info.html>.
- ³ <http://www.law.emory.edu/library/general.html#layout>.
- ⁴ These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- ⁵ <http://www.law.emory.edu/admissions/faqs.html>.
- ⁶ Id.
- ⁷ Id.
- ⁸ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 114.
- ⁹ * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 114.
- ¹⁰ http://www.law.emory.edu/library/career/current/grade_info.htm
- ¹¹ % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 114.
- ¹² National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 114.
- ¹³ <http://www.law.emory.edu/students/elj/eljcandidates.html>
- ¹⁴ <http://els41.law.emory.edu/EILR/eilrhome.htm>.
- ¹⁵ <http://els41.law.emory.edu/BDJ/bdjhome.htm>.
- ¹⁶ <http://www.law.emory.edu/students/elj/index.php>; <http://www.law.emory.edu/students/elj/eljcandidates.html>.
- ¹⁷ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ¹⁸ Id.
- ¹⁹ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 113.
- ²⁰ Id.
- ²¹ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ²² Correspondence dated January 8, 2003 from Sue McAvoy, Emory University Office of Career Services, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- ²³ http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03039.php
- ²⁴ Id.

RANK
34

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE
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FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL

Law students at Fordham relish their school's Big Apple location. They are afforded a wealth of opportunity, beginning their legal careers in a city that is home to some of the world's largest law firms, the busiest state and federal courts, a number of state and federal agencies, and Wall Street. The Law School is directly across the street from the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, blocks from Central Park, within walking distance to Times Square, and a subway ride away from the trendy New York neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, SoHo and Tribeca.¹

Fordham Law School is currently ranked Number 34 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Fordham Law School has a distinguished, well-published and learned faculty. Its strong tradition of public service is evidenced by the annual activities of some 700 students, who take on pro bono work through the school's nationally recognized Public Interest Resource Center.² The fall 2003 entering class numbered in at a whopping 318 full-time students, and 163 part time students³ and the school has a student/faculty ratio of 17.2.

The Law School and many students report that Fordham adheres to what is called a "hard curve." Most classes are graded with a B average, with some professors adhering to a C curve. The grading scale ranges from an A+ to an F with a 4.3 to a 0.0 equivalencies. No official individual rankings are released for students, while the law school provides percentile groupings, with a GPA of 3.11 being the cut off for top 50%.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:**

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2002 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164⁵, 25th - 75th Percentile: 163 - 167
- Median GPA: 3.58⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.32 - 3.75
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 6,947
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,195
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 17.2%

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

** All statistics refer to full time program.

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

In a survey conducted by BCG, A+ grades were found to be very rarely awarded, with the top student in each class usually given a grade of A. Many classes in the school give grades based on a B curve, but some professors have been known to use a standard class median of C.⁸

L.L. M. grading system: H, G, P, F.

H = A- to A+

G = B- to B+

P = C- to C+

F = D to F

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE*	TOP 2%	TOP 5%	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 33%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
FORDHAM	3.71 & above	3.60 & above	3.48 & above	3.30 & above	3.23 & above	3.11 & above	1.9

*As Fordham has no official class rankings, the law school offers these percentiles to reflect averages.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

Order of the Coif:	10%	(> or = 3.492)
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	0%	(> or = 4.00)
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	1.3%	(> or = to 3.75)
<i>Cum laude</i> :	8.3%	(> or = 3.5)
Dean's List:	15%	(3.4)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
West Group Outstanding Achievement Award	Highest GPA per section: second, third, fourth year (day & evening sessions). (4)
Actum Foundation Prize	LLM with distinguished work in Banking, Corporate and Finance Law Program.
Nathan Burkan Memorial Prize	Best papers in subject area of copyright law.
Chapin Prize	Highest weighted average throughout the school.
Class of 1911 Award	Best essay in a legal subject designated by the dean.
David F. & Mary Louise Condon Award	Highest grade in American Legal History.
Joseph R. Crowley Award	Academic achievement and volunteer activities.
Benjamin Finkel Prize	Excellence in bankruptcy law.
Fordham Law Alumni Association Medal in Constitutional Law	Excellence in constitutional law. (4)
Phillip R. Fusco Memorial Award	Participation in intramural athletics and academic achievement.
Whitmore Gray Prize	Excellence in international law courses.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Edward J. Hawk Prize	LLM (International Business and Trade Law program) with highest cumulative average.
Int'l Intellectual Property Society Prize	Best paper in the area of intellectual property.
Hughes R. Jones Award	Highest combined weighted average in the areas of constitutional law, criminal justice, and professional responsibility.
Eugene Keefe Award	Most important contribution to Fordham Law community.
Walter B. Kennedy Award	Law Review member with an extraordinary service record.
Emmet J. McCormack Award	Highest grade in Admiralty Law.
Lawrence J. McKay Prize	Students who represent the law school in the National Moot Court Competition. (3)
Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin Prize	Highest weighted combined average during the first year.
Addison M. Metcalf Labor Law Prize	Highest grades in basic labor law course. (7)
Henrietta Metcalf Prize	Highest grade in Contracts.
Keith C. Miller Memorial Award	Demonstrated dedication to the Fordham Moot Court Program.
National Association of Women Lawyers Award	Academic achievement and demonstrated concern for the issues of women in the legal profession.
Peter O'Connor Prize	Highest weighted average in Evidence and New York Practice.
Thomas F. Reddy, Jr. Prize	Highest grades in intellectual property courses.
Senior Prize	Highest weighted average throughout the year.
Robert Schuman Prize	Highest grades in European Union courses.
Milton Young Prize	Excellence in taxation courses.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

Fordham Law School publishes six journals. *Fordham Law Review*, *Fordham International Law Journal*, and *Fordham Urban Law Journal* are considered the most prestigious, mostly due to their history as the mainstay journals. *Fordham Intellectual Property Media and Entertainment Law Journal*, *Fordham Environmental Law Journal*, and *Fordham Journal of Corporate and Financial Law* are the other, newer publications, providing more niche positions for students wanting to go into certain practice areas. Students enter into a writing competition to gain admission to all of the journals, including *Law Review*, and a combination of grades and writing is required for all but the top 35 students of the class (which is split between night students and day students, depending on the relative number of night students in each class), who can gain acceptance to *Law Review* through grades alone.¹²

Fordham Law Review¹³ is a scholarly journal serving the legal profession and the public by discussing current legal issues. This is the most prestigious journal at the law school. Approximately 40 articles, written by students or submitted by outside authors, are published each year. The Law Review is managed by a board of up to 16 student editors, and Law Review membership is considered among the highest scholarly achievements at the law school.

The **FORDHAM URBAN LAW JOURNAL**,¹⁴ celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2002, is the second oldest publication at the law school. The Journal annually publishes six books addressing policy issues affecting urban areas. The Journal also publishes *ADR & the Law*, the leading reference guide for alternative dispute resolution.

The **FORDHAM INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL**¹⁵ publishes six books annually, covering diverse foreign and international issues. The Journal assists in the organization and production of the Fordham Corporate Law Institute's annual volume and conference on International Antitrust Law & Policy.

The **FORDHAM INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL**¹⁶ is one of the leading scholarly law journals dedicated to the publication of articles, essays, comments, addresses, and notes on intellectual property, media, and entertainment law. The Journal covers a wide range of subjects, including patent, copyright, and trademark law, First Amendment rights, telecommunications and Internet law, and legal issues regarding the news media and the entertainment and sports industries.

The **FORDHAM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL**¹⁷ publishes three volumes annually, addressing topics in environmental law, legislation and public policy. The Journal also sponsors an annual symposium featuring scholarly papers and panel discussions centered on an environmental issue.

The **FORDHAM JOURNAL OF CORPORATE & FINANCIAL LAW**¹⁸ publishes articles, notes, comments/case notes, book reviews, essays, symposia and conference proceedings on issues of business law, including financial law, securities law, banking law, bankruptcy and tax. A majority of the staff is chosen from the law school's Unified Writing Competition. In addition to the writing competition, this journal has a grade requirement to ensure that the staff is among the top law students. The Journal also accepts a limited number of students through an application process in the fall.

MOOT COURT¹⁹

At Fordham, first-year students are introduced to appellate briefs and arguments as part of their legal writing course and many follow this initial experience by participating in the Moot Court Program after their first year. Thus, participation in moot court is not mandatory at Fordham. The staff members of the moot court editorial board are 25 students in their final year who have earned exceptionally high scores for brief-writing and arguing in either of two intramural competitions. Once the moot court board has been selected, all students are assigned to either oral arguments or written submissions depending on skills and the type of competition.

The board organizes two competitions each year – The Irving R. Kaufman Moot Court Competition, which focuses on federal securities law, and the Metropolitan Mentor Moot Court Competition. The Mentor Competition allows students from nearly forty New York City high schools to compete as appellate court advocates under the supervision of practicing attorneys.²⁰ For students interested in potentially becoming litigators, positions are coveted and competitive.²¹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²²

Fordham's clinical program has three components: live client clinics ("in-house" clinics), simulation courses and externship courses.²³ Essentially, the clinical offerings are mainly divided between the four-credit Mediation Clinic, where students mediate cases in small claims court, and the five-credit Securities Arbitration Clinic, which allows students to represent clients in securities arbitration at the New York Stock Exchange and National Association of Securities Dealers. Other clinical options are Civil Rights, Community Economic Development, Criminal Defense, Housing Rights, Immigration Rights, Tax, and The Child and Family Litigation Clinic.²⁴ Since clinics are so popular among the students, a very small percentage of the student body actually gets to participate in them.²⁵

ORGANIZATIONS

Fordham Law School's student organizations include The Advocate, American Bar Association/Law Student Division, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Catholic Law Students, Community Service Project, Death Penalty Project, Domestic Violence Advocacy Center, Drug Policy Reform Project, Family Court Mediation Project, Fordham Law Democrats, Fordham Law Follies, Fordham Law Women, Fordham Sports Law Forum, Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, Inc., Habitat for Humanity at Fordham Law School, Housing Advocacy Project, Immigration Advocacy Project, Irish Law Students Association, Italian American Law Students Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Latin American Law Students Association, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Students Association, Lincoln Square Neighborhood Children's Law Project, National Lawyers Guild, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Police Misconduct Action Network, Public Service Law Network Worldwide, Republicans, Sports Lawyers Society, Stein Scholars Program in Public Interest Law & Ethics, Street Law Project, Student Bar Association, Student Loan Repayment Group, Common Good, Unemployment Action Center and the Yearbook.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200–300²⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 83.5²⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 93.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 82.2
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 3
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 7
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 276.
- 2 <http://law.fordham.edu/pirc.htm>.
- 3 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/adm-app.htm>
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/adm-app.htm>
- 6 Id.
- 7 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/reg-ar21.htm>, <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/cp-grades.htm>. At Fordham Law, "[t]here are no official class standings." <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/cp-gsd.htm>.
- 8 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 9 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 127.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 127.
- 11 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications.htm>.
- 12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 13 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=500>
- 14 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=400>
- 15 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=300>.
- 16 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=200>.
- 17 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=100>.
- 18 <http://law.fordham.edu/publications/index.ihtml?pubid=600>.
- 19 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/mc-home.htm>.
- 20 E-mail correspondence dated 1/10/03 from Michael Schiumo, Assistant Dean at Fordham Law School, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 21 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 22 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/adr-clinics.htm>.
- 23 <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/jd-guide7.htm>.
- 24 E-mail correspondence dated 1/10/03 from Michael Schiumo, Assistant Dean at Fordham Law School, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 25 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 26 "300 employers representing 200 organizations" interview at Fordham each year. <http://law.fordham.edu/htm/cp-sum.htm>.
- 27 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03107.php
- 28 Id.

RANK
38

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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

George Mason University Law School is currently ranked Number 38 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Located in Arlington, Virginia, George Mason University sits on the doorstep of the nation's capital. Among the many advantages of its location are year-round employment opportunities with major executive branch agencies, outstanding instruction from faculty and guest lecturers with significant experience in governmental and public policy organizations, and direct access to high-tech and global industries. If that weren't enough, students here have a front-row seat to the complex litigation passing through the Eastern District of Virginia's "Rocket Docket."¹

The George Mason University School of Law offers its students an innovative and progressive curriculum in a state-of-the-art facility. This dynamic young school recently established a National Center for Technology and Law, developed a new Technology Law program, and expanded on its already well-established track programs in international business law, regulatory law and intellectual property law.² The school's fall 2003 entering class was comprised of 91 full time students and 75 part time students, and its student-faculty ratio is 15.2.³

The law school operates on a 4.33 to 0.00 A+-F scale, with a strict bell curve for most classes, resulting in a GPA which is close to 3.1 for most students upon graduation. Individual ranks are not readily available for most students.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:**

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 164, 25th – 75th Percentile: 159 – 165

Median GPA: 3.56, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.11 – 3.74

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4372

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 702

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 9.2

* Unless otherwise cited, the above statistics are from

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03159.php

**All statistics refer to the full-time day program

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	D+ 1.33	F 0.00
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00	
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.67	D- .67	

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁶	3.482	3.245	3.125	2.959	2.720	2.15
BCG ⁷		3.00		2.914	2.711	

*Student survey responses indicated that George Mason University strictly adheres to a mandatory bell curve for both first year and non-seminar second- and third-year courses. The mean GPA is less than 3.0 for most class years, resulting in little or no inflation of grades. Further, students indicated that there are fewer than 15% A's in most classes.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	Top 1% (2 students)
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	Top 10% (19 students)
<i>Cum laude:</i>	Top 25% (32 students)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Law School Fellowship & Scholarship	Merit-based (granted to up to 20 students).
Robert A. Levy Fellowships	Merit-based for students with Ph.D. in economics, finance, or political science (granted to up to 2 students).
Dean Engle Memorial Scholarship	Merit-based.
George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association Scholarship	Merit-based.
Bendheim Scholarship	Merit-based (awarded to up to 4 students).
Dean's Service Award	Merit-based (awarded to up to 2 students).
Scott C. Whitney Writing Prize	Merit-based.
Women's Law Association Award	Merit-based.
Richard S. Murphy Prize	Merit-based.
LRWA Class Awards	Merit-based (awarded to up to 6 students).
The J. Gregory Bender & ADI Technology Corporation Scholarship	Merit-based.
Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox Intellectual Property Law Scholarship	Merit-based.
Mary Fischer Doyle Public Service Scholarship	Merit-based.
Giles S. Rich Award in Intellectual Property	Merit-based.
Betty Southard Murphy Award in Constitutional Law	Merit-based (awarded to up to 2 students).

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Betty Southard Murphy Award in Labor Law	Merit-based (awarded to up to 2 students).
Ann Southard Award Murphy & Cornelius F. Murphy Jr. Tuition Assistance Award	Merit-based.
Association of Public Interest Awards (awarded to up to 5 students).	Based on public interest employment

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

THE GEORGE MASON LAW REVIEW¹² is a traditional student-edited law review published quarterly. It provides students with the opportunity to develop research, writing and editing skills. Students completing their first year of law school are eligible for membership as long as their GPA is equal to the mean for that year. Those meeting the GPA criterion are allowed to participate in the writing competition for a spot on staff. Further, the top 10% of the first-year class is given an invitation to join without the writing competition and transfer students, who are in the top 10% of their original ABA approved school, may also join upon an abbreviated writing competition. The Law Review is the most prestigious of the law school's publications, and is most well-known for law and economics.¹³

The **CIVIL RIGHTS LAW JOURNAL (CRLJ)**¹⁴ is a student-run publication that is published bi-annually. The CRLJ publishes articles that span a wide spectrum of issues relating to civil rights. Recent articles have addressed issues on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, free speech, abortion rights, cruel and unusual punishment, search and seizure, voting rights, and rights of the disabled. Membership is extended to the top 20% of the first-year class, further those who are not in the top 20% but possess at least a 2.5 GPA after their first year may become members through the writing competition. CRLJ is the second most prestigious publication at the George Mason University School of Law.¹⁵

The **FEDERAL CIRCUIT BAR JOURNAL (FCBJ)**,¹⁶ the official journal for the Federal Circuit Bar Association and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, is a national and quarterly publication which carries a subscriber base of over three thousand judges, professors, attorneys and law students. The Journal provides a unique opportunity for students to work with practicing attorneys and former editors and hence provides a more practical education. The scope of the FCBJ consists of all issues within the jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit. The Student Editorial Board consists of 31 students, 20 staff members and 11 student editors. This publication is most widely known for its treatment of Intellectual Property issues.¹⁷

MOOT COURT¹⁸

First-year students are introduced to the art of oral advocacy through the Moot Court Competition. The first round of the competition is mandatory and is part of the legal writing curriculum. However, students may voluntarily participate in the advancing rounds. According to student surveys, a student's performance in the mandatory exercise is the most heavily considered criteria in acquiring a position on the Moot Court Board.¹⁹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

Students gain practical experience by participating in one or more of the following clinical programs: the Legal Clinic (where students work in judges' chambers or another legal office), Law and Mental Illness Clinic (where students locate, interview and represent mental health clients), Public Interest Law Clinic (in conjunction with the Washington Legal Foundation), Telemedicine Clinic (which is an intersection of advanced communications technologies and health care regulation), and the Board of Immigration Appeals Clinic. Student surveys have apprised us of the inception of a new clinic, called the Homeland Security Center, designed to deal with the emerging issues related to this contemporary issue.²¹

ORGANIZATIONS²²

The George Mason University School of Law's student organizations include the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, American Bar Association/Law Student Division, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, American Inn of Court, Association for Public Interest Law, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Black Law Students Association, Business Law Society, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Law Association, Delta Theta Phi International Law Fraternity, Environmental Law Society, The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy, Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Law Students Association, Honor Council, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Law Students for the Second Amendment, Law and Economics Society, Moot Court Board, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, Phi Delta Phi (Lewis F. Powell Inn), Sports, Entertainment, and Art Law Society, Student Bar Association, Thomas More Society, Toastmasters International, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and the Women's Law Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 70²³

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.4²⁴

Percentage of grades employed nine months after graduation: 99.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁵

Percent of grads employed by private firms: 40

Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 20

Percent of grads employed by the government: 14

Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2

Percent of grads employed by private industry: 16

Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 5

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/about.html>.
- 2 <http://www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/dean.html>.
- 3 The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report; http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 www.gmu.edu/departments/law/academics/regulations.html. At George Mason students are numerically ranked, based upon GPA at the end of each semester; www.gmu.edu/departments/law/academics/records-FAQ.html#3a. Class rank is added to a student's transcript only if requested; National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 134.
- 6 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 134.
- 7 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form.
- 8 We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 9 Id.
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 134.
- 11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 134.
- 12 www.gmu.edu/departments/law/pubs/index.html.
- 13 <http://law.gmu.edu/gmulawreview/>
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 <http://www.law.gmu.edu/gmucrlj/index.html>.
- 16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 17 <http://www.law.gmu.edu/fcbj/fcbj.html>.
- 18 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 19 <http://www.gmu.edu/org/mootcourt/>. See also National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 133.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 www.gmu.edu/departments/law/admission/2003LS-vwbk.pdf, page 10.
- 22 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 23 <http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs.html>.
- 24 <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/premium/main/lawrank.php>.
- 25 Id.
- 26 Id.

RANK
20

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GWU LAW SCHOOL

Located in our nation's capital, George Washington University (GWU) Law School remains a favorite among law applicants with dreams of entering politics after law school or representing private clients whose interests must be regularly negotiated in this city.

GWU Law School is currently ranked Number 20 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. GWU is the oldest law school located in Washington D.C., and claims it was one of the first law schools to create clinical programs to help train its students. It offers many top-notch specialty programs that other schools rarely offer, such as the Consumer Mediation Clinic, the Health Insurance Counseling Clinic, and the Vaccine Injury Clinic.

The first-year class at GWU numbered 405 full time students in 2003¹ and has a student-faculty ratio of 13.8. The school offers one of the richest curriculums in the nation, which allows students to sample a broad array of legal subjects and to design a program of study that fits their individual interests and career plans.

The law school adheres to a modified 4-point scale with a range of 4.33 to 0.00 from A+ to F. Although the school does not rank individual students or release ranking for students below the 33rd percentile, a graduating average GPA of about 3.0 is apparent from the school's utilization of a fairly standard bell curve.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163³, 25th - 75th Percentile: 162 - 167
- Median GPA: 3.5⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.34 - 3.74
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 11,687⁵
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,568
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 13.4

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁶

A+	4.333	B+	3.333	C+	2.333		
A	4.00	B	3.00	C	2.00	D	1.00
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667	F	0.00

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 15%	TOP 35%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁷	3.479	3.306	N/A	N/A	1.337
BCG* ⁸	3.517	3.288	N/A	N/A	

* According to the George Washington University Law School website, a new ranking system is being put into place for classes graduating after 2003. Currently, students are given percentile groups based on their GPAs (only if they are in the top 40%). For the classes of 2004 and on, students are only allowed to use the terms "George Washington Scholar" and "Thurgood Marshall Scholar," and the years in which the honors are bestowed, to designate that they are in the top 15% and 35% of their classes respectively.⁹

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)¹⁰

A mandatory B (3.0) curve is instituted and deviations are rare. Survey participants have indicated that about 95% of the classes follow the curve, even after the first-year and that the smaller sections tend to follow the B curve. Among the changes for 2004, is discussion of increase in the mean GPA. It is apparent that a fairly strict bell-curve grade distribution exists, as only about 1-4 A's are given out, with multiple survey participants indicating that 4 appears to be the maximum number of A's in most large sized first-year courses. The balance of the grades falls in the B to B- range, and a relatively large portion of C's are given out as well. The curve does taper down and D's or F's are rarely given out.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹¹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
With Highest Honors:	Students with highest cumulative average of 3.67 or better (not to exceed 3% of class).
With High Honors:	Students with highest cumulative average of 3.33 or better (not to exceed 10% of class when added to total # receiving With Highest Honors).
With Honors:	Students with highest cumulative average of at least 3.0 (not to exceed 40% of class when added to total # With Highest Honors and With High Honors).

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹²

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
American Bankruptcy Institute Medal	Excellence in the field of debtor and creditor law.
ABA/BNA Award	Excellence in the field of labor and employment law.
Michael J. Avenatti Award	Excellence in the area of pre-trial & trial advocacy.
Henry F. Berger Award	Excellence in the area of tort law.
Anne Wells Branscomb Award	Highest cumulative average in part-time evening program.
Jacob Burns Award	Winning upper-class Van Vleck Moot Court team. (2)
Clinics Volunteer Service Award	Excellence in volunteering to promote clinic goals.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Michael D. Cooley Memorial Award	Selected by vote of graduating J.D. class.
John F. Evans Award	Outstanding achievement in Law Students in Court.
Ogden W. Fields Graduate Award	Highest overall proficiency in labor law.
Finnegan Prize in Intellectual Property	Best publishable article in intellectual property law.
Willard Waddington Gatchell Award	Top three cumulative averages in graduating class. (3)
GW Alumni Association Award	Demonstrated leadership/dedication to GWU community.
Charles Glover Award	Highest average in third-year, full-time program.
Judge Albert H. Grenadier Award	Representing school at regional Jessup Moot Court.
Kappa Beta Pi Award	Highest average in first-year class.
John Bell Lerner Award	Highest cumulative average in J.D. graduating class.
Richard C. Lewis Memorial Award	For dedication to clinical work.
Thurgood Marshall Civil Liberty Award	For dedication to the field of civil rights and civil liberties.
John Ordronaux Award	Highest average in first-year, full-time program.
John Ordronaux Award	Highest average in second-year, full-time program. (2)
Rosenthal Commercial Law Award	Excellence in commercial law.
Seibel Award in Labor/Employment Law	Excellence in course in labor & employment law.
Richard L. Teberg Award	Highest overall proficiencies in securities law. (2)
Tobin Government Contracts Award	Excellence in government contracts law.
Jennie Hassler Walbum Award	Outstanding students in civil procedure.
Thelma Weaver Memorial Award	Outstanding graduating foreign LLM student.
West Publishing Awards	Clinical achievement in consumer law & family law. (2)
Imogen Willford Constitutional Law Award	Outstanding student in constitutional law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

Students at George Washington have the opportunity to vie for slots on four student journals. The selection criterion for staff members on each of the journals is identical and involves a combination of grades and the results of a writing competition. Grades usually account for 75% of the admissions process, with the writing competition being the other main factor. Even though grades weigh heavily on the selection criterion, a student must participate in the writing contest to be eligible for membership. Student survey participants verified the above information, indicating that even though there is a written component to journal membership, first-year grades are by far the most decisive factor in gaining membership.¹⁴ The editorial board may accept 10% of its staff members based solely on the writing contest. Editorial positions require another competition beyond the writing competition.¹⁵

The **GEORGE WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW** publishes six issues a year, with an emphasis on federal and public law. At least one issue is devoted to recent US Court of Appeals decisions in District of Columbia circuit.

The **PUBLIC CONTRACT LAW JOURNAL** is produced jointly by the Law School and the Section of Public Contract Law of the American Bar Association. Considered the premier journal read by practitioners in the field of government procurement law, it is edited and published quarterly by J.D. and LL.M. students. The selection criteria for J.D. staff members are the same as those used by the Law Review.

The **GEORGE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW** produces five annual issues. It is considered the second most prestigious journal at GWU and presents articles and commentaries on public and private international financial development, comparative law, and public international law. Additionally, the International Law Review publishes a Guide to International Legal Research annually.

The **ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER** is published jointly by the Law School and the American Bar Association's Environment, Energy, and Resources Section.

The **AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY JOURNAL** is a publication of the AIPLA, and is housed at the George Washington University Law School and is edited and managed by an Editorial Board of intellectual property experts and a staff of law students under the direction of Editor-in-Chief, Professor Joan Schaffner. The Journal is dedicated to presenting materials relating to intellectual property matters and is published four times per year. Editorial Board members are selected based upon demonstrated interest and experience and student staff members are selected based on the results of the combined writing competition.

MOOT COURT¹⁶

Membership on the Moot Court Board is offered in one of two ways: First-year law students who achieve exceptional performance in the first-year moot court competition, or Upper-class students who achieve distinguished performance in one of the interscholastic competitions. GWU hosts a variety of in-house competitions including the Van Vleck Constitutional Law Competition, the Jessup International Law Competition, the Giles S. Rich Intellectual Property Law Competition, the McKenna & Cuneo Government Contracts Law Competition, and the Interscholastic National Security Law Competition every other year for law students from schools across the country. Students ranking within the top 15% of competitors are invited to each competition. The First Year Moot Court Competition enables not fewer than five percent, but not more than ten percent of the first-year competitors to join the Moot Court Board.¹⁷ Student surveys have indicated that participation in Moot Court is highly competitive, as a great majority of students try out for Moot Court board every year, with only a few making it on. The Government Contracts Moot Court Competition and the Van Vleck competition were deemed most competitive by those surveyed.¹⁸

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁹

The George Washington Law School houses a wide variety of clinics: the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Clinic, Civil Litigation Clinic, Consumer Mediation Clinic, Domestic Violence Litigation Clinic, Domestic Violence/Emergency Department Clinic, Federal, Criminal and Appellate Clinic, Public Justice Advocacy Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Small Business Clinic, Vaccine Injury Clinic, Health Law Rights Clinic, Project for Older Prisoners, and Law Students in Court. Student surveys indicated that most of the clinical programs provide students with a great deal of responsibility and a lot of hands-on experience.²⁰

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

The George Washington University Law School's student organizations include the Student Bar Association, American Constitution Society, Amnesty International Legal Support Group, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Association, Corporate Law Society, Criminal Law Society, Domestic Violence Coalition, Entertainment and Sports Law Association, Environmental Law Association, Equal Justice Foundation, Evening Law Student Association, The Federalist Society, Forensic Science and the Legal Profession, GW Law Democrats, Hispanic Law Student Association, International Law Society, Jewish Law Student Association, Lambda Law, Law Association for Women, Law Revue, Muslim Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, Nota Bene, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Republican Student Lawyers Association, South Asian Law Student Association, St. Thomas More Society, Street Law, Student Health Law Association and the Student Intellectual Property Law Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 500+²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 96.7²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.1

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 55.7
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 10.7
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 9.5
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3.9
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 5.1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.gwu.edu/apply/jdprofile.asp>
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03031.php.
- 4 Id.
- 5 Id.
- 6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 138.
- 7 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 138.
- 8 http://www.law.gwu.edu/rec/RecognitionGradePolicy_0304.pdf
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 Id.
- 11 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 138.
- 12 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 138.
- 13 www.law.gwu.edu/publications/default.asp.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 15 Id.
- 16 www.law.gwu.edu/stdg/mootct/index.html. See also National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 137.
- 17 www.law.gwu.edu/stdg/mootct/bylaws.html.
- 18 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 19 www.law.gwu.edu/acad/clinics.asp.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 http://www.law.gwu.edu/students/student_orgs.asp.
- 22 www.law.gwu.edu/cdo/FIPMain.asp.
- 23 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03031.php
- 24 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 287.

RANK
14

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ADMISSION'S PHONE

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REGISTRAR'S PHONE

(202) 662-9220

CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Located within blocks of the U.S. Congress, the Supreme Court, and administrative agencies, Georgetown University Law Center provides a unique vantage point from which to observe the legal process of our nation. This unique community is committed to both academic excellence and service to others.

Georgetown University Law Center is currently ranked Number 14 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The Law Center strives to prepare students to be lawyers who combine the highest analytical ability with ethical sensitivity. The diverse interests of the Law Center's extraordinary faculty and the rich curriculum uniquely equip Georgetown University Law Center for this task. Curriculum strengths include international/commercial law, public interest law and tax law.¹ Many students especially value the ethnic and gender diversity of the school. The school places a high priority on welcoming different backgrounds and points of view.

Though some may find the law school somewhat isolated, as it is set apart from Georgetown University's beautiful main campus, it has its own vibrant community centered around its residence hall and fitness center. There are also a wide variety of activities and opportunities available in D.C. Students rave about the strength of the school's clinical program, and have expressed that involvement in such programs, extended moot court competitions, and the various journals requires a significant dedication of time and effort. Those who thrive in competitive environments will not be intimidated by the school's frenetic energy. The entering class size of approximately 451 students is rather large. However, despite the high student-faculty ratio of 16.7, students and professors regularly meet outside normal classroom hours.

Georgetown uses an unmodified 4.0 scale with a B to a B+ curve for most first-year courses. No student rankings and no percentile rankings are provided below a 33rd percentile, which falls around 3.43.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:**

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2002 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 168³, 25th – 75th Percentile: 167 – 170
- Median GPA: 3.66⁴, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.42 – 3.78
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 11,632
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,940
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 16.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03032.php

**Statistics refer to the full-time day program.

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

*As of 1999 Georgetown University Law Center has been on a 4.0 grading scale. The new system and the old numerical equivalents are listed below:

NEW SYSTEM LETTER GRADES	NEW SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE	OLD SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE
A	4.00	12.00
A-	3.67	11.00
B+	3.33	10.00
B	3.00	9.00
B-	2.67	8.00
C+	2.33	7.00
C	2.00	6.00
C-	1.67	5.00
D	1.00	3.00
F	0.00	0.00

GEORGETOWN LAW CENTER DOES NOT RANK ITS STUDENTS.⁶

PERCENTILE NALP* ⁷	TOP 10%	TOP 33%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NEW SYSTEM	3.63/4.0	3.43/4.0	2.0/4.0
OLD SYSTEM	10.89/12.0	10.29/12.0	6.0/12.0
BCG* ⁸			
NEW SYSTEM	3.57/4.0		
OLD SYSTEM	10.7/12.0		

*Other than the variations referred to, student surveys have indicated that the above-listed grading and ranking systems and the below-listed GPA and percentile figures for Honors are accurate.

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Student surveys have indicated that Georgetown law center adheres to a B to B+ curve for all classes. Curves for second- and third-year courses and seminar courses are more relaxed.⁹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁰

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% (cumulative average);	62 students
<i>Summa cum laude:</i> ¹¹	By faculty vote;	3.88; 2 students
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	Top 10% (cumulative average);	3.64; 62
<i>Cum laude:</i>	Top 33% (cumulative average);	3.44; 146
Dean's List:	Top 33% (annual average);	3.51; 647
Distinction:	LLM students with 10.29/12 or 3.43/4 (average);	114

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹²

NAME OF AWARD

ABA/BNA Award for Excellence in Intellectual Property Law

RECIPIENT

This award is presented annually to up to three graduating students with the highest grade point average in a basic intellectual property law course or who are otherwise regarded as outstanding in this field.

ABA/BNA Award for Excellence in Labor and Employment Law

This award is presented annually to up to three graduating students with the highest grade point average in a basic labor and/or employment law course or who are otherwise regarded as outstanding in these fields.

American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence

A medal, certificate, and one year membership in the American Bankruptcy Institute is awarded annually to the graduating student who has achieved academic excellence in the area of bankruptcy law.

American Bankruptcy Law Journal – Student Prize

The American Bankruptcy Law Journal will award a free one-year subscription to the Journal to the student who earns the highest grade in any bankruptcy class at any accredited United States law school.

American Bar Association Section of Urban, State, and Local Government Law Certificate of Recognition

This award is designated to the top student of each section of Land Use and Local Government Law. Each student will receive from the American Bar Association a personalized award certificate in recognition of their academic achievement.

The Baker & McKenzie Law Student Assistance Program

Established to assist first-year minority students.

The Beaudry Cup

Established in 1952 to honor the best advocates of the first-year class.

The Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition

A monetary award is made each year to the student submitting the best thesis, in the judgment of the dean, on an assigned subject in the field of copyright law. The second place award is also a monetary award.

CALI Excellence for the Future Award

Student in each law school course achieving the top grade in the course.

Thomas Bradbury Chetwood, S.J. Prize

A plaque is awarded to graduating students who achieve the rank of distinction and have the highest academic average in each of the following programs: Master of Laws in Taxation, Master of Laws in the Graduate Program for International Students, Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law, Master of Laws in Securities and Financial Regulation, and Master of Laws.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Joyce Chiang Memorial Award	To an evening student with a demonstrable commitment to public service.
The Jeffrey Crandall Award	\$100 annually to the third-year student who best exemplifies the ideals and commitment of Legal Aid and personal dedication to his fellow man.
Dean's Certificate	This honor is presented to graduating students in recognition of special and outstanding service to the Law Center community.
Kathleen Stowe Dixon Visiting Student Prize	A prize of \$100 is awarded annually to the visiting student earning the highest grade point average during his or her year at Georgetown University Law Center.
The Dean Hugh J. Fegan Memorial Prize	\$100 annually to day student with the best overall academic record at the conclusion of the first year.
Michael Feldman Advocacy Award	This is an award given by vote of the students in the Criminal Justice Clinic to the outstanding advocate in the clinic.
Georgetown Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC Award	Annual gift to the graduating JD student from the Metropolitan Washington, DC, area with the best overall academic performance.
Georgetown Law Journal Meritorious Service Award	The Editor-in-Chief recognizes up to four graduating Journal members whose hard work and spirit as non-senior board members made an outstanding contribution to the Journal.
Alan J. Goldstein Memorial Award	An annual cash award to the Criminal Justice Clinic student who best demonstrates the use of intelligence, creativity, and resourcefulness in defending criminal clients and a dedication to criminal law, fair play, and justice.
Greenfield Trial Practice Award	Substantial monetary awards to help defray the cost of student loans are given to several students in the Criminal Justice Clinic who have accepted jobs as prosecutors and as public defenders.
The Nelson T. Hartson Memorial Award	This annual scholarship award is made to a graduating Georgetown University Law Center student in the Juris Doctor program on the basis of scholastic achievement, economic need, or a combination of the two factors.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Deborah K. Hauger Memorial Fellowship Fund	Each year, a recent graduate is selected and is awarded a stipend to facilitate the study of issues in international affairs, specifically in the realm of peacekeeping in developing nations.
Kirby S. Howlett III Memorial Award	A grant is awarded annually to a recent graduate who have participated in the Criminal or Juvenile Justice Clinics, accrued student loans while attending the Law Center and upon graduation accepts employment at a public defenders office.
Howrey & Simon Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy	Trial Team Advocate who best demonstrates preparedness, creativity and resourcefulness during trial competition, dedication to the Law Center Mock Trial Program and a commitment to the high standards of professionalism and ethics in advocacy.
The International Academy of Trial Lawyers' Award	Each year a plaque is awarded to trial clinic students excelling in the art of advocacy.
The Juvenile Justice Clinic Public Service Award	This cash award given each year to a graduating clinic student who has accepted a job providing service to the community.
The Kappa Beta Pi Prize	A cash award is made annually to the student with the highest academic average upon the completion of the first year.
The Milton A. Kaufman Prize	A cash award and an accompanying plaque are offered annually to the student who does the best work for the year on the Georgetown Law Journal.
The Charles A. Keigwin Award	Best overall academic record at the conclusion of the first year.
John F. Kennedy Labor Law Award	Annual cash award to the graduating senior who has achieved the best overall performance in the field of labor law.
The Leahy Prize Argument	The name of the winner of Oral Argument is inscribed on the Leahy Cup and on the Roll of Best Advocates on permanent display outside the Hart Moot Courtroom.
The Francis E. Lucey, S.J. Award	The graduating student who has earned the highest academic average for his or her law school career.
James John McTigue Essay Award	A certificate and a cash prize of \$200 are awarded annually to the author of the best seminar paper for each designated seminar.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
The George Brent Mickum III Prize	The prize of \$3,000 is awarded annually to the student with the best overall academic record at the conclusion of the first year.
The Saint Thomas More Award	An award consisting of a framed certificate will be given to the top three graduating note authors for their outstanding work on the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics and their names will be added to a perpetual plaque.
National Association of Women Lawyers' Award	Presented to an outstanding graduating student who has achieved academic excellence and contributes to the advancement of women in society.
The John M. Olin Prize in Law and Economics	This prize is awarded annually to the student who writes the best paper in the workshop
Vincent G. Panati Memorial Award	Day or Evening Division students achieving the best combined scholastic record in the courses in Criminal Justice.
Bettina E. Pruckmayr Memorial Award	An annual cash award to the third-year student who best exemplifies a commitment to human rights.
The Leon Robbin Patent Award	A gold medallion will be awarded annually to the graduating student who has done the best work in the field of patent law at the Law Center.
The Sewall Key Prize	The prize is awarded annually to the graduating senior who does the best work in the field of taxation at the Law Center.
The Tamm Memorial Award	A prize of \$300 and a plaque are awarded annually as a prize for the best student writing on the Georgetown Law Journal.
Tutorial Program Award	In recognition of the outstanding contributions made to the Law Center's academic program.
The Washington Law Reporter Prize	One-year subscription to the Washington Law Reporter, based on contribution to the success of the Student Bar Association.
West Publishing Company Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award	First-, second-, third-, and fourth-year law student who achieves the best scholastic record in his/her class

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

The Law Center sponsors ten journals. Student surveys have indicated that the most prestigious of Georgetown's Journals are the Georgetown Law Journal, the American Criminal Law Review, Law and Policy in International Business and the Tax Lawyer. Following the first-year write-on competition, a pool of staff members from the various journals score the submissions, and each journal uses a formula to evaluate the write-on score and/or individual GPAs (usually 50% writing and 50% GPA). The journal editors are given a list of scores for those papers whose authors wish to be considered for membership on that journal. Additionally, some journals give additional points for class rank, resume, or a personal statement of interest. Applicants indicate their journal preferences and are matched accordingly if they make the cut-off mark for that particular journal.¹⁴ Second-year staff duties vary from journal to journal. Each journal will have members complete office hours, including routine administrative tasks, and blue-booking of articles currently in production. The Georgetown Law Journal and the American Criminal Law Review have their second-year staff rewrite sections of the Criminal Procedure Project and The White Collar Crime Project respectively.

The **AMERICAN CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW (ACLR)**¹⁵ is the nation's premier journal of criminal law. The ACLR is the most-cited criminal law review in the nation, and it also ranks among the country's 30 most-cited law reviews of any kind. Published four times a year, the ACLR provides timely treatment of significant developments in constitutional and criminal law through articles contributed by leading scholars and practitioners, and through notes authored by the journal's student staff.

GEORGETOWN IMMIGRATION LAW JOURNAL¹⁶ is the only student-edited law journal devoted exclusively to the study of immigration law. The Journal publishes articles on timely issues by professors and practitioners, solicits reviews of recent books, coordinates symposia on important topics, and produces student notes.

GEORGETOWN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW (GIELR)¹⁷ publishes information designed for the practitioner and scholar of international and environmental law. GIELR's location in Washington, D.C., also facilitates contact with the key domestic and foreign governmental institutions as well as international and environmental practitioners. The proximity of these resources has led to the development of a close working relationship between GIELR and members of the international and environmental communities.

The **GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF GENDER AND THE LAW**⁸ is one of the only legal journals to explicitly address the intersection of gender and sexuality. The Journal publishes three issues each year. An applicant may receive a total of 100 points, to be made up of the write-on competition score (50), grades (25), and a required personal statement and resume (25). The staff of the *Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law* updates their Annual Review.

GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY⁹ is published bi-annually with a focus on conservative, libertarian, and natural law thought. Though the bulk of its content will either advocate or critique conservative, libertarian, or natural law positions, its Washington location allows staff to stay abreast of all areas of law and public policy.

The **GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF LEGAL ETHICS**²⁰ is published by the students of Georgetown University Law Center. According to student surveys, this journal weighs writing significantly more than grades.

The **GEORGETOWN JOURNAL ON POVERTY LAW & POLICY**²¹ is the nation's premier law journal on poverty issues. Part of its mission is to bring an end to the desperate conditions afflicting so many

in this wealthy nation. The Journal publishes articles from distinguished law professors and practitioners in poverty-related fields. In addition, the Journal features student research, works from scholars in poverty-related disciplines, and the narratives from persons living in poverty. Furthermore, this publication fosters a unique, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary approach to poverty issues and law. Consistent with its mission, the members of this Journal are actively involved in local community outreach, and work with legal and social service organizations to provide assistance to those in need. This journal does not consider grades when determining membership.²²

The **GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL**²³ consistently ranks first in prestige according to recent students. The Journal's eight annual issues serve as an important forum for the legal community, with articles on timely issues by professors and practitioners, reviews of recent books, symposia on important topics, and student notes. Students have predictably indicated in surveys that most students rank this journal as their first choice during the selection contest and that a relatively small group is actually selected to participate.²⁴

GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW²⁵ has over 80 members and is dedicated to the discussion of international business law as well as American foreign economic policy. It is the second oldest journal at Georgetown law and is considered by students to be very prestigious. Membership is granted to students with a strong academic performance and a quality entry into the writing contest.

THE TAX LAWYER AND THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX LAWYER²⁶ are published by the Taxation Section of the American Bar Association with the assistance of the Georgetown University Law Center and its students.

MOOT COURT²⁷

The Appellate Advocacy division of the Barristers' Council runs the Moot Court program. Two competitions are organized each year. The Leahy Competition in the fall is open to all upper-class students. First-year students compete in the Beaudry Competition held each spring. Competitors are asked to write an appellate brief based on a closed packet and then argue their case in front of a panel of judges. Those who advance to a certain level are invited to join the Barristers' Council and represent Georgetown Law in a national Moot Court competition. Finalists argue before a panel of prominent local and federal judges.

BARRISTERS' COUNCIL²⁸

Georgetown Law students can join the Barristers' Council by competing and advancing far enough in one of the school-wide Moot Court, mock trial, or ADR competitions. Generally, students who make it to the semi-finals of a competition are invited to join as advocates. Other high-placing students are offered positions as alternates.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁹

The panoply of hands-on practice offerings at Georgetown includes Appellate Litigation Clinic (civil and criminal appeals in federal courts), Center for Applied Legal Studies (refugees seeking political asylum), Criminal Justice Clinic (indigent criminal defendants before the District of Columbia Superior Court), D.C. Law Students in Court (Civil Division of the D.C. Superior Court), D.C. Street Law Program (instructing D.C. high school students and adult learners law-related subjects), Domestic Violence Clinic (D.C. Superior Court),

Family Advocacy Clinic (special education cases, education reform, and government assistance programs in the District of Columbia), Federal Legislation Clinic (researching bills, drafting statutory language, etc), Federal Legislation Clinic-D.C. Division (local advocacy, proposing new legislation affecting low-income people locally), Harrison Institute for Public Law Housing and Community Development Clinic (resident groups and nonprofit developers of housing, business, etc), Harrison Institute for Public Law Policy Clinic (analysis of the nonprofit sector and role of the states within the federal system, as well as developing model legislation), Institute for Public Representation (environmental protection, communications law and policy, and civil rights and general public interest matters), International Women's Human Rights Clinic (sexual harassment, domestic violence, polygamy and female genital mutilation), and the Juvenile Justice Clinic (children accused of misdemeanors and felonies). Students have ranked Georgetown's clinical program among the best in the country.³⁰

ORGANIZATIONS³¹

Georgetown University's huge array of student organizations include the Student Bar Association, La Alianza del Derecho, Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, American Bar Association, American Constitution Society, Amnesty International, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Association of Cuban American Law Students, Black Law Students Association, Caribbean Law Students Association, Charles Carroll Irish-American Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Justice Association, Delta Theta Phi, Environmental Law Forum, Equal Justice Foundation, Evening Student Association, Federalist Society, Foreign Lawyers at Georgetown, Georgetown Children's Advocacy, Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Georgetown Habitat for Humanity, Georgetown Jewish Law Students Association, Georgetown Law & Arts Society, Georgetown Law Democrats, Georgetown Military Society, Georgetown Outreach, Georgetown Softball Club, Georgetown Sports & Entertainment Law Society, German Speaking Lawyers at Georgetown, Home Court, Hoya Lawya Runners, Innocence Project, Italian Society, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, James Scott Brown Society for International Law, Korean American Law Students Alliance, Law as a Second Career, Law Weekly, LL.M. Tax Council, Middle East Law Society, Moral Hazard, Muslim Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, Outlaw, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Pro Se Magazine, Republican National Lawyers Association, Society for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States, Society of Law, Health & Bioethics, South Asian Law Students Association, Space Law, Student Intellectual Property Law Association, Women of Color Collective and the Women's Legal Alliance.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 600+³²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 93.3³³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 97.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 69
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 11
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 6
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ² These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- ³ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/factSheet/documents/factSheet.pdf>
- ⁴ Id.
- ⁵ Student surveys; National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 142; www.law.georgetown.edu/registrar/honors.html.
- ⁶ http://www.law.georgetown.edu/registrar/bulletin/jd_program/requirements_policies/
- ⁷ Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 142.
- ⁸ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ⁹ Id.
- ¹⁰ % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 142. Student surveys indicated that the listed GPAs for Order of the Coif, Magna cum laude and Dean's List might be slightly high, though the listed percentages were accurate; <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/registrar/honors.html>
- ¹¹ According to the student surveys, summa cum laude distinction is not definitively given to the top two graduates, but is awarded on a case-by-case basis, usually to one to two students per year.
- ¹² National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 142-143.
- ¹³ www.law.georgetown.edu/journals, <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/faq.html>.
- ¹⁴ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ¹⁵ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/aclr/index.html>.
- ¹⁶ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/gilj/index.html>.
- ¹⁷ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/gielr/>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/gender/index.html>.
- ¹⁹ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/gjlp/index.html>.
- ²⁰ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/ethics/index.html>.
- ²¹ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/poverty/about.html>.
- ²² This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ²³ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/glj/index.html>.
- ²⁴ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ²⁵ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/lpib/index.html>.
- ²⁶ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/tax/index.html>.
- ²⁷ www.law.georgetown.edu/barristers/leahy.html. See also, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 142.
- ²⁸ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/barristers/index.html>
- ²⁹ www.law.georgetown.edu/clinics/index.html.
- ³⁰ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ³¹ <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/stuaff/orgs.cfm>
- ³² <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/career/calendar.html>.
- ³³ American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 291.
- ³⁴ Id.

RANK

02

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS

1563 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

MAIN PHONE

(617) 495-3100

ADMISSION'S PHONE

(617) 495-3109

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.law.harvard.edu

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

(617) 495-4612

CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(617) 495-3119

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Harvard will probably always remain one of the nation's most prestigious law schools. Harvard is the oldest continuously operating law school in the country, and from the classical look of its Cambridge, Massachusetts campus, this is not a surprise.

The Law School moved up to Number Two in this year's rankings, just behind Yale in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, and Harvard grads know that they will not have much trouble securing top jobs for the remainder of their professional lives.

Harvard's fall 2003 entering class numbers 554 students and has a student-faculty ratio of 11.4.¹ Harvard uses an 8.0 scale for grading purposes and provides student percentile ranks based on GPA only upon graduation.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:³

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 170, 25th - 75th Percentile: 169 - 174
- Median GPA: 3.8, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.76 - 3.94
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,274
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 849
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 11.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁴

A+ 8	B+ 5	C+ N/A	
A 7	B 4	C 2	D 1
A- 6	B- 3	C- N/A	F 0

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁵

<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	7.20
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	10% after <i>summa</i> ; (6.013 min., June 2001)
<i>Cum laude:</i>	30% after <i>magna</i> /(5.463 min., June 2001)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁶

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Joseph H. Beale Prize	Member of the graduating class who obtains the highest grade in the Conflict of Law examination.
Addison Brown Prize	For the best essay on maritime or private international law.
Fay Diploma	Highest graduating average.
Yong K. Kim '95 Memorial Prize	Best paper concerning law or legal history of the nations and peoples of East Asia, or issues of law pertaining to US-East Asian relations.
Laylin Prize	Best paper on public international law.
George Leisure Award	For excellence in advocacy (best oralist in Ames competition).
Mancini Prize	Best essay on the law of the European Union.
Irving Oberman Memorial Award	Best essay on a current legal subject.
John M. Olin Prizes	Best papers written in the area of law & economics. (2)
Sears Prize	Two first year and second year students with highest average. (4)
Boykin C. Wright Memorial Fund	For the winning and losing teams in the final argument of Ames Competition.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁷

The **BLACK LETTER LAW JOURNAL**⁸ was originally founded in 1983 as an internal publication of the Black Law Students Association, and has now become an annual publication edited by students at Harvard Law School. In recent years, the Journal has expanded its mission to encourage publication of work by minority authors. They are committed to publishing manuscripts that critique traditional constitutionalism and promote civil rights. Publications include cutting edge topics in critical race theory with a focus on civil rights color blind constitutionalism and interdisciplinary approaches to confront the treatment of race, gender and sexuality in legal discourse.

The **CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW (CR-CL)** is a highly respected law journal, providing some of the most sought after staff positions among Harvard's varied publications⁹. This, nation's leading progressive law journal, was founded in 1966 as an instrument to advance personal freedoms and human dignities. CR-CL seeks to catalyze progressive thought and dialogue through publishing innovative legal scholarship and from various perspectives and in diverse fields of study¹⁰.

The **HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW (HELRL)**¹¹ has been published semi-annually, in winter and spring, since 1976. HELRL publishes articles on a broad range of environmental affairs, such as land use; air, water, and noise regulation; toxic substances control; radiation control; energy use; workspace pollution; science and technology control; and resource use and regulation. HELRL draws upon environmental experts from government, academia, private practice, industry and public interest groups to cover legal developments at the local, state, federal, foreign, and international levels.

The **HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNAL**¹² is an annual publication compiled and edited by the students of Harvard Law School. Now in its 16th year, the Journal publishes cutting-edge human rights scholarship by academics and practitioners, as well as student work.

The **HARVARD INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL**,¹³ founded in 1959, puts out two issues annually and is one of the most prominent reviews of international law in the United States. In 1997, the American Bar Association's International Lawyer magazine ranked it as the best student-edited international law journal in the country. As a student-run and student-edited journal, the Harvard International Law Journal provides a number of outstanding opportunities for law students. All students are welcome to participate. Typically, 1Ls subcite, tech edit, and galley proof. 2Ls and 3Ls are involved in these activities, as well as in the substantive editing of the articles, the submissions review process, and managerial positions. LL.M. candidates participate in the substantive editing of the articles and in the submissions review process. The Journal encourages all students to become as involved as they can and promotes its members based on student evaluations. However, the editor-in-chief and deputy editor-in-chief positions are decided through elections by the journal members.

The **JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY**¹⁴ is the most widely circulated student law review in the country, the leading forum for Conservative and Libertarian legal scholarship, and has a prestigious board of advisors including two U.S. Senators, four U.S. Court of Appeals Judges, and leading Conservative and Libertarian scholars. The Journal is committed to developing writing, research, and editing skills, in addition to helping students get involved in clerkships and the government.

JOURNAL OF LAW AND TECHNOLOGY¹⁵ is published by the Harvard Law Students; however, it is an independent publication which receives no funding from the law school. The Journal includes such topics as intellectual property, biotechnology, e-commerce, cyber crime, the Internet, telecommunications, and evidentiary technology.

The **JOURNAL ON LEGISLATION**¹⁶ is published semiannually (winter and summer) by Harvard Law School students. The Journal specializes in the analysis of legislation and the legislative process. The Journal is especially interested in publishing articles that examine public policy problems of nationwide significance and propose legislation to resolve them. The Journal also publishes a biannual Congress issue, which includes policy essays written by members of Congress.

The **LATINO LAW REVIEW**¹⁷ provides a forum for the scholarly discussion of legal issues affecting Latinos and Latinas in the United States. Recent articles have addressed issues including the impact of appointing a Latino Supreme Court justice, the English-only movement, the paradox of the alien-citizen, and the future of Latino legal scholarship.

HARVARD LAW REVIEW¹⁸ is published monthly from November through June and is the only independent student-run law journal in the country. This publication's primary purpose is to showcase legal scholarship, both from academics, and professionals, in addition to its own student editors, who routinely publish their works along with the big name submissions. It limits membership to second- and third-year law students who are selected on the basis of their performance in an annual writing competition. In recent years, the number of students who complete the competition has ranged from 200 to 220. Of these, between 41 and 43 will be asked to join the Review. Fourteen editors (two from each 1L section) are selected based on a combination of their first-year grades and their competition scores. Twenty-two editors are selected based solely on their competition scores. The remaining editors are selected on a discretionary basis. Some of these discretionary slots may be used to implement the Review's affirmative action policy. The competition consists of two parts. The subcite portion of the competition, worth 40% of the competition score, requires students to perform a technical and substantive edit of an excerpt from an unpublished article. The case comment portion of the competition, worth 60% of the competition score, requires students to describe and analyze a recent U.S. Supreme Court or Court of Appeals decision.

HARVARD NEGOTIATION LAW REVIEW¹⁹ is aimed specifically at lawyers and legal scholars. This relatively young publication was launched in spring of 1996 and explored interdisciplinary academic perspectives on such topics as decision analysis, litigation settlement, and the variety of mediator roles, strategies and tactics. Subsequent volumes have expanded on these topics, and included additional discussion of the lawyer's role as a problem solver, reconsideration of legal education in light of negotiation, and a range of case studies of innovative negotiation and mediation systems around the world.

The **HARVARD WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL**²⁰ has been among the nation's foremost student-edited feminist law journals since 1978. This publication is devoted to developing and advancing feminist jurisprudence, and to combining legal analysis with political, economic, historical, and sociological perspectives. In recent years, the Journal has published leading articles by professors, practitioners, and students on varied topics, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, reproductive rights, and women in the military. The Journal encourages writing by its editors and also accepts student submissions.

MOOT COURT²¹

Moot Court is mandatory as part of the First-year Lawyering course for HLS students. Students prepare initial and final drafts of memoranda and other documents by becoming familiar with accessing both paper and electronic research materials and by intensive advocacy training in the First-Year Ames Moot Court Program. Each student is required to complete submit one appellate brief and complete one argument. Upper-class students may volunteer in their second year to compete in the Ames Competition in Appellate Brief Writing and Oral Advocacy. This contest continues through the student's third year when two teams remain. First-year students may qualify to be on the Moot Court Board. Grades and an interview are part of the initial application procedure, followed by a recommendation to the faculty advisors, who approve the final appointment to the board.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²²

Harvard Law School has one of the most extensive clinical programs in the country. Each year, Harvard offers over 20 courses with clinical components. There are three types of clinical courses offered at Harvard Law School: Skills, Professional Role and Responsibility Courses, Doctrinal Policy Courses and Simulated Skills Courses.

ORGANIZATIONS²³

Harvard Law School's plethora of student organizations include the African Law Association, La Alianza, Alliance of Independent Feminists, American Constitution Society, Appleseed Center for Electoral Reform, ArtsPanel, Harvard Asia Law Society, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Harvard Association for Law and Business, HLS/KSG Association for Law and Policy, Ballroom Dance Society, Big Brother/Big Sister Organization, Black Law Students Association, Black Letter Law Journal, Board of Student Advisers, Catholic Law Students Association, Children and Family Rights Project, Christian Fellowship, Committee for Multi-Cultural Unity, Committee on Sports and Entertainment Law, Consortium on Global Leadership, Harvard Law Couples Association, Crew: Men and Women, Harvard Defenders, HLS Democrats, Direct Action, Drama Society, Environmental Law Society, Ethics, Law and Biotechnology Society, European Law Association, Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy, In Vino Veritas: Food and Wine Society, The Forum, Forum on Local Government and Politics, HLS Greens, International Law Society,

Interdenominational Alliance for Israel, JD/MBA Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Justice for Palestine, Korean Association of Harvard Law School, Labor Law Project, LAMBDA, Latin American Law Society, Latter-day Saints Student Association, Law and Health Care Society, Law and Philosophy Society, Law School Council, Legal Aid Bureau, Lincoln's Inn Society, Mediation Program, Middle East Law Students Association, Muslims at the Law School, Native American Law Students Association, Parents at the Law School, Prison Legal Assistance Project, The Harvard Law Record, HLS Republicans, Roscoe Pound Society, Scales of Justice, Soccer Club, Society for Law, Life, and Religion, Softball Club, South Asian Law Students Association, Squash Team, Student Activities Council, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Student Funded Fellowships, Student Public Interest Network, Students Organized for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Summer Associates Initiative for Legal Services, Target Shooting Club, HLS TaxHelp, Tenant Advocacy Project, Tennis Club, Veritas!, Veterans Association, Women of Color Collective, Women's Law Association, Women's Law Journal and the Yearbook.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 600+²⁴

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.4²⁵

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 67
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 22
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Numbers received via fax correspondence, dated March 25, 2004 between Mark Weber, HLS Office of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on
- 3 2003 Numbers received via fax correspondence, dated March 25, 2004 between Mark Weber, HLS Office of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 4 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 162.
- 5 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 163.
- 6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 163.
- 7 www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/publications.shtml.
- 8 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/blj/>.
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form.
We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/crcl_lawreview/index.html.
- 11 http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/envir_law_rev/index.html.
- 12 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/hrj/>.
- 13 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/ilj/>.
- 14 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/jlpp/>.
- 15 <http://jolt.law.harvard.edu/p.cgi/masthead.html>.
- 16 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/jol/>.
- 17 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/ljr/>.
- 18 <http://www.harvardlawreview.org/about.shtml>; <http://www.harvardlawreview.org/membership.shtml>.
- 19 <http://www.pon.harvard.edu/publications/hnlr/index.php3>.
- 20 http://www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/woman_law_journal/.
- 21 www.law.harvard.edu/students/catalog/cat_main.htm.
- 22 www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/faq.htm.

RANK
05

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS	MAIN PHONE	ADMISSION'S PHONE	WEBSITE ADDRESS
40 Washington Square South Vanderbilt Hall New York, New York 10012	(212) 998-6100	(212) 998-6060	www.law.nyu.edu
	REGISTRAR'S PHONE	CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE	
	(212) 998-6020	(212) 998-6090	

NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

Many students fall in love with NYU's surrounding neighborhood of Greenwich Village, and appreciate the nearby subway lines ready to take them all over Manhattan. New York University School of Law has been a pioneer in such programs as clinical education, law and business, public service, interdisciplinary colloquia, and global studies.¹

The NYU School of Law is currently ranked Number Five on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Its fall 2003 entering class numbered in at 430 students,² but with a student-faculty ratio of 11.7, faculty and students find plenty of time to meet between classes.

NYU law operates on a standard 4.0 grading scale, with a modified bell curve and most student grades falling within a 3.0 range.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 169⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 168 - 173⁵
- Median GPA: 3.7⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.52 - 3.82⁷
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 8,639
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,617
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 18.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03110.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

NYU does not rank its students, nor does it provide cumulative GPA's on transcripts. No official record is kept of student GPA's and the records office is not authorized to verify any student GPA estimated by the student.⁹

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

	B+ 3.33	C+ N/A	
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- N/A	F 0.00

FIRST-YEAR GRADE DISTRIBUTION:¹⁰

RECOMMENDED	4 – 8%	10 – 16%	24 – 33%	REMAINDER	4 –	0 –	0 –	0 –
BASED ON NYU	(TARGET 6%)	(13%)	(28 – 29%)		11%	5%	5%	5%
LAW CURVE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C	D	F
	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.0	1.0	0

The guidelines for first-year J.D. courses are mandatory and binding on faculty members. In other cases, the guidelines are strongly recommended but not enforced. They do not apply to any courses with less than 28 students.

OTHER J.D. AND L.L.M. GRADE DISTRIBUTION:¹¹

RECOMMENDED	4 – 8%	10 – 16%	24 – 33%	REMAINDER	4 –	0 –	0 –	0 –
BASED ON NYU	(TARGET 6%)	(13%)	(28 – 29%)	11%	5%	5%	5%	5%
LAW CURVE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C	D	F
	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.0	1.0	0

HONORS:¹²

Order of the Coif:	10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	1 or 2 students
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	10%
<i>Cum laude</i> :	25%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:

More than 50 each year are available.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

The **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL (ELJ)**¹⁴ is one of six student-run publications at NYU Law. The Journal focuses on cutting edge environmental issues as its name suggests, and the selection process gives a great deal of importance to a student's demonstrated interest in the field and writing ability rather than grades. Together with the other journals, the ELJ participates in an annual writing competition to select staff members and editors. Participants have two weeks to complete the competition, which consists of a closed-universe case comment and submission of personal statements to each of the journals by which the participants would like to be considered. The NYU Law Review coordinates the annual competition on behalf of all the journals.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ANNUAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN LAW¹⁵ is a student-edited journal at NYU Law dedicated to exploring emerging trends and contemporary legal developments in the United States. The Journal features articles by legal scholars who provide interpretation and analysis of cutting edge cases and legislation. The Journal is widely distributed overseas and provides insight into the American legal system for foreign legal scholars and professionals. To gain membership, students must participate in the annual writing contest, and first year grades as well as a 500 word essay are given consideration. Students are encouraged to use the essay to describe distinguishing features about themselves or their interest in the subject.

The **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW**,¹⁶ founded in 1924, publishes six issues each year. Second-year staff members of the Law Review must research a note on a topic of interest to the staff member, help in the production of journal issues by cite and substance checking, proofreading, and evaluating articles and notes submitted for publication, and schedule two three-hour slots per week in the Law Review office. Third-year members of the Law Review take primary responsibility for editing second-year notes as well as articles by outside authors. Third-year members also participate in the management of the journal. The Law Review annually invites between 40 and 45 incoming second-year students to join their staff. All first-year students interested in joining must sign up in late spring for the writing competition, which is held immediately following final exams. The Law Review makes its selections by four methods: the 16 – 18 students with the highest GPAs (determined on a section-by-section rather than class-wide basis) will be extended an offer of membership, provided that their writing competition scores place them in the top two-thirds of all entrants; the eight or nine students with the highest writing competition scores will be invited to join the Law Review, without regard to their GPAs; and the eight or nine students with the next highest writing competition scores will also be invited to join the Law Review, provided that their GPAs place them in the top two-thirds of the entire first year class; 10 – 12 students will be chosen pursuant to the Law Review’s Diversity and Affirmative Action Policy.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLITICS¹⁷ features articles on international legal topics by leading scholars and practitioners, as well as notes, case comments, and book annotations written by Journal members. Staff members are second-year J.D. candidates who are selected from participants in NYU’s annual writing competition. In March of each year, staff editors may apply for executive board positions which become effective on April 1. The executive board is selected by the previous board, and is responsible for the management of the Journal. Article and note editors are third-year students who rigorously edit the piece assigned to them and supervise the cite and substance checking and editing of their staff teams.

The **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY**,¹⁸ as the name suggests, seeks to provide non-partisan analysis of legislation and public policy. The Journal places greatest emphasis on discussion of legislative issues, including reform and the organizational and procedural factors affecting the efficiency of legislative decision-making. Membership is garnered by a combination of grades and writing.

The **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE**⁹ is a quarterly publication that focuses on the ability of the concerned law student or attorney to create avenues for social change through law. In addition to publishing the work of NYU students, articles by nationally recognized scholars, legal practitioners, and activists are also published. The Review also provides a venue and network for members to participate in public service.

MOOT COURT²⁰

Moot Court is not a mandatory activity for first-year students at NYU and is an elective organization made up of 60 students. Students must participate in a writing competition in order to become members of the board. The moot court board administers an internal oral/argument/brief writing competition for all second- and third-year students and sends teams to moot court competitions. Additionally, the board publishes a casebook that is used throughout the country.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²¹

NYU Law has the nation's premier clinical program, as well as its largest and most diverse. Students interested in pursuing clinical studies may choose from an enormous variety of areas, including, civil rights, criminal defense work, human rights work, government litigation, criminal prosecution, corporate work in public and private sectors, general civil litigation, poverty law, family law, juvenile rights, environmental law, and international environmental law. What's more, because NYU Law's full-time clinical faculty is by far the largest in the country, the faculty-student ratio in these courses is extremely low (typically, a clinical faculty member teaches 8 to 10 students).

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 548+²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 97.4²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 72
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 16
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 472.
- 2 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/admissions/info/jd/classprofile.html>
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2004 Edition, page 164.
- 5 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/admissions/info/jd/classprofile.html>
- 6 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2004 Edition, page 164.
- 7 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/admissions/info/jd/classprofile.html>
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 234.
- 9 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/studentaffairs/publications/handbook/jdregs.pdf> at pg. 9
- 10 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/studentaffairs/publications/handbook/grades.html>
- 11 Id.
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 235.
- 13 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/journalspubs/>.
- 14 <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/elj/>.
- 15 <http://www.nyu.edu/pubs/annualsurvey/about.html>
- 16 <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/lawreview/about.html>; <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/lawreview/joining.html>.
- 17 <http://www.nyu.edu/pubs/jilp/>.
- 18 <http://www.nyu.edu/pubs/jlpp/about.html>.
- 19 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/pubs/socialchange/>.
- 20 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 234.
- 21 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/clinics/>.
- 22 <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/careerservices/recruiting/index.html>.
- 23 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 471.
- 24 Id.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS Northwestern University School of Law 357 East Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60611	MAIN PHONE (312) 503-3100	ADMISSION'S PHONE (312) 503-8465	WEBSITE ADDRESS www.law.nwu.edu
	REGISTRAR'S PHONE (312) 503-8464	CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE (312) 503-8438	

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Chicago's cold winters often come early, just in time to motivate first-year law students at Northwestern to stay indoors and get all of their required reading done. Although the law school environment in downtown Chicago is not quite as nice as that surrounding the main campus in the nearby suburb of Evanston, students rarely complain since the location allows many of them to remain closer to their part-time jobs and summer internships. The school is in close proximity to courts, commerce and public interest groups, allowing students to experience the law in action.

Northwestern University Law School is currently ranked Number 10 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The small entering class size of 242 students is a big draw to many applicants. It helps the school keep the student-faculty ratio at about 11.1, one of the lowest among the top 50 schools.

Northwestern grades on a modified 4-point scale with a range of 4.33-0.00, A+ to F. Individual courses are normalized with a B+ to B- curve, with a majority of grades falling in the B range. No individual or percentile rankings are provided by the law school. However, GPA cut-offs for honor distinctions are provided.¹

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:²

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 1693, 25th - 75th Percentile: 166 - 170
- Median GPA: 3.64, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.4 - 3.8
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 5,222
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 823
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 15.8

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- N/A	F 0.00

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

A mandatory curve is applied to all courses with over 40 students enrolled. A professor in such a course must comply with the following distribution:⁶

GRADES	PERCENTAGES
A+	3 – 7%
A	12 – 15%
A-	10 – 15%
B+	15 – 30%
B	20 – 35%
B-	10 – 15%
C+	0 – 7.5%
C	0 – 7.5%
D/F	0 – 7%

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁷	*Northwestern does not rank its students.					2.25

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% at faculty's discretion
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	4.20 GPA (under a transition rule during the 2000-2001, and 2001-2002 academic years, conferred to top 3% of class) ⁹
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.97 GPA (at least top 3% of class; honors conferred under a transition rule during the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 academic years)
<i>Cum laude</i> :	3.65 GPA (at least top 30% of class; honors conferred under a transition rule during the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 academic years)
Dean's List:	3.50 GPA

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Lowden/Wigmore Prize	For best written contribution to the three law school journals and to the finalists of the second-year moot court competition (2).
Wigmore Key	Awarded by the Student Bar Association and faculty to the student who has done the most toward preserving the traditions of the law school.
Harold D. Shapiro Prize	Best student in business planning course.
Arlyn Miner Book Award	Members of the first-year class who wrote the best briefs in legal writing classes the previous semester (8).
John Paul Stevens Award	Graduating student with highest GPA.
Adlai Stevenson II Award	For best brief in second-year moot court competition (2).

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Academy of Trial Lawyers Award	Best individual speaker in second-year moot court competition.
Senior Research Honors	Students registered in Senior Research who receive an A+ on their research paper (4).
Raoul Berger Prize	Best senior research or third-year seminar paper.
William Jennings Bryan Award	(2)
Joseph Cummins Memorial Scholarship	Most outstanding second-year student in trial advocacy course.
International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award	Most outstanding third-year student in trial advocacy course.
Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition: American Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers	Best student papers on local government law. (2)

JOURNALS¹¹

Northwestern University School of Law's journals include the Northwestern University Law Review,¹² the Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology,¹³ the Journal of International Law & Business,¹⁴ Northwestern Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property,¹⁵ and the Journal of International Human Rights.¹⁶ All journals utilize a combination of grades and a writing competition, held immediately following first-year spring semester final exams. Second-year students may vie for a limited number of spots by writing on to a journal. However, during the fall semester, write-on candidates must meet the same writing requirements and perform all of the duties of a student with full membership. Upon completion of the fall semester, write-on candidates are notified as to whether they have achieved membership status.¹⁷

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW produces four issues per year with topics that broadly cover the spectrum of legal scholarship. This is the premiere publication of Northwestern Law, whose website boasts several notable past editors. Currently, the students are chosen via grades and writing, vying for the most prestigious review membership at this institution.

JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW & CRIMINOLOGY is an interdisciplinary publication produced to reflect on the causes of and responses to crime, from the perspective of both law and social science. The members of this journal garner the unique experience of scholarly research in addition to devising practical solutions to the changing dynamics of criminal law in America. The school's website boasts this publication to be one of the most widely distributed in the nation on the topic of criminology, consulted by legal scholars, legal professionals and social scientists alike.

JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & BUSINESS focuses on transnational issues and how they affect both the private and the public sector. The publication hosts scholarly articles by academics and professionals, perspectives on important issues of international law, and case notes and comments by the staff and editors, who are selected on the basis of the general Law Review criterion.

NORTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY is a young publication which has launched its premiere issue in spring 2003 and will be launching a website by March 2004. The Journal will be published in online format so as to put forth the newest information as soon as it is available, given the nature of the subject matter. The students who work on this publication learn about the intersection of laws in the field of intellectual property, technology and the internet. In addition, they are given the chance to work under advisement of practitioners and gain experience both in technology law practice, web design and website management.

JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS is dedicated to providing a forum for vigorous discussion of human rights and the role of the law. Since the study of human rights moves across different disciplines, this Journal accommodates this fact by using a multidisciplinary approach to its substantive content, which can include social science, ethics and business among others. The students are selected for this Journal based on the general guidelines aforementioned; in addition, a student's demonstrated interest in human rights law or other related subjects is also given consideration.

MOOT COURT¹⁸

First-year students at Northwestern are introduced to appellate brief preparation and argument through the mandatory Arlyn Miner First-Year Moot Court Competition. Second-year students may elect to participate in the Julius H. Miner Moot Court Competition during the spring semester; this competition is administered by third year students, under faculty supervision. Furthermore, students may try out for one of Northwestern's trial teams, which include both national and international teams that compete with other law schools. First-year students are encouraged to prepare briefs on timely international law issues in order to be selected for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court, and compete across the fifty states. Additionally, first- and second-year students can also compete to be on the William C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court, by preparing and arguing briefs about international commercial and business transactions. This contest takes students to a competition in Vienna, where students compete at an international level with teams from the US and abroad.¹⁹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

The school offers the following clinical programs: Intro to Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy, Pre-trial Litigation, Clinical Practice I and II, The Center for International Human Rights, The Children and Family Justice Center, Small Business Opportunity Clinic, and Corporate Counsel, Criminal, Public Interest and Judicial practicum.

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

Northwestern University School of Law student organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Cabrini Green Youth Program, Christian Legal Society, Corporate Law Society, Diversity Coalition, The D.R.E.A.M. Committee, Environmental Law Society, The Federalist Society, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, Investment Club, JD/LLM International Lawyers' Association, JD/MBA Association, The Jewish Law Students' Association, Justinian Society of Lawyers, Labor Law Society, Latino Law Students Association, Muslim Law Students Association, Northwestern University Law Golf Association, Phi Alpha Delta International Law Fraternity, Fuller Chapter, The Pleader, Public Interest Law Group, Northwestern Republicans, Student Bar Association, Northwestern University Single-Malt Scotch Club, Small Business Opportunity Clinic, South Asian Law Students Association, Student Funded Public Interest Fellowships Program, Toastmasters and Women's Leadership Coalition.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: over 325²²
Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 96.7²³
Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.9

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 77
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 13
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 These statements are designed to provide an overview of Northwestern's grading policies. All information is found on the Law School's website, NALP Directory or student surveys. The statistics are explained in detail in the "Grades and Ranking" section and footnoted accordingly.
- 2 Fall 2003 statistics provided via e-mail correspondence between BCG research staff and Rachel Sands, Senior Associate Director, Center for Career Strategy and Advancement.
- 3 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/depts/admissions/profile/index.htm>
- 4 Id.
- 5 http://www.law.northwestern.edu/mainpages/curriculum/grading_policy.htm
- 6 Id.
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 250.
- 8 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category. E-mail correspondence dated 1/13/03 from Don Rebstock, Associate Dean of Enrollment, Northwestern University School of Law to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 9 Information provided via e-mail correspondence between BCG research staff and Rachel Sands, Senior Associate Director, Center for Career Strategy and Advancement.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 250.
- 11 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/depts/legalpub/index.htm>.
- 12 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/lawreview/>.
- 13 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/>.
- 14 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/jilb/>.
- 15 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/njtip/>.
- 16 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/jihr/>.
- 17 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 250.
- 18 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 249.
- 19 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/mainpages/curriculum/mootcourt.htm>
- 20 Id.
- 21 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/depts/affairs/orgs/index.htm>.
- 22 Provided by the Northwestern University School of Law's Admissions Office.
- 23 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 499.
- 24 Id.

RANK

42

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS

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Columbus, Ohio 43210

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(614) 292-2631

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WEBSITE ADDRESS

moritzlaw.osu.edu

MICHAEL E. MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW

The Ohio State University, Michael E. Moritz College of Law has played a principal role in the legal profession since its founding in 1891, and has continued in this tradition through the countless contributions made by alumni and faculty. Graduates of the College of Law have gone on to live and practice in all parts of the nation and internationally, and include justices of the Ohio Supreme Court, current and former U.S. Senators and Representatives, managing partners in law firms of all sizes, chief executive officers of Fortune 500 corporations, and attorneys with non-profit organizations and public interest law firms.¹

The Ohio State University, Michael E. Moritz College of Law is currently ranked Number 42 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. It is located in the capital city of Columbus, Ohio, a Midwestern metropolis with a small-town feel. The Moritz College of Law, as an integral part of the Ohio State University, offers students a wide range of academic, professional, cultural, artistic, and recreational activities.² Students may pursue joint degrees with the Ohio State University's more than 100 graduate programs, or a certificate in the school's nationally ranked program in the emerging area of alternative dispute resolution. Additionally, students can take part in one of the school's stellar clinical programs. The College of Law's fall 2003 entering class numbered in at just 266 students,³ and the school has a palatable student-faculty ratio of 14.4.

Ohio State uses a 100-point system that equates easily with the traditional 4-point system. The school ranks students once each spring, but does not factor first-year grades as heavily in the final rankings for upper-class students. Ohio also follows a strict bell curve for first-year classes, which is essentially a B curve. However, a sizeable percentage of the grades are C's and A's. Only the first-year courses are graded on this mandatory curve.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 159⁵, 25th – 75th Percentile: 155 – 162⁶

Median GPA: 3.60⁷, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.36 – 3.79⁸

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,500

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 655

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 26.2

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL GRADE	POINT VALUE
A	100 – 93	4.0
B	92 – 85	3.0
C	84 – 77	2.0
D	76 – 69	1.0

* Only the top 10% of students are ranked once a year in the spring. When calculating rankings, first-year grades are not considered as heavily as second- and third-year grades. First-year classes are all graded on a strict curve with a mandatory grade distribution for each class. A student's grade often depends greatly upon the caliber of other students in the class. Students in a class with academically excellent classmates can often receive harsher grades than those in a mediocre one.

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):¹¹

FIRST-YEAR COURSES:

A's = 25%

B's = 45%

C's = 26%

D's or E's may not be assigned to any more than 4% of the class and may only be assigned with there is a clear lack of effort or progress.

For second- and third-year courses, the faculty is provided with a recommended grade distribution based on patterns in past classes. The faculty may elect to adhere to such distributions, either wholly or in part or merely use them as a reference. Thus, a mandatory curve exists only for the first-year courses.¹²

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹³

Order of the Coif:	10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Top 3%
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 25%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁴

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Ohio State Law Journal Awards	Chosen by faculty advisor & law journal staff (4).
Journal on Dispute Resolution	Chosen by faculty & JDR staff (2).
Moot Court Awards	Chosen by faculty advisor (4).
Leadership Awards	Chosen by dean & faculty (4).
Clinic Awards	Chosen by dean & clinic faculty (2).
Tax Award	Highest average in tax course.
Academic Excellence	Highest cumulative average in each class (10).
Labor & Employment	Chosen by dean & faculty.
Bankruptcy	Chosen by dean & faculty.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Dispute Resolution	Best research papers in ADR coursework.
John Marshall Adams Constitutional Law Award	Top student in constitutional law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁵

OHIO STATE LAW JOURNAL¹⁶ is edited and managed by students and is published six times a year. Students achieving the highest grades in their small sections during the mandatory first-year legal writing classes are automatically invited to join. Additional students are invited through participation in a writing competition. Ranked 19th in the country, the Law Journal has a wide readership and enjoys considerable prestige in the legal community. The students are encouraged to edit and author works for publication.

THE OHIO STATE JOURNAL ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION (JDR),¹⁷ now in its seventeenth year of publication, is a student-initiated, student-edited publication dedicated to the exploration of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The JDR publishes four issues annually, consisting of two article issues, a symposium, and an annotated bibliography issue. The JDR invites students receiving the top two grades in each of the College's first-year Legal Writing and Analysis sections to become staff members. In addition, the JDR extends membership offers to students based on their performance in the annual summer writing competition, held jointly with the Ohio State Law Journal and open to all students.

MOOT COURT¹⁸

In the fall of their second-year, students must participate in a mandatory appellate advocacy course. In the spring of their second-year, students may participate in a voluntary moot court competition, which is used to select students for interscholastic moot court teams, a very highly regarded honor. Moritz College sends 46 students on 17 teams to interscholastic competitions, and over 200 students participate in moot court, negotiation and trial advocacy competitions beyond the required course. All intramural and interscholastic lawyering skills competitions are administered by the Moot Court and Lawyering Skills Governing Board. Board members are selected by outgoing Board members through a series of interviews. All board members are third-year students who demonstrate the ability, maturity, and judgment to perform such a vital service for the College and its students. The faculty advisor serves as the director of the Moot Court and Lawyering Skills Competition Program.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁹

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law offers the following clinical programs: Civil Law Clinic, Prosecution Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Children's Rights Clinic, Multi-Party, Complex Claims Mediation Clinic, Small Claims Mediation Clinic, and the Legislation Clinic. These clinical programs earned high marks from students responding to our survey, which indicated that they are very hands-on and provide excellent practical experience outside of the classroom.²⁰

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

The Ohio State University, Michael E. Moritz College of Law's students organizations include the Advocates for Children, American Constitution Society, Appellate Advocacy Council, Asian/Pacific-American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Business Law Society, Christian

Legal Society, Criminal Law Society, Cyber, Intellectual Property, Entertainment Law Society, Delta Theta Phi, Dispute Resolution Association, Dispute Resolution and Youth, Environmental Law Association, Federalist Society, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Association, Health Law Society, Hearsay, Hispanic Law Students Association, International Law Society, Inter-Professional Council, Islamic Law Students Association, Jewish Law Students Association, J. Reuben Clark, Society, Labor & Employment Law Association, Law School Democrats, Law School Republicans, Law Students for Equal Opportunity Education, Minority Law Outreach Program, Moot Court and Lawyering Skills Governing Board, Moritz College of Law Rugby Football Club, Moritz Community Outreach Project, National Lawyers Guild, Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution, Ohio State Law Journal, Ohio State Law Students for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Ohio State Student Legislation Association, OutLaws, Pro Bono Research Group, Public Interest Law Foundation, Sports and Entertainment Law Association, Street Law, Student Bar Association, Student Chapter of Animal Legal Defense Fund, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Women's Law Caucus.

Average number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 125²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 73.5²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 91.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 61
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 7
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 13
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 12
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 4

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/admissions/information/overview.html>.
- 2 <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/welcome.html>.
- 3 <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/admissions/information/profile.html>.
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on
- 5 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03126.php
- 6 Id.
- 7 Id.
- 8 Id.
- 9 <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/docs/webhandbook.pdf>
- 10 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 11 <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/docs/webhandbook.pdf> pg. 21
- 12 Id.
- 13 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 262.
- 14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 262.
- 15 http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/students/life/student_orgs.html.
- 16 http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/students/life/student_orgs_full.html#Journal
- 17 http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/students/life/student_orgs_full.html#DR
- 18 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 261.
- 19 Id.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/students/life/student_orgs.html.
- 22 E-mail correspondence dated 1/9/03 from Ameer McKim, Assistant Dean of Professional Development at The Ohio State University School of Law, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 23 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03126.php
- 24 Id.

RANK

47

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

MAILING ADDRESS

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

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WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.law.smu.edu

DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW

SMU Dedman School of Law is currently ranked Number 47 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The Law School Quadrangle is comprised of a four-building complex, occupying six acres on the northwest corner of the SMU campus. Situated in a beautiful residential neighborhood, the campus is abundant in greenery, and lies just five miles north of downtown Dallas.¹ The Dedman School of Law offers a quiet retreat within reach of a lively urban center.

SMU strikes a winning combination with its rich curriculum, small class sizes, diverse and highly talented faculty and student body, and distinguished guest lecturers. While SMU offers its students a wide variety of courses to choose from, SMU excels in molding corporate and tax attorneys. Students choosing to go into business law are encouraged to take up to six hours of classes from the university's top business school and apply them towards their degree.² Additionally, the school offers a highly coveted summer program in Oxford, England, and several clinical programs, including one of the country's very few in taxation.³

The school has a student-faculty ratio of 16.5 and enrolled 261 students for its fall 2003 entering class.

SMU grades on a standard 4-point systems with a system that is extremely unique among top tier schools. SMU appears to have actual grade deflation, with the top 50% receiving GPA's of 2.9 or lower. The classes are graded on a strict B- curve with most grades falling between a 2.8 to a 2.9.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2002 entering class:

Median LSAT: 81st percentile⁵, 25th – 75th Percentile: 155 – 163⁶

Median GPA: 3.47⁷, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.2 – 3.77

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,720

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 631

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.2

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03150.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

	B+	3.3	C+	2.3			
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

The grading curve is set for a B- average. Since SMU enforces a fairly strict bell curve, most grades tend to gravitate toward the 2.7-3.0 range in the more academically challenging classes, with one to three A's. Courses that are only offered once or are specialized and not part of the core curriculum are not required to adhere to the same grading standard, and the grades in these classes can be extremely skewed to one direction. Overall, GPAs, as a result of the B- curve, are somewhat lower than at other top schools.⁹

CLASS RANK:

The following curve pertains to the Class of 2004:

PERCENTILE SMU ¹⁰	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
	3.449	3.224	3.146	2.990	N/A	2.0

SMU only provides a ranking system of the top 10%, top 25% and top 50%. The NALP numbers above indicate that it is possible to be in the bottom half of the classes while still averaging the curve mean.

The following percentile breakdowns are provided by the career services for the next three graduating classes:¹¹

<u>1L – CLASS OF 2006</u>	<u>2L – CLASS OF 2005</u>	<u>3L – CLASS OF 2004</u>
276 Students (13 – 30 hours earned)	271 Students (31 – 66 hours earned)	283 Students (67+ hours earned)
N/A	Top 10% = 3.486	Top 10% = 3.449
N/A	Top 25% = 3.247	Top 25% = 3.224
Top 33% = 3.181	Top 33% = 3.117	Top 33% = 3.146
Top 50% = 3.018	Top 50% = 2.969	Top 50% = 2.990

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif:	Approx 10%;	3.4 GPA; 24 students
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Approx 0.40%;	3.8 GPA; 1 – 2 students
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	2.0%;	3.6 GPA; 5 students
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Approx 20%;	3.2 GPA; 54 students
Dean's List:	Top 25% each semester	

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Order of the Coif	15 members of second- and third-year class selected by current students.
Phi Delta Phi Award	Highest grade in class.
Brief Awards	Nominated by Legal Research Writing Instructors (32).
Scholarships	Financial Aid Committee chooses from top 20% of admitted pool.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁴

SMU publishes five journals. While working on any of the five journals is coveted, *SMU Law Review* is considered the most prestigious, with the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce* not too far behind. The *International Lawyer* is also a highly competitive journal.¹⁵ The *SMU Law Review* and the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce* are published by the SMU Law Review Association. The *SMU Law Review*, the *International Lawyer*, and the *NAFTA: Law and Business Review of the Americas* each select its editorial staff on the basis of academic performance and a writing competition. The writing competition is open to all second- and third-year law students, including transfer students, and is generally held during the week before the start of the fall semester. The *Computer Law Review and Technology Journal* uses a selection procedure determined by its faculty advisor and student board of editors. The operation and management of each publication is vested in an elected board of editors. The board, selected from the staff, is made up of third-year students who have exhibited a strong ability in legal research and writing.

The **SMU LAW REVIEW**¹⁶ is published four times a year and each issue includes articles by prominent legal scholars and practitioners dealing with significant questions of local, national, and international law. In addition, articles by students analyze recent cases, statutes, and developments in the law. All editing is done by the board of editors, the members of which receive academic credit for their work. Each year the Law Review also produces an annual issue dealing only with Texas law, and the trends and developments thereof. Student surveys provided that membership is primarily based on GPA with only two or three spots being filled with the summer write-on competition.¹⁷

The **LAW & BUSINESS REVIEW OF THE AMERICAS**¹⁸ is an interdisciplinary publication addressing the legal, business, economic, political, and social policy dimensions of the North American Free Trade Agreement, its implementation, its continuing evolution and expansion, and its overall impact on doing business in the Western Hemisphere. The journal is co-sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of International Law and Practice, SMU School of Law, the Edwin L. Cox School of Business, and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies of Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London.

The **COMPUTER LAW REVIEW & TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL**¹⁹ is a quarterly publication of the Computer Section of the State Bar of Texas. Highly qualified second- and third-year SMU School of Law students with strong technology interests and years of experience serve as the editorial board and staff. The Journal contains articles relating to computer hardware and software, including patent, copyright, and intellectual property law, as well as articles of general interest to computer buffs.

The **JOURNAL OF AIR LAW AND COMMERCE**,²⁰ a quarterly publication of the School of Law, is the oldest scholarly periodical in the English language devoted primarily to the legal and economic problems affecting aviation and space. It has a worldwide circulation with more than 2,000 subscribers in some 60 countries.

The **INTERNATIONAL LAWYER**²¹ is the official quarterly publication of the American Bar Association's Section of International Law and Practice. The publication focuses primarily on practical issues of international law, including international trade, licensing, direct investment, finance, taxation, litigation, and dispute resolution. Student surveys indicated that this publication is fast becoming the top student publication in the school, with some of the top students, eligible for Law Review, declining membership to join the *International Lawyer*.²²

MOOT COURT²³

The Moot Court Program at SMU is designed to introduce students to the art of persuasion by written and oral legal arguments. All first-year students participate during the spring semester in a single elimination competition. Board members are selected based on participation and interest during their first year. The competition is considered a great way to hone one's litigation skills in a school that tends to focus its curriculum on other areas.²⁴ For upper-class students there is an opportunity to join the Mock Trial Board which works with and prepares teams for various national and international Moot Court competitions.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁵

SMU offers a total of seven clinical programs which include: Child Advocacy, Civil Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Tax Clinic, and Trial Advocacy. Student response to the clinics was excellent, and those who chose to participate felt that the hands-on work they were provided with was one of the most rewarding and challenging aspects of their education at SMU. The clinics are graded very strictly and are the most time intensive course options at SMU. Survey participants felt that the Criminal and Civil clinics were the best to participate in because of greater opportunity for "hands on" experience.²⁶

ORGANIZATIONS²⁷

SMU's student organizations include the Asian American Law Students Association, Barristers, Black Law Students Association, Board of Advocates, Christian Legal Society, Corporate Law Association, Delta Theta Phi, Family Law Association, Federalist Society, Health Law Association, Hispanic American Law Students Association, Inn of Court, Intellectual Property Organization, International Law Society, Interscholastic Competition Board, Jewish Law Students Association, LEGALS (Lesbian and Gay Law Students), Litigation Skills, Mock Trial Board, Moot Court Board, The National Lawyer's Guild, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Student Bar Association, Texas Trial Lawyer's Association, Tutorial Program and Women in Law.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 100+²⁸

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 62²⁹

Percentage of grades employed nine months after graduation: 97.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³⁰

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 68.9
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 8.0
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 8.5
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1.9
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 10.8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.smu.edu/lawschool/lawintro.htm>.
- 2 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 3 <http://www.law.smu.edu/lawschool/deanmessage.htm>.
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on
- 5 www.smu.edu/newsinfo/releases/01288.html: "Over the last four years, undergraduate GPAs for entering students have risen from 3.17 to 3.47, and scores on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) have increased from a 74th to a 81st percentile."
- 6 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03150.php
- 7 Id.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 330.
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this .
- 10 http://career.law.smu.edu/ClassRankPercentiles2_04.shtm
- 11 Id.
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 330.
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 330.
- 14 <http://www.law.smu.edu/lawschool/scholar.htm>.
- 15 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 16 <http://www.smu.edu/lra/>
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://www.smu.edu/nafta/>
- 19 <http://www.smu.edu/csr/>
- 20 <http://www.smu.edu/lra/jalc/>
- 21 <http://www.smu.edu/ilra/til.htm>
- 22 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 23 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 329.
- 24 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 25 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 329.
- 26 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 27 <http://www.law.smu.edu/lawschool/studentorgs.htm>.
- 28 <http://career.law.smu.edu/RecruitingServices.shtm>. The number is taken from the statement "...over 80 firms, corporations..." in regards to the fall on-campus interviews as well as an educated guess that more than 20 firms participate in the spring on-campus interviews.
- 29 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03150.php
- 30 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 627.

RANK

03

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STANFORD LAW SCHOOL

Currently ranked Number Three on the *U.S. World and News Report* list of Tier One law schools, Stanford falls behind Harvard for the first time in a few years. Stanford is in many ways the "Yale of the West Coast." Many students who completed their undergraduate education on the East Coast or elsewhere in the country actually prefer to try to gain admission to this excellent school located in one of the most picturesque coastal regions of Northern California.

With an entering class size of about 170 students and a student-faculty ratio of 11.7, Stanford is able to offer the same degree of classroom discussions and access to professors that Yale provides its students.

Stanford's clinical studies program offers students the opportunity to undertake, under the close supervision of experienced practitioners, the roles and responsibilities of practicing lawyers.¹ Stanford receives approximately 5,000 applications most years. This is probably due to the incredible faculty, the proximity to the epicenter of the technology revolution, the marvelous climate, and the strong interest many students have in living near the coast of California for at least part of their lives.

Stanford grades on a 4-point scale and the classes are generally curved; however, Stanford does not reveal the relative mean of the grading curve. Students are provided with the opportunity to take un-graded courses on a credit/ no credit basis, but high credit and low credit designations are still possible. Stanford's career services center advises employers that the law school's stringent admission policies and the mandatory curve in most classes makes grade distinctions among the student body extremely slight and not a good indicator of the individual's abilities.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2002 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 168³, 25th - 75th Percentile: 166 - 171
- Median GPA: 3.7⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.73 - 3.95
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 5139
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 386
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 7.5

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A+	4.2 - 4.3	B+	3.2 - 3.3		
A	3.9 - 4.1	B	2.9 - 3.1	R	2.2
A-	3.5 - 3.8	B-	2.5 - 2.8	F	2.1

CLASS RANK:

Stanford does not rank its students. The law school grading system also employs three symbols for credit/noncredit courses: K = Credit, RK = restricted credit and NK = no credit. K indicates performance at a grade level of B- (2.5) or better, RK indicates performance at a grade level of R (2.2) or better, and NK indicates a performance at a grade level of F (2.1). There are several courses that are graded mandatory 3K either as a school policy or at the discretion of the faculty member. These grades show on the transcript as KM. Students are prohibited from disclosing their shadow grades in the above “K” system courses to employers. Employers who use the Law School facilities may not ask students about their shadow grades during either on-campus or off-campus interviews.⁶

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

Order of the Coif: Top 10%
With Distinction: Top 1/3 at graduation

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Nathan Abbott Scholar	Highest cumulative GPA at the end of third year.
Urban A. Sontheimer (third year)	Second highest cumulative GPA.
Second-Year Honor	Highest cumulative GPA at the end of second year.
Frank Belcher Evidence Award	Best academic work in Evidence.
Steven M. Block Civil Liberties Award	Best written work on personal freedom issues.
Carl Mason Franklin Prize/ Int'l Law	Outstanding papers in International Law (2).
Olaus & Adolph Murie Award	Best written work in Environmental Law (2).
Hilmer Pehlmann Jr. Prizes	First-year research and writing award (18).
Marion Rice Kirkwood Moot Court	Best oral advocate, best brief, best team, runner-up team (4).
Stanford Law Review	Best editorial contribution to Stanford Law Review

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

Stanford publishes seven journals, including two online publications. Stanford is one of the few schools that select journal members entirely based on the school's writing competition.

STANFORD LAW REVIEW^o annually publishes one volume, which appears in six separate issues between November and July. Each issue contains material written by student members of the Law Review, other Stanford law students, and outside contributors such as law professors, judges, and practicing lawyers. Law Review participants select, edit, and publish articles and notes on the cutting edge of legal scholarship. The Law Review is a fully self sustaining enterprise, operated entirely by Stanford Law School students and is independent of faculty and administration.

The **STANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL (ELJ)**¹¹ was founded in 1978, and is now considered one of the best environmental law journals in the nation. ELJ is a semiannual scholarly periodical dedicated to analyses of current environmental legal issues and policies.

THE STANFORD JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (SJIL)¹² is a scholarly periodical devoted to analyses of current international legal issues. The student-run biannual prints articles by professors, practitioners, and students on a wide range of legal topics, including public international law, human rights, international trade, and comparative law. The staff of SJIL is composed of approximately 50 members and 20 editors who work closely with authors on the material for each issue. First-year students are encouraged to participate in the spring workshop and can become editors by the end of their second semester.

The goal of **STANFORD AGORA: AN ONLINE JOURNAL OF LEGAL PERSPECTIVES**¹³ is to recreate the openness of the Athenian agora by designing the law journal of the new century. Agora seeks to bridge the gap between the law and other academic disciplines by examining central issues in contemporary society via a symposium format that incorporates a broad range of interdisciplinary approaches to law. All law school students are welcome and invited to join Agora, but students with experience in fields outside of law are especially encouraged to bring their input to the journal.

The **STANFORD JOURNAL OF LAW, BUSINESS & FINANCE (SJLBF)**¹⁴ is a semiannual publication dedicated to exploring legal issues in the fields of business and finance. Edited and operated by students in all three classes of the law school, SJLBF brings a practical focus to the world of legal scholarship. Furthermore, members of SJLBF are encouraged to assume both editorial and business responsibilities. Ultimately, members who demonstrate excellence and commitment to the SJLBF have the opportunity to assume leadership positions and to join SJLBF's steering committee.

The **STANFORD LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY REVIEW (SLPR)**¹⁵ is a non-ideological publication, which in addition to possessing all the components of a fully functional law review, is also a small business. Students are responsible for all aspects of managing and producing this journal. Staffing for SLPR comes from all three law school classes. Students can join as editor candidates during their first year. More experienced editors may become article editors responsible for an entire article. Second- and third-year students may also be selected to sit on the managing board.

Founded in 1997, the **STANFORD TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW (STLR)**¹⁶ is an innovative forum for intellectual discourse on critical issues at the intersection of law, science, technology, and public policy. STLR's electronic format allows immediate reader response as well as ongoing Virtual Symposia. Membership in STLR provides students with interests in technology the opportunity to work with noted scholars in their fields of interest, develop strong writing and editing skills, and gain experience with internet publishing technology.

MOOT COURT¹⁷

First-year students participate in Moot Court as part of their legal research and writing class. Second- and third-year students may participate for two units of credit in the intra-school Marion Rice Kirkwood competition, which is administered by a faculty advisor and the moot court board. Board membership is based on previous participation in the Kirkwood competition. Students may also participate in the interschool moot court competitions.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁸

Stanford University Law School's clinical programs include the Advanced East Palo Alto Clinic, Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Cyberlaw Clinic, Advanced Education Clinic, Environmental Clinic, Externships in Special Circumstances, Civil Law, Criminal Law and Criminal Law Seminars, Federal Litigation, Mediation, Negotiation and Advanced Negotiation.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁹

Stanford University Law School's student organizations include the Advanced Degree Student Association, American Constitution Society, Asian and Pacific Islander Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Building Community Day, Christian Legal Society, Drama Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Law Association, Lawyers in Social Entrepreneurship, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students Association, OUTLAW, Public Interest Law Student Association, Shaking the Foundations, Stanford BioLaw, Stanford Entertainment and Sports Law Association, Stanford International Law Society, Stanford Latino Law Students Association, Stanford Law and Technology Association, Stanford Law and Wine Society, Stanford Law School Democrats, Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation, Street Law, the Theory Workshop and Women of Stanford Law.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 300+²⁰

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.4²¹

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.6

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²²

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 49.4
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 32.7
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 4.2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4.8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 7.7
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 660.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2004 Edition, page 201.
- 4 Id.
- 5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 342.
- 6 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/admin/ocs/employers/policies.html#grading>, additional explanation of "shadow grades" provided via e-mail correspondence between BCG research staff and Susan C. Robinson, Esq. Associate Dean for Career Services.
- 7 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 343.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 343.
- 9 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/publications/student/>
- 10 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/lawreview/>.
- 11 <http://elj.stanford.edu/>.
- 12 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/sjil/>.
- 13 http://www.law.stanford.edu/agora/index_main.shtml.
- 14 <http://sjlbf.stanford.edu/>.
- 15 <http://www.stanford.edu/group/SLPR/>.
- 16 http://stlr.stanford.edu/STLR/Core_Page/About/index.htm.
- 17 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 342.
- 18 Id.
- 19 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/students/life/orgs.html>
- 20 <http://www.law.stanford.edu/admin/ocs/students/>
- 21 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 659.
- 22 Id.

RANK

40

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UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

Established in 1872, the University of Alabama School of Law is the only public school in the state of Alabama. For over 120 years, the school has educated leaders in the legal profession, business, and government. The University of Alabama School of Law is currently ranked Number 40 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.

Alabama provides its students with a nationally recognized, progressive legal education.¹ The law school offers a diverse curriculum, including traditional courses, cutting-edge classes in emerging areas of the law, and skills offerings. Alabama's professors are actively engaged in scholarly research and writing, but give priority to teaching and remain accessible to students outside of the classroom.² There were 181 students in the school's fall 2003 entering class³ and the student-faculty ratio is 11.8.⁴

Tuscaloosa is a friendly, beautiful, and relatively inexpensive place to live, and its almost 100,000 residents can enjoy the combination of small-town quaintness and big-city activities, culture, and entertainment.⁵

University of Alabama uses a standard 4-point GPA scale, with a recommended B curve for most large courses. Even though the curve is not mandatory and only a recommendation, a majority of the class grades adhere to such a curve, as the mean graduating GPA tends to fall in the B range with 3.1 being at 50th percentile mark.⁶

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 161⁷, 25th - 75th Percentile: 159 - 163
- Median GPA: 3.455⁸, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.2 - 3.65
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 1,326
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 312
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.5

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03001.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

	B+	3.5	C+	2.5	D	1.0	
A	4.00	B	3.0	C	2.0	F	0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):¹⁰

The Faculty at University of Alabama has adopted recommended norms and ranges, i.e. such curves are not mandatory in the strict sense of the word. The following curve is followed for all first year and other required courses, with a slightly modified version for electives with 40 students or more.

GRADE	NORM (% of students receiving grade)	RANGE (% of students who may receive this grade)
A = 4.0	5%	2.5% – 5%
A- = 3.67	7.5%	7.5% – 10%
B+ = 3.33	12.5%	10% – 15%
B = 3.0	15%	12.5% – 17.5%
B- = 2.67	20%	15% – 25%
C+ = 2.33	15%	12.5% – 17.5%
C = 2.0	12.5%	10% – 15%
C- = 1.67	7.5%	7.5% – 10%
D+ & F = 1.33-0	0 – 5%	0 – 5%

Electives with 40 students or more follow the same curve as above, except the range for grades from C – F is 0 – 2.00, is 15% – 30% with the norm being 25%.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ¹¹	3.582	3.358	3.292	3.100	2.829	2.0

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Top 5%
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	Top 15%
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 25%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Dean M. Leigh Harrison	Top 5% of class after fifth semester of law school.
Phi Alpha Delta	Academic, leadership, moot court competition and outstanding service to law school (2).
Hugo L. Black Scholar	Top 10% of each class section after third semester of law school.
West Publishing Company Scholastic Achievement	First in second- and third-year class sections (4).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁴

The University of Alabama publishes three law journals.

The nationally recognized **ALABAMA LAW REVIEW** is edited by students and examines both national and state issues. The student staff and 13-member editorial board edit and manage the publication. The top 10% of students beginning their second year of law study are automatically eligible for membership. Students in the top half of their class at the beginning of the second year may compete in a “write-on” competition for membership on the *Law Review*.

The **LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW** and **THE JOURNAL OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION** are also student-edited law journals and the editorial board for the latter is selected from the top 25% of students after their first year in law school.

MOOT COURT¹⁵

First-year Moot Court is required in the second semester for all students. In addition, second-year students may elect to participate in the John A. Campbell Moot Court Competition. From this competition, 24 are selected to be members of the next year’s John A. Campbell Moot Court Board. These students conduct the next year’s competitions and assist the Legal Writing lecturers in the first-year moot court class. The Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition Team participates in an intra-law school appellate competition sponsored annually by the Black Law Students Association. Teams which compete in the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, Mugel Tax Moot Court Competition, Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Moot Court Competition and the National Environmental Law Competition, are selected from second- and third-year students.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁶

The University of Alabama offers six clinical programs, including: Disability Litigation Clinic, Elder Law Clinic, Children’s Rights Clinic, Public Defender Program, Pension Counseling Clinic and the Student Legal Clinic. The university’s clinical program was started in the early 1970’s to provide legal assistance to low income clients while at the same time providing students with an opportunity to obtain practical experience before graduation from law school.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 80¹⁷

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 79.1¹⁸

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.4

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 59
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 15
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 21
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 84.
- 2 <http://www.law.ua.edu/deansmessage.html>
- 3 <http://www.law.ua.edu/prospective/info.php?re=profile>
- 4 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 214.
- 5 <http://www.law.ua.edu/admissions/tusc.html>
- 6 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 7 <http://www.law.ua.edu/prospective/info.php?re=profile>
- 8 Id.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 394.
- 10 <http://www.law.ua.edu/students/handbook.pdf> pg. 11
- 11 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 394.
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 394.
- 13 Id.
- 14 <http://www.law.ua.edu/pubs.html>
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 393.
- 16 <http://www.law.ua.edu/clinics.html>
- 17 www.law.ua.edu/cso/oci.html.
- 18 Correspondence dated 1/13/03 from Claude Beers, Assistant Dean of Admissions, The University of Alabama School of Law, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 19 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03001.php

RANK

43

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(520) 621-3477

JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW

The University Of Arizona James E. Rogers College Of Law is located in Tucson, a culturally rich Southwestern city of 750,000 inhabitants. Tucson's desert rains, breathtaking sunsets, and distinctive cacti provide a spectacular backdrop for the pursuit of a legal education.¹ The area gets more than 300 days of sunshine per year, more than any other region in the United States and enough to drive away even the most stubborn of first-year required reading doldrums.²

The James E. Rogers College of Law is currently ranked Number 43 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. It has a distinguished and creative faculty, strong interdisciplinary and advanced degree course programs, and a friendly and congenial atmosphere inspired by its well-rounded students. The school enrolled 153 students for its fall 2003 entering class and has a student-faculty ratio of 14:1.

The University of Arizona – a top tier AAU institution – is at the forefront in examining issues involving Mexico-U.S. relations and Indigenous Peoples law, policy, and culture. The College of Law plays a major role in that distinction; it offers LLM degrees in International Trade Law and Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy, as well as joint degrees in many fields, including business, philosophy, and psychology, among others.³

The Law School uses a five scale grading system that mirrors the standard 4-point scale, however Arizona does not assign decimal point numerical values, with each whole number point value corresponding to each letter grade value, i.e. A=4. Further the system replaces E's for F's where no credit is earned. The school also follows a B curve with almost 55% of the grades in the B range.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertain to the fall 2003 entering class⁵:

- Median LSAT: 162, 25th – 75th Percentile: 158 – 164
- Median GPA: 3.50, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.23 – 3.73
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,589
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 455
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 17.6

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁶

The University of Arizona, School of Law uses a five scale grading system with the numerical values assigned as follows:

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL VALUE
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
E	0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

A	*25%	* The school applies the preceding grade curve for classes of 21 or more. The faculty is not permitted to deviate more than 2.5% from the grade curve displayed on the left, except in extraordinary circumstances. ⁷
B	55%	
C	20%	
D		
E		

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% of the class with 75% of the courses graded.
<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	Top 7%
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	Next 7%
<i>Cum laude:</i>	Next 11%
Dean's List:	GPA of 3.30 (for full-time students with 10+ graded units per semester)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Ralph W. Aigler	The senior student who has made the most significant scholarly and professional contribution to the school.
Order of the Barrister	Top 8 – 10 students in graduating class who have excelled in advocacy.
Ares Fellows	Selected by first-year small section professor based on writing ability, academic achievement, and interpersonal skills. Ares Fellows act as teaching assistants for first-year research and writing programs.

35 other academic achievement awards are offered in the following areas: Trial Advocacy, Damages Argument, Advocacy, First-Year Student, Outstanding Minority Student, Tax, Service, Public Interest, International and Business Law, Outstanding Senior, Public Service, Best Law Review Note, Second-Year Law Review Writing Award, and Outstanding Law Review Editor/Writer.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

ARIZONA LAW REVIEW¹⁰ is printed quarterly and is ranked number 26 out of 122 nationally ranked law reviews. The publication covers topic of general interest to legal scholars, professionals and students. Top 10% of the class is automatically invited to join one of the two Journals at UAL, the Law Review, being the more prestigious of the two is more readily chosen. Aside from the automatic invitation, students may compete in a writing competition in order to gain a spot on this journal.

ARIZONA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW¹¹ covers a wide array of topics relating to comparative law, including issues of Indian tribes and tribunals. The Journal uses the same method as the Law Review for membership however; a greater number of the top 10% of the students chose the Law Review, making the writing competition a greater factor in gaining membership on this journal.

MOOT COURT¹²

All upper-level students may participate in the moot court program held each spring. There is no official moot court requirement. The College also offers extensive pre-trial and trial practice course offerings in a nationally ranked program designed by Professor Tom Mauet.¹³

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁴

The College of Law currently operates four in-house legal clinics in: Child Advocacy, Domestic Violence, Immigration, and Tribal Law, and sponsors several programs involving placements with lawyers in the public sector and trial court judges, including the Criminal Prosecution Clinic and the Criminal Defense Clinic. The clinics served over 450 clients during the 2001 – 2002 school year.¹⁵

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁶

The following is a list of the University of Arizona College of Law's student organizations: Community Legal Access Society, Law Women's Association, American Trial Lawyer's Association, Native American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, La Raza Law Students Association, Asian American Law Students Association, Lesbian and Gay Rights Activists, Environmental Law Society, International Law Society, Public Interest Law Organization, Parents at Law School, Justice Project, American Civil Liberties Association, The Federalist Society, The American Constitution Society, National Lawyers Guild, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, American Bar Association - Law Student Division, Christian Legal Society, Jewish Law Students Association and the Business Law Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 57¹⁷

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 64.8¹⁸

Percentage employed nine months after graduation: 91.9

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 41
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 23
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 20
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 11
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.arizona.edu/frontpage/dean.html>.
- 2 <http://www.arizona.edu/home/tucson.shtml>
- 3 <http://www.law.arizona.edu/frontpage/dean.html>.
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 <http://www.law.arizona.edu/Admissions/factsheet.htm>
- 6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 398.
- 7 www.law.arizona.edu/handbook/handbook.html.
- 8 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 398. ;www.law.arizona.edu/handbook/handbook.html.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 398.
- 10 <http://www.law.arizona.edu/Journals/ALR/ALR2003/vol451/vol451.htm>
- 11 <http://www.law.arizona.edu/Journals/AJICL/>
- 12 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 397.
- 13 Correspondence dated 1/9/03 from Toni M. Massaro, Dean of the James E. Rogers College of Law, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 14 www.law.arizona.edu/academic/welclinic.html.
- 15 Correspondence dated 1/9/03 from Toni M. Massaro, Dean of the James E. Rogers College of Law, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 16 www.law.arizona.edu/admissions/studorg.html.
- 17 www.law.arizona.edu/career/faloci.html.
- 18 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 99.
- 19 Id.

RANK
13

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY

MAILING ADDRESS	MAIN PHONE	ADMISSION'S PHONE	WEBSITE ADDRESS
University of California Boalt Hall School of Law Berkeley, California 94720	(510) 642-1741	(510) 642-2273	www.law.berkeley.edu
	REGISTRAR'S PHONE	CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE	
	(510) 642-2278	(510) 642-4567	

BOALT HALL SCHOOL OF LAW

Just about everyone knows what an excellent legal education is available at this West Coast law school. And, if you must experience the Socratic teaching method, you might as well do it in the Bay Area, which offers some of the best local activities and weekend getaways imaginable.

Currently ranked Number 13 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law ("Boalt") attracts some of the country's sharpest undergraduates. Many of Boalt's top students find their way to clerkships at the U.S. Supreme Court. Those who participate in the school's exceptional clinical programs often take leading roles and learn early on what it means to make an impact in the real world. The school tends to seek out students with diverse backgrounds, in line with and adding to its already progressive reputation. Students often come from as many as 35 different states to attend Boalt, even though a significant number of seats are reserved for in-state students.

Although the admissions process for this reasonably priced state school can be highly competitive, once accepted, Boalt students can take a well-deserved sigh of relief. The school's national excellence, policy-based resistance to ranking students, and laid-back Berkeley vibe all contribute to a stimulating and pleasant law school experience, unmarred by cutthroat competitiveness. The small entering class size of 286 also adds to the congenial environment. It's a rare day that goes by without student organizations hosting some function or mixer in the school's courtyards or at local venues. Boalt students enjoy learning from one another and from some of the most well known legal scholars in the nation. The student-faculty ratio tends to be about 17.5 most years.

As is widely known, UC Berkeley neither ranks nor provides percentiles for its students, and students may not estimate their rank, relative to their class members. Students receive high honors, honors or a pass in each of the courses, or a PC which is a pass but for performance well below the class. About 50% of the class receives one of the honors passes while the rest of class is given a Pass or below, however the curve does not mandate giving substandard passes or failing grades. Essentially, Boalt law grades fall within either one of the A categories or B categories. Boalt career services points out the extreme competition in gaining admission to the school and the minute difference between each grade distinction, when competition is among such high achieving individuals.¹

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 25th – 75th Percentile: 160 – 168
- Median GPA: 3.76², 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.65 – 3.9
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,503
- Number accepted: 769
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 10.

¹Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03016.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:³

There are 3 categories of satisfactory grades; which are governed by a curve

High Honors:	(HH)	Top 10 – 15% of a class;	(Can be reported as an A)
Honors:	(H)	The next 30 – 35%;	(Can be reported as an A)
Pass:	(P)	The remainder	(Can be reported as a B)

The following unsatisfactory grades may also appear on a transcript.

Substandard Pass: (PC) Credit but the work is below the quality of a Pass
(Can be reported as a C)

NO-Credit: (NC) Assigned when work is unsatisfactory – Student may repeat course

Student ranking and percentile ranking are only revealed to the individual students for the limited purpose of applying for judicial clerkships or academic positions. Other than two very limited instances, students may not request their academic rank and may not estimate their academic rank for any other professional purpose.

Since the grades are very subjective, and the difference between “Honors” and “Pass” can come down to a point or two, some students responding to our survey felt that their transcripts indicate their work was not as good as it actually was. Conversely, these grades can also indicate a near “substandard pass.”⁴

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):⁵

FIRST-YEAR LARGE SECTIONS:

Top 10%:	HH	(A)
Top 40%:	H	(A)

Remaining 50% of the class will receive either a P (B) a PC (C) or NC (D or F)

FIRST-YEAR SMALL SECTIONS:

Small sections are curved using the same calculation as the large sections, however an instructor may choose to give a greater number of Honors grades including HH or H if such distinction is deserved and would make the grading more equitable given the size of the sections.

When a grade of Substandard Pass (PC) is awarded to a student in the first semester of Law School, that grade appears on a student’s transcript as a regular Pass (P) grade. The student is however informed of the Substandard Pass and the grade is counted as a Substandard Pass grade for other academic rules.

SECOND- AND THIRD-YEAR SECTIONS:

The grading rules are much more flexible here, where an instructor may, out of the top 40% – 45% of the class, elect to give 10% – 15% HH grades and the rest of the top may receive H grades. The remainders 60% – 65% receive P, PC, or NC. In seminars of 24 or fewer students, an instructor may give more grades of HH or H than the above distribution if individual performance and equity thus require. A seminar is strictly defined however, to include a substantial piece of written work, exceeding 30 pages, and a great degree of individual input rather than easily comparable objective examinations.

The following breakdown is provided for the number of additional honors grades allowed in seminars, based on the number of participants.

SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS	ADDITIONAL H OR HH ALLOWED
14 or fewer	4
15 – 17	5
18 – 20	6
21 – 24	7

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁶

Order of the Coif: Top 10% (usually exceeding 3.4 GPA)⁷

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Jurisprudence Prize	Highest ranking student in each first-year class section & most graded second- and third-year classes.
Prosser Prize	Second highest ranking student in each first-year class section & most graded second- and third-year classes.
Best Brief Award	For each moot court case, the two first-year students writing the best brief.
Best Oral Argument Award	For each moot court case, the first-year student presenting the best oral argument.
McBaine Honors Moot Court Best Brief and Best Oral Arguments Award	Best brief and best oralist in the McBaine Advanced Moot Court Competition (second- and third-year students).
Thelen Marrin Award for Scholarship	Best GPA from first five semesters.
Thelen Marrin Award for Scholarship	Best published student article.
Stephen Finney Jamison Award	Best student scholar-advocate.
Anthony F. Dragonette Memorial Award	Top third-year student- Civil Trial Practice.
Alvin & Sadie Landis Scholarship	Top student in Local Government Law or Water Law.
Francine Diaz Memorial Award	Third-year minority woman best exemplifying the spirit of public interest law practice.
Class of 1995 Student Service Award	Graduating student who has contributed the most to the Boalt Hall community.
Brian M. Sax Prize	Student who has displayed excellence in clinical advocacy.
Harmon Environmental Law Writing Award	Most outstanding environmental law writing.
National Association of Women Lawyers' Award	The graduating female student who has achieved scholastic excellence and shown a commitment to promoting the welfare of women in society.
American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence	Top student in Bankruptcy course selected by the professor.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

Boalt Hall hosts 10 student run and edited journals with open membership based on student interest in the subject matter. One exception to this policy is The California Law Review, one of the most prestigious on the west coast, which holds a writing competition, consisting of an extensive three part writing, editing and blue booking test. The Law School strongly encourages all first year students to participate in one of the journals, including an attempt to get on the California Law Review.

The **AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAW AND POLICY REPORT (ALPR)**¹⁰ is dedicated to addressing legal and policy issues that affect the African-American community and people of color. ALPR deals with such matters as constitutional law, criminal justice, civil rights, African-American participation in the political process, the death penalty, fair housing, economic development in the African-American community, African immigration to the United States, and health issues that affect African Americans.

The **ASIAN LAW JOURNAL (ALJ)** is one of a few law journals in the country devoted to Asian Pacific American issues. Recognizing that traditional civil rights work and current critical race scholarship fails to address the unique issues facing Asian Pacific Americans, ALJ was established to help develop Asian Pacific American legal scholarship and create an intellectual network to advance this area.

The **BERKELEY JOURNAL OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR LAW (BJELL)**¹¹ is the leading student journal in the country focusing exclusively on current developments in labor and employment law. BJELL addresses a wide range of issues, including employment discrimination, labor law, public sector employment, international and comparative labor law, employee benefits, and the merging doctrines of wrongful termination.

The **BERKELEY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (BJIL)**¹² publishes articles, case notes and book reviews that address current issues of international law. BJIL covers such diverse topics as the European community, German reunification, Japanese and Korean investment competition, British insider trading, the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and business development in Indonesia. In addition, BJIL boasts an active social schedule, including such time-honored events as the Rum Fest, barbecues and ski trips.

The **BERKELEY LA RAZA LAW JOURNAL (LRLJ)**¹³ focuses on legal issues affecting the Latina/o community. Past articles have covered a range of topics, including bilingual education, affirmative action, immigration law, labor law and policy, voting rights, and Latina/o critical theory. LRLJ publishes two issues per year and actively seeks articles by professors and practitioners as well as notes and comments by law students.

The **BERKELEY TECHNOLOGY LAW JOURNAL (BTLJ)**¹⁴ has emerged as the leading technology law journal in the United States. BTLJ covers issues of law in the areas of intellectual property and biotechnology. The Journal's membership, approximately 165 students, publishes four issues of scholarly work each year, including the Annual Review of Law and Technology.

The **BERKELEY WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL (BWLJ)**¹⁵ takes a multidisciplinary approach to critical legal issues affecting women, particularly underrepresented women such as women of color, poor women, lesbians and women with disabilities. Submission of student writing is encouraged. Recent BWLJ articles written by Boalt students have dealt with same-sex marriage, women's experiences in law school, the pornography debate and affirmative action.

The **CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW (CCLR)**¹⁶ publishes high-quality scholarship in the area of criminal law. Recent articles have focused on extradition law, stalking laws, and corporate misconduct. As Boalt Hall's only completely online journal, CCLR gives students a unique opportunity to learn about Web publishing, while reviewing and editing articles written by scholars from across the country.

CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW (CLR)¹⁷ is in its 89th year of publication and was the first law review published on the west coast. CLR publishes articles on problems and developments in all areas of the law. Recent issues have included articles on corporate governance, a feminist perspective on the battered woman syndrome defense, an examination of sexual orientation, gender and the law, and a symposium on race-based remedies. Contributors to CLR include professors, judges, attorneys, and students. Members of CLR take part in writing, selecting, and editing articles, and in formulating the journal's policy. Membership to CLR is by invitation after a write-on competition that takes place the week after finals. The competition has three components: a case note that analyzes a recent court decision (worth 60%), a bluebook editing packet (worth 20%), and a personal statement (worth 20%).

The **ECOLOGY LAW QUARTERLY (ELQ)**¹⁸ is Boalt Hall's environmental law journal. Since its founding in 1970, ELQ has consistently reflected the journal members' broad conception of environmental law and policy. ELQ's environmental education activities include field trips, guest speakers and brown-bag lunch discussions. ELQ also organizes an annual environmental law careers conference and 'Race' Judicata, a fundraising run.

MOOT COURT¹⁹

First-year students write briefs and present oral arguments in the spring semester. For each case there are two Best Brief awards, one Best Oral Argument award, and two general advocacy awards. Students who show an aptitude and interest in moot court during their first year are encouraged to enroll in the optional appellate advocacy course in their second year. Those who excel in that course are invited to join the moot court board. The board assists in the instruction of the first-year Moot Court Program, administers the elective appellate advocacy course, organizes the annual McBaine Honors Competition, and fields teams in state and national moot court honors competitions.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

Boalt is known for the strength of its clinical programs. It offers the following clinics: Death Penalty Clinic, International Human Rights Law Clinic, Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic, East Bay Community Law Center, the faculty-supervised Domestic Violence Clinic and Child Advocacy Clinic, Practitioner-supervised clinicals, judicial externships, student-initiated field work and research, journal editing and other educational projects.

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

The following is a list of Boalt Hall's numerous student organizations: the Boalt Hall Student Association, American Constitution Society, Amnesty International Legal Support Group, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Berkeley Business Law Forum, Berkeley East European Law Society, Berkeley Law Foundation, Berkeley Law Student Community Outreach, Boalt Criminal Law Association, Boalt Animal Law Society, Boalt Hall Arab Students Association, Boalt Hall BIGS (Big Brother / Big Sister), Boalt Hall Democrats, Boalt Hall Dinosaurs, Boalt Hall

Federalist Society, Boalt Hall International Human Rights Student Board, Boalt Hall Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Caucus, Boalt Hall Muslim Students Association, Boalt Hall Republicans, Boalt Hall Women's Association, Boalt Jewish Students Association, Boalt.org, Christians at Boalt, Coalition for a Diversity, Cross-Examiner, Environmental Law Society, Health Care Law Society, International Law Society, La Raza Law Students Association, Law in Society, Law Students of African Descent, Moot Court Board, National Lawyers Guild - Boalt Chapter, American Law Students Association, Parents at Boalt, Filipino American Law, Prisoners Action Coalition, South Asian Law Student Association, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Students Opposed to Domestic Violence, Transfer Student Coalition and the Youth and Education Law Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 400+²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 88.7²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 96.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 72
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 13
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 6
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 2 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/prospectives/welcome/facts/profile.html>
- 3 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 418.
- 4 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 5 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/currents/registrar/academic-rules/#anchor345094> (See Grading Rules and Policy)
- 6 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 418.
- 7 www.law.berkeley.edu/currents/registrar/ordercoif.html.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 418.
- 9 www.law.berkeley.edu/prospectives/student_life/journals.html.
- 10 <http://www.boalt.org/ALPR/>.
- 11 <http://www.boalt.org/BJELL/>.
- 12 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/bjil/>
- 13 <http://www.boalt.org/LRLJ/>.
- 14 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/btlj/>
- 15 <http://www.boalt.org/bwlj/>.
- 16 <http://www.boalt.org/CCLR/>.
- 17 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/clr/>.
- 18 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/elq/>.
- 19 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002 - 2003, 418.
- 20 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002 - 2003, 417.
- 21 <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/currents/jrmlorgs/orgs.html>.
- 22 Provided by Boalt Hall's Office of Career Services.
- 23 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 143.
- 24 Id.

RANK

33

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS

MAILING ADDRESS

School of Law, King Hall
400 Mrak Hall Drive
Davis, CA 95616

MAIN PHONE

(530) 752-0243

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.law.ucdavis.edu

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

(530) 752-4299

ADMISSION'S PHONE

(530) 752-6477

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW

The law building of the University of California at Davis is aptly named after the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in recognition of his efforts to bring social and political justice to poor and disadvantaged groups.¹ Located just 15 miles west of Sacramento, Davis boasts the second highest per capita education level of any city in the nation and residents who are active in political, artistic, and community causes. The city is known for its controlled growth, environmental awareness, energy conservation, and excellent outdoor recreational activities.² And if that weren't enough, regional travel opportunities abound; San Francisco, Napa, and Lake Tahoe are all within reasonable driving distance.

The UC Davis School of Law is currently ranked Number 33 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. This small school attracts a well-rounded, talented, and diverse student population with its nationally recognized and exceptional teaching faculty. The small entering class size of 193³ students and student-faculty ratio of 14.8 create a cozy atmosphere in which to study the law.

UC Davis uses a standard 4-point grading system, modified to include grades from A+ to D- only. 75% of the students have a graduating GPA of B- or above, with 50% receiving GPA's of B or above.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164, 25th - 75th Percentile: 158 - 163
- Median GPA: 3.63, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.4 - 3.72
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4,334⁵
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 800⁶
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 18.5⁷

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/ad_index.asp

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

A+ 4.0	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	D 1.0
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D- 1.7 ⁹
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ¹⁰	3.449	3.224	3.146	2.990	N/A	2.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

Student surveys indicated that about 5 to 10% of the grades in a class are in the A range which the average GPA tends to be around 2.7 or a B-. A strict curve is in place for the first year courses and for large second and third year courses.¹¹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif: Top 10%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
School of Law Medal	Graduating senior with most distinguished academic record after fifth semester.
Patrick Hopkins Law Prize	Outstanding contributor to UC Davis Law Review. Each student in top 10% with matching qualifiers.
Witkin Award for Academic Excellence	Top grade in class.
Order of the Barristers	Based on the number of students annually participating in moot court & mock trial programs. Recognizes graduating students who excel (10).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁴

The Law School at UC Davis hosts five academic publications; membership is strictly based on writing ability, garnered solely on the basis of an applicant's performance in the writing competition.¹⁵

The **JOURNAL OF JUVENILE LAW AND POLICY**¹⁶ is a biannual publication that addresses the unique concerns of children in the American legal system. Initially a product of the creativity and activism of a small group of King Hall students called the Advocates for the Rights of Children (ARC), the Journal has evolved into a vigorous organization committed to providing practical information regarding current juvenile, family, and educational law issues.

BUSINESS LAW JOURNAL¹⁷ is the first business law journal in the nation to electronically publish articles written by professionals, academics and law students using a more concise journalistic style. At this time, BizLawJournal.com offers industry news, reviews of popular business books, useful business law links, a monthly newsletter and a networking board that allows users to share professional connections and career advice.

The **JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY**¹⁸ is a biannual journal produced by King Hall students with an interest in international law. The editor-in-chief of the Journal receives one credit for each semester of service. Only one person may receive this credit in any one semester. Grading is on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.

ENVIRONS¹⁹ is a biannual environmental law and policy journal which supports an open forum for the discussion of current environmental issues. Articles explore environmental issues, particularly those pertaining to the state of California. The editor-in-chief of Environs receives one credit for each semester of service. Only one person may receive this credit in any one semester. Grading is on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.

The **UC DAVIS LAW REVIEW**²⁰ publishes four issues annually. Three issues contain scholarly works by professionals and students in the traditional law review format. One issue is a symposium that deals in depth with a selected topic of interest to legal scholars and practicing lawyers. At King Hall, any second-year student may become a Law Review member after successfully completing a competition packet. Acceptance to Law Review is determined by the quality of the work submitted, not by GPA or faculty appointments as in most schools. Once a member, the following requirements must be completed to become an editor: 1) Writing a student note or comment of editorship quality; 2) Completing twenty-eight office hours per semester; 3) Completing cite-checking assignments. Editors of the Law Review may receive four credits over two semesters for service.

MOOT COURT²¹

The moot court competition, more commonly referred to at U.C. Davis as “Appellate Advocacy,” is a year-long student-run program offered to second-year and third-year law students, it is not a required part of the first year curriculum and is an elective activity for upper classmen.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²²

U.C. Davis law faculty teaches four in-house clinics: Family Protection, Civil Rights, Immigration and Prison Law. The Immigration Clinic is especially strong, and very popular among the students, as is the Civil Rights Clinic, which allows students to conduct federal court litigation. Surveyed students found that the Family Protection clinic is not given the same accord as others and often faces funding deficiencies.²³ The school also associates its externships with its clinical programs, which it terms “clinicals”: Administration of Criminal Justice, Employment Relations, Environmental Law, Federal Taxation, Judicial Internships, Legislative Process and Public Interest Law.

ORGANIZATIONS²⁴

The UC Davis, King Hall School of Law’s student organizations include the Law Students Association, American Bar Association, Law Students Division, American Civil Liberties Union, King Hall Division, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Entertainment and Sports Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Intellectual Property Law Association, International Law Society, King Hall Legal Foundation, Lambda Law Students Association, La Raza Law Students Association, Moot Court Board (Appellate Advocacy), National Lawyers Guild, King Hall Students Chapter, Native American Law Students, Phi Delta Phi, Gibson Inn, and the Women’s Caucus.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200+
Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 75.9²⁵
Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 94.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 65*
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 6
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 14
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 5
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

*Student survey participants felt the statistics seemed accurate and a great majority of the graduating class finds employment in the private sector.²⁷

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/ad/linfo.pdf>, pg. 1.
- 2 http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/student_index.asp.
- 3 http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/ad_index.asp
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 <http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/ad/admissinfo.pdf>
- 6 The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2004 Report which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03017.php
- 7 Id.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 422.
www.law.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/ad/linfo.pdf. "Grades, attendance and honor code: The school uses a four-point letter grading system with plus and minus grades. A equals 4.0, A- equals 3.7, B+ equals 3.3 and so forth."
- 9 New grade, effective as of the spring 2002 semester. Correspondence dated 1/10/03 from Hollis Kulwin, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at The University of California, Davis School of Law to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 10 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 422.
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 422.
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 422.
- 14 www.law.ucdavis.edu/j_index.asp.
- 15 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 16 <http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/jilp/default.htm>; http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/j_index.asp.
- 17 <http://bizlawjournal.ucdavis.edu/>.
- 18 <http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/jilp/JILP.htm>; http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/j_index.asp.
- 19 http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/j_index.asp?Query=environs; http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/j_index.asp.
- 20 <http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/lawreview/QuestionsAnswers.htm>.
- 21 www.law.ucdavis.edu/mootcourt/WHAT%20IS%20MOOT%20COURT.htm.
- 22 www.law.ucdavis.edu/cl_index.asp?Query=legprocess; www.law.ucdavis.edu/PDFs/rg/rg_curric.pdf.
- 23 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 24 http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/student_index.asp.
- 25 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 147.
- 26 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03017.php
- 27 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book

RANK

38

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UC HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW

UC Hastings College of the Law is currently ranked Number 38 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Since its founding as the University of California's first law school in 1878 by Serranus Clinton Hastings (the first Chief Justice of California), Hastings College of the Law has been at the center of the West Coast's legal community.¹

The James Edgar Hervey Skyroom student lounge offers a 360-degree panoramic view of San Francisco's awe-inspiring skyline and serves as a constant reminder of the school's beautiful environs and the vastness of opportunity awaiting its graduates.² Situated in the Bay City's Civic Center, and in the midst of federal and state courts, Hastings succeeds in providing its students with ample professional prospects. In fact, Hastings graduates, while well-prepared for all kinds of practice, sit as judges on the California bench by a 3-to-1 margin over any other law school's graduates.³ Hastings is also well known for its exceptional tax program.⁴

Hastings claims a stimulating classroom environment, a diverse student body, and a top-notch and genuinely concerned faculty and career services staff. The school's fall 2003 entering class was comprised of 427 students,⁵ and it has a student-faculty ratio of 21.3. Students who attend Hastings have their pick of San Francisco's great restaurants, cultural events, and nightlife.

UC Hastings adheres to a standard 4-point grading system, which is rare among the top tier schools. First year courses are curved according to the standard normalization curve, and the graduating 50th percentile falls between a B and a B- at 2.96. Individual ranks are available for the top 30% of the class upon request.⁶

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163⁷, 25th - 75th Percentile: 160 - 165
- Median GPA: 3.54⁸, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.39 - 3.7
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 6,915
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,410
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 20.4

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

A+ 4.0	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3		
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0	
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0	

GRADE NORMALIZATION POLICY:¹⁰

UC Hastings divides its grades between GPA and non-GPA courses, students receive letter grades for both GPA and non-GPA courses but classes such as Legal Writing and others that focus on skills or technique, and where the grade is not based on an anonymously graded final, are not used in GPA computation.

For GPA courses, 65%-80% of the class receive a grade of B- or higher, whereas 10%-20% may receive a grade of A- or higher. A faculty member may assign a C- only for work that is wholly unsatisfactory, i.e. there is no mandatory grade of C- or lower. D's and F's are only assigned for work that is unsatisfactory and falls substantially below other participants in the class.

For Non-GPA courses, 10%-33% may receive an A or higher with the median being a B.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ¹¹	3.454	3.222	3.127	2.963	2.698	2.0

UC Hastings students may request individual ranks if they are within the top 30% upon graduation¹².

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST :¹³

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	Student with the highest GPA after six semesters.
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	Top 5%
<i>Cum laude:</i>	Top 15%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁴

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Milton D. Green Citation	Student with one of the highest cumulative averages in a first-year class.
CALI	Highest grade in every course carrying academic credit.
Thurston Society	Highest 5% of GPAs after first year, and GPA in the top 10% after second or third year.
Valedictorian	Highest GPA after five semesters of academic work.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁵

All first-year students with a minimum GPA of 2.2 who have successfully completed LW&R and Moot Court or Legal Analysis, are eligible to participate on the six Hastings journals. First-year students who wish to participate on a journal during their second year are required to enter the inter-journal writing competition. The top three students may join the *Hastings Law Journal* by invitation.¹⁶

HASTINGS LAW JOURNAL (HLJ) publishes scholarly articles, essays, book reviews, and student notes on a broad range of legal topics. With close to ninety members, HLJ has the capacity to print six issues each year, reaching a large domestic and international audience. There are six ways to become a member of the Hastings Law Journal: (1) The top three students from each section are invited to join on the basis of their GPA; (2) fifteen students are invited on the basis of their writing competition scores; (3) twelve students are invited on the basis of a composite of their writing competition scores and their GPA; (4) through HLJ's special admissions program, students may also be invited on the basis of their GPAs, writing competition scores, Legal Writing and Research grades, and supplemental personal statements. HLJ considers a variety of factors that demonstrate personal achievement in the face of social, economic or educational disadvantages; (5) transfer students may submit writing competition entries; transfers receive invitations if their scores equal at least the fifteenth-ranked regular entry in the competition; (6) students may also participate in the self-submittal program by submitting a prospectus for a note. Students must generally be in the top 10% of their class to be invited to join.¹⁷

The **HASTINGS CONSTITUTIONAL LAW QUARTERLY** is the country's oldest law journal devoted exclusively to constitutional law.¹⁸ As well as taking part in journal activities, symposium organization, and the different phases of the production process, second-year members also write either a note or case comment of publishable quality. In addition, one second-year member will be chosen to sit on the editorial board. The Quarterly chooses second-year members solely on the basis of writing competition submissions. They look for organization, argumentation, support, grammar, and citation format. The Quarterly is considered one of the most competitive journals next to the Hastings Law Journal. Students must generally be in the top one-third of their class to be invited to join.¹⁹

The **HASTINGS INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW REVIEW (HICLR)**²⁰ is one of the nation's few law reviews devoted exclusively to the discussion of contemporary and original ideas on issues of international and comparative law. HICLR selects its new members in one of the following four ways: (1) the top 15% of the applicant pool will be selected based solely on grades; (2) the remainder of the applicants will be selected based on a composite of grades (possibly including LW&R grades in close cases), performance in the writing competition, and the personal statement; (3) a small number of students may be selected by submitting (a) a personal statement, (b) a statement of whether the student participated in the writing competition and, if not, why not, and (c) a substantially complete draft of a student note of publishable quality (as specified in HICLR's By-Laws) approved by the editor-in-chief and editorial board; and (4) a small number of students may be selected, according to the editor-in-chief's discretion, by performing 100 hours of volunteer work over the summer. Students must generally be in the top one-third of their class to be invited to join.²¹

HASTINGS COMMUNICATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL (COMM/ENT)²² is the nation's preeminent law journal covering the rubric of communications, entertainment, and intellectual property law. COMM/ENT's subject matter has expanded to include issues such as the Internet, telecommunications, biotechnology, multimedia, broadcasting, and constitutional law. Members' responsibilities include: examining articles and student notes to ensure proper citations, making substantive and technical edits to pieces in preparation for publication, helping to plan the annual symposium, attending weekly office hours, and generally assisting the senior editors at their request. Additionally, each member writes a note on a cutting edge issue of the law. COMM/ENT selects its members by carefully weighing performance in the writing competition, grades, and information volunteered in a personal statement. Students must generally be in the top one-third of their class to be invited to join.²³

Since 1989, the **HASTINGS WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL (HWLJ)**²⁴ has provided a forum for voices outside the traditional scope of legal academic scholarship. They publish twice a year and offer and maintain an inclusive space for feminism, race theory, multiculturalism, animal rights, disability rights, language rights, international human rights, criminal defendants' rights and prisoners' rights, among others. In the note writing process, second-year members are encouraged to research legal issues that they feel are missing in their law school careers, while adhering to the traditional research and writing parameters of scholarly publications. There are two methods to writing on to the Hastings Women's Law Journal: a general inter-journal writing competition or a writing competition specifically tailored to HWLJ. Students are invited to join on the basis of the writing competition only and must demonstrate a focus on the interests and issues relating to women and minorities. Students must generally be in the top half of their class to be invited to join.²⁵

The **HASTINGS WEST-NORTHWEST JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY**²⁶ examines environmental issues facing California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and neighboring states. The three primary selection criteria for West-Northwest members are writing ability (including composition, editing, and bluebooking skills), some interest in the wide topical area encompassed by the field of environmental law (the environmental law umbrella covers a number of areas, including real estate, land use, water, administrative, international, and constitutional law) and an expressed desire to become a member of a group dedicated to producing a quality legal journal in a rewarding, supportive, and fun atmosphere. The required personal statement is an opportunity to express reasons for wanting to be a West-Northwest member and is given considerable weight. Beyond a 2.2 minimum GPA requirement, West-Northwest does not take grades into account. Students are invited to join on the basis of the writing competition only and must demonstrate a focus on environmental issues. Students must generally be in the top half of their class to be invited to join.²⁷

MOOT COURT²⁸

All first-year students are required to participate in the brief writing and oral arguments in the spring semester. Students in their second year can take the elective course called Appellate Advocacy. Students who excel at Appellate Advocacy are asked to participate in moot court board. Moot court board members help six-eight students with editing and counsel and coach them on their briefs and oral arguments. Students also participate in as many as 11 intercollegiate competitions. It is very competitive to become a member of a moot court team as the teams are very successful in competition and are a prestigious school tradition.²⁹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS³⁰

Hastings College of the Law offers very strong clinical programs in the following areas: Civil Justice Clinic (Individual & Group representation), Criminal Practice Clinic, Environmental Law Clinic, Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Local Government Clinic, Mediation Clinic, Workers' Rights Clinic and Judicial Externships. Students may represent clients under attorney supervision for substantial credit (8 units). With state, federal, and circuit courts located nearby, Hastings is very strong in offering judicial externship opportunities.³¹

ORGANIZATIONS³²

The UC Hastings College of Law's student organizations include the American Bar Association/ Law Student Division, American Civil Liberties Union, UC Hastings Chapter, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Amnesty International, Hastings Chapter, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Association of Students for Kids, Associated Students at UC Hastings, Association of Communications, Sports & Entertainment Law, Black Law Students Association, Environmental Law Society, Filipino Bar Association of Northern California Hastings Chapter, General Assistance Advocacy Project, Hastings Association of Muslim Law Students, Hastings Business and Commercial Law Society, Hastings Chinese Law & Culture Society, Hastings Christian Fellowship, Hastings Democratic Caucus, Hastings Disability Law Society, Hastings Federalist Society, Hastings to Haiti Partnership, Hastings Ice Hockey Club, Hastings Intellectual Property Organization, Hastings International & Comparative Law Society, Hastings Internet & Technology Venture Group, Hastings Intramural Basketball League, Hastings Jewish Law Students Association, Hastings Law News, Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation, Hastings Snowboarding & Ski Club, Hastings Soccer Club, Hastings Surf, Hawaii Law Caucus, Japanese Law, Korean American Law Students Association, La Raza Law Students Association, LegalVines: Hastings Wine Appreciation Club, Middle Eastern Law Students Association, The National Lawyers Guild – Hastings, Native American Law Students Association, OUTLAW, Phi Alpha Delta International Law Fraternity, Temple Chapter, Prisoner Action Coalition at Hastings, South Asian Law Student Association, Third Year Class Council, Class of 2003, UC Hastings Tax Law and the Vietnamese American Law Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 400³³

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 61.9³⁴

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 93.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³⁵

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 73
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 4
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 7
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 9
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 2

Students surveyed pointed out that the percent employed was lower for 2003 than other years, with most people going to private firms. Also some indicated that the breakdown did not account for those starting their own practice.³⁶

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.uchastings.edu/quick_01/#Location.
- 2 http://www.uchastings.edu/welcome_01/.
- 3 http://www.uchastings.edu/quick_01/#History.
- 4 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 5 http://www.uchastings.edu/admiss_01/frequently_asked_questions.htm
- 6 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 7 Id.
- 8 Id.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 426.
- 10 http://www.uchastings.edu/regulations_01/PDF/academic_reg03-04.pdf page. 12
- 11 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 426.
- 12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 13 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 426.
- 14 Id.
- 15 <http://www.uchastings.edu/pubs/Journals/journals.htm>
- 16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 17 Id.
- 18 <http://www.uchastings.edu/clq/>
- 19 Id.
- 20 <http://www.uchastings.edu/hiclr/>.
- 21 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 22 <http://www.uchastings.edu/comment/index.html>.
- 23 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 24 <http://www.uchastings.edu/womenslj/>.
- 25 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 26 <http://www.uchastings.edu/wnw/>.
- 27 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 28 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 425.
- 29 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 30 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 425.
- 31 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 32 http://www.uchastings.edu/orgs_01/.
- 33 www.uchastings.edu/careers_01/pdf/OCI_Guide/ociguide.pdf, page II-1.
- 34 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 151.
- 35 Id.
- 36 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.

RANK

16

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UCLA LAW

The students who attend this law school are fortunate to attend classes in a very pleasant, active section of L.A. When not studying, they can enjoy many of the cultural events, theaters, and restaurants in Westwood. The law school is located on the university's main campus.

UCLA boasts one of the most attractive large campuses in the country. Furthermore, some of the best speakers in the country, if not the world, visit regularly. Students love the fact that they are only about a 10-minute drive from the beach, a 20-minute drive from downtown L.A., and just a short distance from such outstanding attractions as the Getty Museum.

Each year UCLA attracts a lively, talented, diverse, and well-rounded student population, eager to begin their law school experience. While the entering class size of 305 is somewhat large, the student-faculty ratio of 14:1 is quite reasonable. Students mingle at many school-sponsored events and are said to be quite helpful to each other, yet students know that the need to be highly competitive on exams still remains quite real. The school is presently ranked Number 16 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.

UCLA Law grading system is an anomaly among top tier schools, as it fosters little to no grade inflation. The students are graded on a strict curve where most grades fall in the B- to the B+ range. Further the distribution is based on a strict bell curve, as each A is balanced by a C and each + is balanced by a - even in the B range. Hence, most of the grades, at graduation, tend to fall in the exact B range. Further UCLA curves all bar electives the same way as first year courses, making most classes taken by students all three years subject to the strict curve.¹

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:²

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 166³, 25th - 75th Percentile: 162 - 168
- Median GPA: 3.68⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.51- 3.83
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,286
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 965
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 13.2

¹Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03018.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A-	4.3*	B+	3.3	C+	2.3		
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

*extraordinary performance only

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
STUDENT SURVEY	4.0 – 3.6	3.45		3.0 – 3.01		1.9

Student surveys indicated most students find a 3.45 GPA as part of the top range and a 3.2 GPA is still considered well above average and a very respectable GPA upon graduation⁷.

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

The following grade distribution is followed strictly at UCLA Law in first year classes and upper division classes with an enrollment greater than 40.

20% A+ to A-

60% B+ to B-

20% C+ or below

Student surveys indicated that the faculty are required to give a C for every A and a – for every + grade they assign, further in the 60% B range, each B+ must be balanced with a B-. Students said that this system results in little or no grade inflation.

Students also said that all required courses with 40 students or more are curved using the above method. Some second and third year elective courses are not curved; however, most students chose to take bar electives, which are curved in the same way as the required courses.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif: Top 10%, usually in the 3.6+ range.

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Various prizes, awards and scholarships	With the exception of those awards with specific requirements, a general scholarship application is submitted by the students and the selection is determined by the scholarship committee.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

All Journals at UCLA Law use either a writing competition or a demonstration of work to determine membership. Work usually involves cite-checking, blue-booking or editing tasks. Predictably, the UCLA Law Review has the most competitive writing contest; however grades are not a major factor in selection for any of the Journals. Some highly specialized journals also take into account student interest in, or experience with a certain topic, by using a personal statement or resume in addition.¹¹

The **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAW JOURNAL** is the first law journal in the nation to address the legal, social, and political issues facing the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. It has published cutting-edge legal scholarship in the field of critical race theory as well as in more traditional fields. The Journal welcomes membership by all students.¹²

The **CHICANO-LATINO LAW REVIEW** is one of a few legal journals in the country devoted to scholarly analysis of issues relevant to Chicano and other Spanish-speaking communities. In addition to offering students an opportunity to develop research, writing, and editorial skills, the Review publishes articles by judges, lawyers, and scholars that provide new perspectives on the legal problems of the Latino community.¹³

The **ENTERTAINMENT LAW REVIEW**, published twice annually, is a scholarly journal devoted to legal issues affecting film, television, radio, computer, and print media. Topics addressed in professional and student work include: copyright and patent issues, the regulation of the entertainment industry, and labor, constitutional, administrative and antitrust law as they relate to the industry. UCLA law students publish and manage all business aspects of the Review. In addition, students occasionally write abstracts and comments for the Review. The two-tiered membership structure allows first-year as well as second- and third-year students to be involved in the Review's activities.

The **UCLA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY** is an entirely student-run publication that was first published in 1980. Each issue of the Journal is designed to offer diverse perspectives on a single topic of current environmental interest, such as toxic waste disposal and solar water heating. Affiliated with the UCLA Environmental Law Society, the Journal offers students with an interest in environmental law or policy an immediate opportunity to become involved in editing, planning, and publishing in a field of rapidly growing importance.¹⁴

The **UCLA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & FOREIGN AFFAIRS** is a student-run, interdisciplinary publication dedicated to promoting scholarship in international law and international relations, while bridging the historical divide between these two disciplines. It published its first issue during the summer of 1996.¹⁵

The **UCLA JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC AND NEAR EASTERN LAW** was first published in the winter of 2002 and is the school's newest journal. The journal focuses on the application of Islamic and Near Eastern law both in the Near East and elsewhere and is the only journal of its kind. JINEL attracts a wide variety of students that are interested and passionate about its subject matter.

The **UCLA JOURNAL OF LAW AND TECHNOLOGY** publishes online two to four times a year. It serves as a place to review how the law is attempting to keep up with the constantly changing technology. It attracts a lot of students who are interested in practicing intellectual property litigation as membership provides a good background for attorneys interested in the field.

The **UCLA LAW REVIEW** has acquired a reputation as one of the leading legal periodicals. It is run by a student Board of Editors which determines what will be published and when. Student editors are also responsible for editing the writing of student members. Membership on the Review is determined by the Board of Editors on the basis of a competitive writing contest. The Law Review is the most prestigious publication at UCLA.¹⁶

The **UCLA PACIFIC BASIN LAW JOURNAL** is the only law review in the country devoted to the study of international and comparative law within the rapidly developing economic sphere of the Pacific Basin. Articles and case notes are solicited from members of the international legal community throughout East Asia and the Americas. In addition, students are encouraged to contribute material. In keeping with its practical focus, the Journal devotes special attention to legal issues that directly affect trade flows and international transactions in the Pacific Basin.¹⁷

The **UCLA WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL** is a student-run publication that published its first issue in spring 1991. The Journal is dedicated to the scholarly discussion of women in the law and in the legal profession from a feminist perspective. The Journal includes articles by students, scholars, and practitioners from around the world.¹⁸

The **DUKEMINIER JOURNAL OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAW**, published a compilation of the best articles on the topic of sexual orientation law published all year, further the publication invites student writing and also awards a cash prize for the best article submitted, which is then published in the Journal. The "Dukeminier Awards" is the official title of this publication, which provides a unique educational experience for UCLA law students, in an annual seminar on "Sexual Orientation Law Scholarship." The students in the seminar, under the instruction of the faculty, undertake the intellectual processes involved in selecting each year's Award articles. They develop a universe of articles published each year, peruse these articles to select several dozen for closer consideration, and then spend their time in the seminar closely reading and analyzing the chosen texts. The seminar culminates with the students' and faculty members' selection of the best articles for that year, which are then published as The Dukeminier Awards.

The **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S JOURNAL OF LAW CULTURE AND RESISTANCE**, a new Journal launched in 2004, additional information not available.

MOOT COURT¹⁹

Moot Court is not required at UCLA, but according to student surveys, about 2/3 of the first year class voluntarily participates in the lawyering skills course²⁰. The Honors Program is open to all second-year students, and Moot Court board members must have participated in the Honors Program during their second year. Participants submit a brief and argue cases before panels of local judges and practitioners. Four finalists are selected for the Roscoe Pound competition. Outstanding state and federal jurists including justices of the U.S. Supreme Court judged the final round. Third-year members are responsible for administering the program. Students have indicated that participation in the upper levels of moot court competition is highly coveted, even more so than membership on some of the school's journals.²¹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²²

UCLA School of Law offers the following clinical programs: Deposition & Discovery, Public Policy, Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiations, Trial Advocacy (Civil & Criminal), Environmental Law Clinic, Community Outreach, Business in China, Indian Law, Street Law, Renegotiating Business Contracts, Public Offerings and Environmental Business Transactions. Students were impressed with the experience they gained through participation in the school's clinical programs, and said that all the clinics were highly regarded, however most students lamented that there were not enough clinical opportunities for all the students, thus making an opportunity to participate in the clinics fairly competitive.²³

ORGANIZATIONS²⁴

UCLA Law School's student organizations include the 403 N.W.2d 143 (Law School Musical), American Constitution Society of Los Angeles, American Indian Law Students Association, Asian/Pacific Islander Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Democratic Law Students Association, Disability Law Society, El Centro Legal, Federalist Society, Immigration Law Society, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, La Raza Law Students Association, Lesbian, Bisexual Gay & Transgender Alliance, Moot Court, National Lawyers Guild, Near Eastern Legal Society, Older, Wiser Law Students, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Law Fund, Speaking Truth to Power, Sports Law Federation, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, St. Thomas More Society, Student Bar Association, The Docket (Law School Newspaper), UCLAW Veterans Society, Women's Law Union, UCLA Animal Law Society, Worker's Justice Project,

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 300²⁵

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 88.6²⁶

Percentage of grads employed nine months graduation: 95.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁷

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 82
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 5
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 4
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 5
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 2 Admission statistics for Fall 2003 received via e-mail correspondence between Linda Kresh and BCG research staff on March 24, 2004
- 3 <http://www1.law.ucla.edu/~admissions/studentbody.html>
- 4 Id.
- 5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 430.
- 6 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 7 Id.
- 8 Information received via e-mail correspondence dated March 24, 2004 between BCG research staff and Linda Linda Kresh, Recruitment Administrator, UCLA Law career services.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 430.
- 10 <http://www1.law.ucla.edu/~admissions/>.
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 12 Id.
- 13 Id.
- 14 Id.
- 15 Id.
- 16 Id.
- 17 Id.
- 18 Id.
- 19 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 429.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 Id.
- 22 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 429.
- 23 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 24 <http://www.law.ucla.edu/students/studentorgs/>.
- 25 Correspondence dated 1/8/03 from Amy Mallow, UCLA Career Services Office, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 26 Correspondence dated 3/24/04 between Linda Kresh, UCLA Career Services Office, and BCG research staff.
- 27 Id.

RANK

06

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW

Currently ranked Number Six on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, the University of Chicago Law School succeeds, year after year, in training critical and socially conscious thinkers and doers.¹ The three cornerstones that form the foundation for the University of Chicago Law School's educational mission are: the life of the mind, participatory learning, and interdisciplinary inquiry. Beyond the classroom confines, and in the new Arthur Kane Center, many students choose to do clinical work and represent real clients.²

Chicago truly is a city of neighborhoods. The University of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood provides students with the benefits of a college-town feel, just minutes from downtown's invigorating chaos. If you are brave enough to bear Chicago's winters and the law school's required reading, you will undoubtedly delight in the city's plethora of cultural, artistic, and culinary events.

The entering class generally numbers about 194 students. This smaller number keeps the first-years from feeling too overwhelmed by class ranking status while learning to "think like lawyers." The school has a student-faculty ratio of 10, yet inquisitive minds rarely let numbers intimidate them when there's a law professor or two they hope to visit during office hours.

Chicago Law uses a combination of numerical and letter grades, with an A – F designation corresponding with 180 – 155 points. Most classes have a B curve with the median being a 177. Chicago does not rank its students and vehemently forbids students from estimating ranks on a resume.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 169⁴, 25th – 75th Percentile: 167 – 171
- Median GPA: 3.62⁵, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.44 – 3.74
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 5,075
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 747
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 14.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03052.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁶

A	180+*
B	174 – 179
C	168 – 173
D	160 – 167
F	155 – 159

*Grades above 184 are rarely awarded.

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

Grades are curved to a 177 in most classes.⁷ There is a curve for classes of more than 50 students where the number of A's should approximately equal the number of C's. The median grade for these classes is 177. (Note: the median is the grade for the person in the middle of the class. It is not an average.) The Law School does not rank the students, and forbids the students from stating an estimated rank on their resume; however the student transcripts provide a rolling average for honors. The following averages are the most current available from University of Chicago.⁸

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
Highest Honors:	182+
High Honors:	180+
Honors:	178+

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Beale Prize	Each of the best students in the six research/writing sections.
Barber Prize	Students who have made a significant contribution to the life of the law school (1-4).
Mandel Award	Students who have made a significant contribution to the work of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic (1 - 3).
Casper Platt Award	For outstanding paper written by a student that year.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

The school has four student-edited law journals:

The **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW**¹² is a quarterly journal of legal scholarship among the most influential journals in the field. Students have full responsibility for editing and publishing the Law Review. They also contribute original scholarship of their own. Selected for Law Review membership after the first year of law school, students act as staff members in their second year and may serve as editors in their final year. There are two basic routes to Law Review membership: participation in the summer writing competition and the topic access program. Each summer, the editors choose 28 staff members from the former first-year class through a writing competition. Roughly one-third are selected solely on the quality of their submission in the writing competition (an evaluation of a legal issue chosen by the editors); while two-thirds are selected according to their academic performance during their first year, provided they submit a writing competition entry that reflects the skills necessary to do Law Review work. Alternatively, students can participate in the topic access program in which students are assigned editors to assist them in developing a draft of a comment. Once topic access participants have completed a publishable draft of a comment, they become Law Review members.

The **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LEGAL FORUM**¹³ is the Law School's topical law journal. Its student board annually publishes a volume of articles by academics and practitioners and comments by students that focus on a single area of the law. The Legal Forum selects its student participants through a joint writing competition that takes place in the summer after the first year of law school.

The **CHICAGO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (CJIL)**¹⁴ is a student-edited forum for discussion and analysis of international law and policy issues. CJIL is committed to publishing timely and concise scholarly work written by academics, judges, practitioners, policymakers, and students. The journal is the newest at the university and is published twice yearly, in the fall and spring.

MOOT COURT¹⁵

All students take a first-year research and writing course, which has a substantial moot court component. The Hinton Moot Court Competition, named for Judge Edward W. Hinton (Professor of Law, 1913-36), is open to all second- and third-year students. The program is very highly regarded among the student body, most of which show up to the final arguments.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁶

Chicago has expanded clinical opportunities by adding adjunct clinical faculty to the Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship, the MacArthur Justice Center (focusing on Constitutional/Criminal Justice issues) and the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic (comprised of Civil Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Employment Discrimination, and Mental Health Law clinics).

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁷

The University of Chicago Law School's organizations include the Law Students Association, American Civil Liberties Union, American Constitution Society, Amicus, Apathy, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Chicago Investment Law Group, Chicago Law Foundation, Christian Law Students, Dallin Oaks Society, The Edmund Burke Society, Environmental Law Society, International Human Rights Society, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Latino/a Law Students Association, Law and Internet Forum, Law and Society, Law School Democrats, Law School Film Festival, Law School Musical, Law School Republicans, Law Women's Caucus, Lawyers as Leaders, Moot Court, Neighbors, OutLaw, Phoenix, Public Interest Law Society, Res Musicata, Rifle and Pistol Club, Scales of Justice, South Asian Law Students Association, Streetlaw, Thomas Moore Society, Trivia Contest, Wine Mess, Winston Churchill Gaming Society and the Women's Mentoring Program.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 300¹⁸

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.4¹⁹

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.4

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁰

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 64.1
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 29.4
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 1.8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 0.6
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2.9
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.2

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/prospective/cornerstones.html>.
- 2 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 188.
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 www.law.uchicago.edu/careerscvcs/fall2003-about-chicago-students-go.html.
- 5 Id.
- 6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 434; www.law.uchicago.edu/current/handbook/1.html.
- 7 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 8 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/handbook/1.html#1-13>
- 9 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 434.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 434.
- 11 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/academics/journals.html>.
- 12 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/studentorgs/lawreview.html>.
- 13 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/studentorgs/lf.html>.
- 14 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/studentorgs/cjil.html>.
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 433; www.law.uchicago.edu/current/handbook/1.html.
- 16 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/clinicalprogs.html>.
- 17 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/current/studentorgs.html>.
- 18 <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/careerscvcs/overview.html>
- 19 <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/premium/main/lawrank.php>
- 20 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 187.

RANK

50

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-BOULDER SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Colorado at Boulder, School of Law is currently ranked Number 50 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, on the southwestern corner of the University of Colorado's 1,094-acre campus, the School of Law boasts some of the most scenic panoramas in the country.¹ The campus's beauty is enhanced by its buildings, a majority of which are constructed with sandstone and red-tile-roof in the rural Italian Renaissance style.

The University of Colorado School of Law has a long and dynamic history of excellence, is national in its orientation, and is also one of the country's truly great bargains for legal education. Its tuitions and fees are among the lowest in the nation, even for out-of-state students.² The school takes pride in its library's comprehensive collection and modern facilities and its nationally recognized programs in natural resources and constitutional law work.

There were only 171 students enrolled in the University of Colorado School of Law's fall 2003 entering class.³ With a student-faculty ratio of 12.8,⁴ students are sure to catch the attention of their professors both inside and outside the classroom.

Colorado Law School grades on an A-F scale with a 100 point system. There are no A+ grades awarded, but + and - distinctions are found in all other grade categories. The Faculty has adopted an 84 median grade for each course, with the 50th percentile GPA also falling close to an 84.⁵

What It Takes To Get In:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 160 - 164⁷
- Median GPA: 3.62⁸, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.43 - 3.78⁹
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,109
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: approximately 717
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.1

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/premium/main/lawrank.php>

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:¹⁰

GRADES PERCENTAGES

A+	None
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	86 – 89
B*	83 – 85
B-	80 – 82
C+	76 – 79
C	73 – 75
C-	70 – 72
D+	66 – 69
D	63 – 68
D-	60 – 62
F	50 – 59

*Effective summer 1994, the faculty recommended an 84 median grade in each law school class.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ¹¹	89.46	86.87	86.38	84.91	82.46	72.00

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Professors must grade on a curve with a median of 84. Unlike other schools that have hard curves, the median grade at Colorado seems to fall almost exactly in line with the 50th GPA percentile or a B with only 10% of the class receiving A's.¹² All classes with over 20 students are graded on the B curve, even second and third year courses. This could be an indication that there is less grade inflation than at other schools and perhaps the grading curve is more universal and not for core classes only.¹³

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁴

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% of graduating class
Dean's List:	Top 10% each semester

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁵

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Austin W. Scott Award	Appellate advocacy oral argument award.
Colorado Int'l Environmental Law Journal	Leadership and writing awards (2).
DeSouchet Award	Best individual performance in trial advocacy.
Don W. Sears Award	Greatest contribution to class learning experience.
Edward C. King Award	Outstanding leadership and achievement.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Irving P. Andrews Award	Outstanding achievement by black graduate.
Jim R. Carrigan Cup	Trial advocacy awards (2).
Joel H. Greenstein Award	Outstanding students in trial advocacy.
Law Review Awards	Scholarship, leadership and contribution/ outstanding comment.
Legal Aid and Defender Award	Outstanding service and commitment to program.
Meritorious Student Award	Contributed most to law school community.
Natural Resources Law Center Award	Outstanding scholarship and service in natural resources.
Outstanding Latino Graduate	Outstanding graduating Hispanic student.
Sutcliffe Distinguished Service Award	Outstanding dedication and service to law school community.
West Publishing Book Award	Highest scholastic average for academic year.
Women's Law Caucus Award	Contributed most to women's issues during school.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁶

Students surveyed indicated that law review membership is fairly competitive, with 8-100 applicants vying for about 30 spots available on Law Review. Applicants are scored on five different criteria for the write-on submissions. Students ranked in the top 10% of their class have their lowest scores dropped. The selection process for the other journals mirrors the Law Review, except the other journals also require a statement of interest. Students predictably responded that Law Review gets the first pick of students wishing to get journal membership, with those not making the cut writing on the other journals.¹⁷

The **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW REVIEW**⁸ is a quarterly publication, managed and edited by the law students. Members perform general tasks including editing, writing case comments and reviews for books and faculty articles. This is the main publication of the school and encompasses broad topics of legal interest. The students are selected through a writing competition, and or on the basis of their class standing. Transfer students may also participate by entering a writing competition.

The **COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY**⁹ is a widely read publication dedicated to examining the legal and policy implications of international environmental issues. The journal provides commentary on important national and international developments, such as global climate change, trans-boundary water pollution, protection of biological diversity, and international environmental conventions. The Journal is managed and edited by second- and third-year students and publishes two issues per year. Students may receive academic credit for work on the journal.

The **JOURNAL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY LAW (JTHTL)**²⁰ is the most recent addition to the school's tradition of student publications. JTHTL is sponsored by the Silicon Flatirons Telecommunications Program and is committed to providing a meaningful experience to students who have an interest in telecommunications, technological convergence, intellectual property, and regulatory law.

MOOT COURT²¹

Moot Court competition is a voluntary program for second- and third-year students. Practice course requirement is fulfilled through either Trial Advocacy or the Legal Aid and Defender Program. Appellate Court Advocacy is required for first-year students. Due to the amount of time and effort participants have to put in, as well as the prestige involved, many students feel that this is an option for students who did not want to be on a journal and that few students could handle both.²²

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²³

The University of Colorado School of Law offers the following clinical programs: Legal Aid and Defender Program, Natural Resources Litigation Clinic, American Indian Law Clinic, Legal Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, Trial Competition, Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy, Motions Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy Clinic, Entrepreneurial Law Clinic and the externship program. Clinical programs received high praise from almost all of the students responding to our survey.²⁴

ORGANIZATIONS²⁵

The University of Colorado, Boulder School of Law's student organizations include Ageless, the American Bar Association, ACLU, Asian American Law Students Association, Association of Law Students and Their Partners, Black Law Students Association, Business Law Association, Christian Legal Society, Doman International Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, Latino Law Student Association, Lend-A-Law Student Association, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Student Association, OUTLAW, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Student Association, Student Bar Association, Student Trial Lawyers Association and the Women's Law Caucus.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 85 – 100^{26*}

* The exact number of firms is not released, but the law school continually hosts on-campus interviews each year, upon request from employers.

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 47.5²⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 89

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 51
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 18
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 19
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 7
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.colorado.edu/law/welcome.html>.
- 2 Id.
- 3 <http://www.colorado.edu/law/admissions/FactsFigures.pdf>
- 4 Id.
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 Id.
- 7 Id.
- 8 Id.
- 9 Id.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 442.
- 11 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2000 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 442.
- 12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 13 Id.
- 14 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 442.
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 442.
- 16 <http://www.colorado.edu/law/studentorg.html>.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://stripe.colorado.edu/~cololrev/Home.html>
- 19 <http://www.colorado.edu/law/cjielp/>; <http://www.colorado.edu/law/studentorg.html>.
- 20 <http://www.silicon-flatirons.org/journal/jrn/home.html>.
- 21 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 441.
- 22 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 23 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 441.
- 24 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 25 <http://www.colorado.edu/law/studentorg.html>.
- 26 Phone conversation with Tony Bastone, Assistant Dean of Career Services on March/16/2004.
- 27 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 207.
- 28 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03023.php

RANK

43

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UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Connecticut School of Law was founded in 1921 and remains committed to the belief that legal minds are best stimulated by high quality civil discourse among students and faculty, conducted in small and intimate settings.¹ Students enjoy a rich curriculum in a setting that allows for individualized attention and free-flowing, collaborative dialogue. With an average entering class size of 163² students and a student-faculty ratio of 12.4, the University of Connecticut is able to offer many of its courses in seminar format; in fact, 70 percent of the advanced courses have 20 or fewer students.³

The University Of Connecticut School Of Law is currently ranked Number 43 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. It offers a high quality legal education with an emphasis on clinical instruction, skills training, and interdisciplinary coursework, made possible by the contributions of its outstanding and diverse faculty. The school's recently completed law library is among the largest legal and research technology centers in the world, housing more than 480,000 volumes in a 120,000-square-foot space.⁴ The University of Connecticut's picturesque and historic campus is only a few minutes away from the State Capitol, courts and agencies, and Hartford's law firms and corporations.⁵

The Law School utilizes a standard 4-point grading system with an A being a 4.0, no A+ grades are awarded. A standard B curve is in place for all mandatory courses and other courses with over 19 students. Individual ranks are provided for the top quartile, while the rest of the class is ranked by quartiles only.⁶

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁷

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 161, 25th - 75th Percentile: 159 - 163
- Median GPA: 3.41, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.15 - 3.62
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,471
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 527
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 21.3

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03023.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3			
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0	F	0.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7		

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

A median grade of B is required in the following courses:

- all required courses
- all courses with multiple sections taught in the same academic year
- all courses with 19 or more students

In all these courses, half the students will receive a grade of B or higher and half will receive a grade of B or lower. In determining the median, a grade of pass will be considered a B.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁹	3.589	3.415	3.357	3.240	2.931	2.3
BCG	3.4					

Students are ranked at the end of each Spring Semester, this includes July graduates and 1L students in the four-year day and evening divisions. Students in the top quintile are ranked numerically by cumulative grade point average. All other students are ranked by quintiles only.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁰

Highest Honors (<i>Summa cum laude</i>):	Top 1%
High Honors (<i>Magna cum laude</i>):	Next 5%
Honors (<i>Cum laude</i>):	Next 24%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹¹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Allstate Foundation Scholarship	Outstanding scholarly achievement in Contracts & Torts.
Honorable Herbert Barall Family Law Award	Excellence in the academic study of family law.
Honorable M. Joseph Blumenfeld Prize	Outstanding service as an advocate as part of a clinic (2).
Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition	First/Second place awards for essay on copyright law.
Ralph Colucci Award	Highest grade in Arts and the Law or Copyright Law.
CBA Labor & Employment Law Section Award	Outstanding achievement in Labor or Employment Law.
CBA Real Property Section Award	Outstanding contribution to legal writing in Real Property (2).
CT Conference of Municipalities Prize	Greatest contribution of excellence to Municipal Law.
CT Law Review, Alumni Association Award	Best case note or comment in Connecticut Law Review.
Joseph Glick Prize	Excellence in the academic study of international law.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Grotius Prize	Distinguished scholarship in international studies.
Hartford County Federal Bar Foundation Award	Outstanding achievement in Federal Law.
Milton W. Horowitz Memorial Prize	Academic excellence in Torts.
Flemings James, Jr. Award	Academic excellence in Labor Law.
Aaron Nassau Award	Academic excellence in Property.
National Association of Women Lawyers Award	Outstanding achievement and advancement of women.
Joseph F. Noonan Memorial Award	Outstanding legal scholarship and commitment to public service.
Alvin Pudlin Memorial First Amendment Award	Excellence in the academic study of the First Amendment.
George & Lorraine Schatzi Award	Outstanding service to the school of law.
Milton Sorokin Award	Excellence in the study of First Amendment Rights.
William F. Starr Fellowship Award	Highest GPA in graduating class.
Gerald F. Stevens Award	Academic excellence in Environmental Law.
Cornelius W. Wickersham, Jr. Award	Excellence in Constitutional Law.
Women Law Students Association Award	Community legal service that promotes women's interests.
Thomas F. Gallivan, Jr. Memorial Prize	Outstanding scholastic achievement in Property.
Edward L. Stephenson Memorial Prize	Outstanding scholastic achievement in Civil Procedure.
Honorable M. Joseph Blumenfeld Fellow	Recognition for student research.
J. Rene Frechette Memorial Fellow	Recognition for student research.
Isabel & John R. Jewett '68 Fellow	Recognition for student research.
Law School Foundation Awards	Outstanding service to school. Exceptional achievement in scholarship.

*27 scholarships and 7 additional prizes and awards are presented annually.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

The University Of Connecticut School Of Law publishes four journals, with *Connecticut Law Review*, *Connecticut Insurance Law Journal*, and *Connecticut Journal of International Law* all holding a joint writing competition to earn membership. Students are chosen for each journal based on their performance in the writing competition and the order in which they ranked the journals when they submitted their entry. Most students rank *Connecticut Law Review* first, and then the other two journals based on their interest in the subject matter. Students wishing to participate in the must submit an entry into their own writing competition, with all submissions required to address an aspect of public interest law.¹²

CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW³ is the oldest, largest, and most active student-run organization at the University Of Connecticut School Of Law. Members of the Law Review are responsible for the entire production process from article selection and editing through the layout of the final copy.

The **CONNECTICUT INSURANCE LAW JOURNAL**¹⁴ is the world's only academic law review dedicated exclusively to the publication of original research on the law relating to insurance, risk, and responsibility. Students write and edit their own notes and commentaries for the Journal.

The **CONNECTICUT JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**⁵ is committed to the publication of scholarly work on international law, transnational law, and international commercial law topics. The Journal is published twice a year by second- and third year law students at the School of Law who serve as members and editors of the Journal.

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL¹⁶ is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to furthering discussion of the legal aspects of public interest priorities relating to the many crucial political, economic, and social issues facing underrepresented people.

MOOT COURT¹⁷

First-year students are required to participate in a moot court program during a four-week period as part of spring semester. Thereafter, students may become members of the Connecticut Moot Court Board. Membership is predicated on outstanding performance in the board's Alva P. Loiselle Competition and William H. Hastie Memorial Competition. The board sends teams to a number of interscholastic contests, including the National Moot Court Competition and the Willem C. Vis International Moot Court Competition.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁸

The University Of Connecticut School Of Law's clinical programs include: Civil Rights, Criminal Law, Civil Appellate Advocacy, Health Law, Tax, and Women's Rights, Administrative Law, Environmental Law, Poverty Law, Children's Advocacy, Mediation, Judicial Clerkship, Legislative Process, Urban Problems, Intellectual Property Law and Political Asylum. Students are put in a position of great responsibility with their own clients and asked to do the research and planning involved in the case issues.¹⁹

ORGANIZATIONS²⁰

The University of Connecticut School of Law's student organizations include the Academic Careers Society, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Amnesty International, Armed Forces Association, Arts, Entertainment & Sports Law Society, Asian-American Law Students Association, Athletic Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Computer Law Society, College Democrats of America, CT Alliance of International Lawyers, CT Client Advocacy Board, CT Unemployment Action Center, Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association, Eastern European Club, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Golf Club, Health Law Interest Group, Hellenic Association, Intellectual Property & Technical Law Society, International Law Students Association, Irish American Law Students Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Labor & Employment Law Society, Lambda Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Maritime Law Society, Married Law Students Association, National Italian-American Bar Association, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students Association, Older and Commuting Students, Outing Club, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Law Group, The Public Forum (newspaper), Student Bar Association, Tax Law Society, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and the Women's Law Students Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 70+²¹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 66²²

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:^{23*}

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 49.1
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 18.9
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 9.4
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3.8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 15.7
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.3
- Percent of grads seeking advanced degrees: 0.6
- Percent of grads not seeking employment: 0.6
- Percent of grads in full-time bar study: 1.2

*School requested we use self reported figures, numbers for *US News & World Report* differ.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.uconn.edu/about/>.
- 2 2003 admission numbers received via e-mail correspondence, dated March 25, 2004 between Kristin Magendantz, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 3 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 216.
- 4 Id.
- 5 <http://www.law.uconn.edu/about/>.
- 6 These statements are designed to provide an overview of grading at University of Connecticut Law School. Information is received from a combination of sources including the school website, student surveys and the NALP directory. Statements are elaborated upon in the Grades and Ranking section and each assertion footnoted to the exact source.
- 7 Updated LSAT and GPA numbers received via e-mail correspondence, dated March 25, 2004 between Kristin Magendantz, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 446.
- 9 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 446.
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 446.
- 11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 446.
- 12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have included survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 13 <http://connecticutlawreview.org/>.
- 14 <http://www.insurancejournal.org/frames.html>.
- 15 <http://www.law.uconn.edu/journals/cjil/>.
- 16 <http://www.law.uconn.edu/journals/cpilj/>.
- 17 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 445.
- 18 Id.
- 19 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have included survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 20 Id.
- 21 <http://www.law.uconn.edu/careersvcs/employer-list.htm>
- 22 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 215.
- 23 Received via e-mail correspondence, dated March 25, 2004 between Kristin Magendantz, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.

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LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW

Founded in 1909, the University of Florida, Levin College of Law is one of the nation's most comprehensive public law schools.¹ Along with the course curriculum leading to the Juris Doctor degree, including certificate programs in the areas of Intellectual Property, Family Law, Environmental and Land Use, and International and Comparative Law, Estates and Trust Law, the school offers more than 30 joint-degree programs and post-J.D. programs for Taxation and Comparative Law for foreign lawyers.²

The University of Florida, Levin College of Law is currently ranked Number 43 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The school has a reputation for academic excellence and takes pride in its impressively large and diverse teaching faculty and distinguished alumni. There were 185 students enrolled in the school's fall 2003 entering class, and the student-faculty ratio is 14.7.³

The College of Law is housed in two buildings on the west side of the University of Florida campus. The well-endowed university and surrounding city offer ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, intercollegiate athletics, and world-class cultural events. Gainesville, with a population of about 100,000, is consistently rated as one of America's most livable cities.⁴

The College of Law uses a standard 4-point grading scheme with slight modification. E's are given instead of F's and there is no capacity for A+. However, "+" grades are given in all other grade categories, but no "-" grades are given. The courses are curved based on a standard bell curve. Originally, the curve was a low 2.8, making the mean somewhere between a C+ and a B. Starting with the class of 2003, the curve has been raised several points to a 3.15-3.25 range, raising the mean between a B and a B+ average. Florida Law provides percentile rankings up to the top 33rd percentile with individual ranks available to the top 15% by request.⁵

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁶

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 159, 25th – 75th Percentile: 153 – 162

Median GPA: 3.65, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.37 – 3.83

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3356

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 468

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 13.9

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03023.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

	B+	3.3	C+	2.5	D+	1.5	
A	4.00	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
						E	0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

Beginning in 2003, the University implemented a new mean grade of 3.15-3.25 (the old mean was 2.85) for all course sections. Student surveys indicated that A grades are a rare occurrence, with 5 – 10 A grades per 100 students in a curved course and some professors refraining from handing out any at all.⁸

CLASS RANK:

The University of Florida provides percentile rank based on the overall grade point averages of students. Each entering class is subject to a separate rank. Additionally, students in the top 15% of their class may request their individual numerical rank within their class.

The following statistics were reported after spring 2003 grades:⁹

**PERCENTILES FOR THE FALL 2001 ENTERING CLASS
AFTER FALL 2003 GRADES REPORTED**

PERCENTILE	TOP 5%	TOP 10%	TOP 15%	TOP 20%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%
U. FLORIDA	3.60	3.46	3.37	3.28	3.20	3.12

**PERCENTILES FOR THE SPRING 2002 ENTERING CLASS
AFTER FALL 2003 GRADES POSTED**

PERCENTILE	TOP 5%	TOP 10%	TOP 15%	TOP 20%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%
U. FLORIDA	3.62	3.51	3.44	3.36	3.29	3.22

**PERCENTILES FOR THE FALL 2002 ENTERING CLASS
AFTER FALL 2003 GRADES REPORTED**

PERCENTILE	TOP 5%	TOP 10%	TOP 15%	TOP 20%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%
U. FLORIDA	3.67	3.47	3.37	3.29	3.25	3.14

**PERCENTILES FOR THE SPRING 2003 ENTERING CLASS
AFTER FALL 2003 GRADES REPORTED**

PERCENTILE	TOP 5%	TOP 10%	TOP 15%	TOP 20%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%
U. FLORIDA	3.78	3.65	3.42	3.36	3.30	3.21

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁰

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
Highest Honors:	3.9 GPA
High Honors:	3.5 GPA ¹¹
Honors:	3.1 GPA ¹²
Dean's List:	3.1

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

Approximately 25 awards are given based on various factors, including grades and writing competitions, among others. Survey participants pointed to the Book Award, which is given for the best grade in the class to be among the most well known honors.¹⁴

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁵

The **FLORIDA LAW REVIEW**¹⁶ is a legal periodical produced and edited exclusively by students of the College of Law and publishes five issues yearly. It contains articles written by legal scholars and practitioners as well as student case comments, and notes. At the end of the first full academic year, students are selected for candidacy to Law Review based on outstanding academic achievement or demonstrated writing ability. The top 5% of each section at the beginning of their third semester are invited for candidacy. Any student in his or her third semester may enter the open writing contest. Authors of the best papers are invited for candidacy. Candidates must successfully complete three major projects during the second year. To begin, all candidates must write a case comment of publishable quality. Case comments written for the Open Writing Competition satisfy this requirement. Next, during the first two semesters on Law Review, candidates must complete various work rotations with the editors on all phases of publication of the Review. Finally, during the second full semester of the second year, candidates must write a note that is an in-depth exploration of a topic of current legal interest. Recently, however, candidates have been given an option to write a case note during their entire first year on the Review instead of writing a separate case comment and note. While FLR is the most prestigious journal, students seem to take a more relaxed approach to the school's journals than at other top universities. Students on Law Review at Florida commented that they often participate out of general interest in the work rather than out of a feeling of necessity. The students apprised us that The Review is famous for publications related to Taxation.¹⁷

The **FLORIDA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (FJIL)**¹⁸ is a legal journal focused on legal issues relating to international, maritime, comparative, and foreign law. Its subscribers include practitioners, jurists, and legal scholars from around the world. FJIL publishes one volume of two issues each year. The top 10% of the first year class are eligible for the Journal's editorial board in addition to the winners of the open writing competitions held at least twice a year.

The **JOURNAL OF LAW & PUBLIC POLICY**¹⁹ is an interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study and analysis of contemporary legal and social issues. The Open Writing Competition gives second, third, and fourth semester students the opportunity to become candidates for membership on the Journal by demonstrating their ability to write a case comment of superior quality. To participate, competitors must be in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or higher) and have received a grade of S or S+ in Legal Research & Writing.

The **JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY LAW AND POLICY**²⁰ is a scholarly legal journal devoted to the discussion of relevant technology issues, including Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Antitrust, and Computer Law. During the third, fourth, and fifth semesters of their first full academic year, students are selected for candidacy on the Journal based on outstanding academic achievement or demonstrated writing ability. The Journal extends candidacy invitations to the students who earned the "Book Award" for one of the four core courses of the Intellectual Property Certificate. All other students in good academic standing may compete at the beginning of their second full semester in an open writing opportunity. Students participating in the open writing opportunity submit a case comment for consideration. If the work demonstrates superior writing skills, the Journal extends a candidacy invitation. Students working on the journal can receive up to three credits toward graduation.

MOOT COURT²¹

The Justice Campbell Thornal Moot Court Team participates in intramural, state, and national appellate competitions sponsored by organizations and law firms. The Trial Competition Team competes in intramural state, regional, and national competitions. Participation is always optional, but it is highly competitive (surveyed students said about 10 to 15% of those who try out make it) and coveted for students who wish to go into litigation. All students in Appellate Advocacy must attend the Final Four competition of Moot Court, which is judged by the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court in the Fall and by federal DCA judges in the Spring.²²

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²³

Florida's Levin College of Law provides its students the option of working in the Conservation Clinic, one of the two sections of the Criminal Law Clinics (Public Defender or State Attorney), or the Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinics (Full-Representation, Gator Team/Child Juvenile Law, Mediation, or Pro Se Clinic). All of the clinics are generally competitive to get into as the demand does not always meet the supply. Students defer graduation to get into clinics that they could not be a part of as a law school student. This process can leave less room for current students and force them to graduate without any clinical work if they do not participate in an externship opportunity.²⁴

ORGANIZATIONS²⁵

The University of Florida, Levin College of Law's student organizations include the Association for a Barrier-Free Legal Environment and use, American Bar Association/Law Student Division, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Association for Public Interest Law, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Corporate Law Society, Council of Ten Criminal Law Association, Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Estates, Trusts and Elder Law Society, The Federalist Society, Florida Intellectual Property Group, Health and Law Association, International Law Society, Intellectual Property and Technology Law Association, Internet and Computer Law Association, Jewish Law Student Association, John Marshall Bar Association, Law Association for Women, Law College Council, Law School Democrats, Law School Republicans, Litigator, Mediation and Negotiation Association, OutLaw, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Real Property Group, Spanish American Law Student Association, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Animal Law Group, Areion, Association of Future Litigators, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, CaribLaw, Drug and Alcohol Law Student Association, Ethics Group, Family Law Society, Labor and Employment Law Alliance, Lambda Legal Alliance, Law Student Network Association, Military Law Student Association, National Lawyers Guild, St. Thomas Moore Society, and Toastmasters.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200+²⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 54.8²⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 97.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 54
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 6
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 25
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.4
- Percent of grads type of employment unknown: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.ufl.edu/information/about.shtml>.
- 2 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 264. UF Law 2003-2004 Prospectus.
- 3 2003 admission numbers provided by Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 4 <http://www.law.ufl.edu/information/about.shtml>.
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 2003 admissions numbers provided by Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2003-2004, 462; UFLAW 2003-2004 Prospectus, at www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/pdf/0304prospectus.pdf page 6
- 8 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 9 <http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/percentiles.shtml>
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 462.
- 11 UFLAW 2003-2004 Prospectus, at www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/pdf/0203prospectus.pdf, page 5 updated by Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 12 Id.
- 13 Per Associate Dean for Students, Professionalism & Community Relations, Gail Sasnett, provided by Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean of Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 UFLAW 2003-2004 Prospectus, at www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/pdf/0203prospectus.pdf, page 23.
- 16 <http://www.flr.law.ufl.edu/membership.html>.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://lic.law.ufl.edu/~fjil/>.
- 19 <http://grove.ufl.edu/~jlpp/about.htm>; <http://grove.ufl.edu/~jlpp/competitionlaw.htm>.
- 20 <http://dogwood.circa.ufl.edu/~techlaw/>.
- 21 UFLAW 2002-2003 Prospectus, at www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/pdf/0203prospectus.pdf, page 23. See also National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools
- 22 Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 23 www.law.ufl.edu/academics. See also UFLAW 2002-2003 Prospectus, at www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/pdf/0203prospectus.pdf, pages 8-II, and 20.
- 24 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 25 <http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/organizations/>. Per Associate Dean Sasnett, provided via e-mail correspondence with Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, dated March, 26 2004.
- 26 Linda Calvert Hanson, Esq. Assistant Dean for Career Services, via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004.
- 27 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03023.php
- 28 Id.

RANK

31

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Georgia School of Law ("UGA") is currently ranked Number 31 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.¹ Just beyond north campus' historic Arch, across Broad Street, and within walking distance to the school is downtown Athens, Georgia, a metropolitan center for business, government, culture, and entertainment. One might be surprised to learn that this area is abuzz of activity from early morning until late into the night.

Students get a good deal for their investment at UGA. This reasonably priced state school has an impressive and distinguished faculty, emphasizes practical training, boasts appellate advocacy prowess as well as trial excellence, and virtually guarantees employment with a 96% placement rate for its 2002 graduating class.² The University of Georgia School of Law enrolled 261 full-time law students for its fall 2003 entering class³ and has a student-faculty ratio of 22.2

UGA Law uses a modified 4-point scale, with a range of 4.3 to a 0.00 A+ to F respectively. The class mean appears to range from a B- to a B, with first year courses gravitating closer to the B-category. The graduating mean tends to be a little higher, with most classes having a yearly GPA that fluctuates between 2.9 and 3.11.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁵, 25th - 75th Percentile: 158 - 164
- Median GPA: 3.60⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.23 - 3.82
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,701
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 598
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 22.1

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	D+	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.00	F 0.00
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	D-	

According to NAPL, only those students with average GPA's of 3.5 or higher (top 10%) are ranked individually. All other students receive a GPA each semester. Students are placed in grade clusters, which provide employers with the relative standing of individual job candidates. Minimum GPA for graduation is 1.7.⁸

CLASS RANK:

Percentile Rankings based on GPA for University of Georgia School of Law^{9*}

	CLASS OF 2003	CLASS OF 2004	CLASS OF 2005
	n = 205	n = 230	n = 201
	mean = 3.00	mean = 2.96	mean = 3.04
	median = 3.00	median = 2.95	median = 3.11
	GRADE POINT AVERAGE	GRADE POINT AVERAGE	GRADE POINT AVERAGE
TOP 10%	3.52 and above	3.56 and above	3.69 and above
TOP 20%	3.38 and above	3.36 and above	3.51 and above
TOP 33%	3.19 and above	3.16 and above	3.29 and above
TOP 50%	3.00 and above	2.95 and above	3.11 and above
TOP 75%	2.67 and above	2.59 and above	2.65 and above

*Students responding to our survey indicated that the curve, which has a median of a B-, is much stricter during first-year classes than in the following years. Also, grade distributions in smaller classes tend to be more skewed than in larger classes.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹¹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%; 20 students
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> :	Top 2%; 3.8 GPA; 3 students
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> :	Top 8%; 3.5 GPA; 17 students
<i>Cum Laude</i> :	Top 35%; 3.0 – 3.49 GPA; 71 students

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹²

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
MacDougald Award	First Honor Graduate
Meinhard Award	Graduate with highest cumulative GPA
Dean Rusk Award	Best paper in international law field
Class of 1993 Torts Award	Students with highest grade in first-year Torts class (3)
Shinn Award	Student writer of the best legal article
Chaffin Award	Excellence in the study of trusts & estates
Georgia Bankers Association Award	Excellence in the study of bankruptcy
Georgia Municipal Association Award	Excellence in the study of municipal corporation
Donald P. Gilmore Jr. Labor Law Award	Excellence in the study of labor law
William King Meadow Award	All-around excellence
Ellen Jordan Environmental Award	Outstanding performance in environmental courses and activities

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

Students at the University of Georgia School of Law publish three highly-regarded legal journals. Membership on the journals is limited to second- and third-year students who have demonstrated outstanding writing. All positions are garnered on the basis of a writing competition, without the possibility of getting on through grades alone.

Published four times a year, the **GEORGIA LAW REVIEW** is devoted to the study and analysis of contemporary legal issues. The Review has been published continuously since 1966 and is edited by second- and third-year law students chosen on the basis of a writing competition.¹⁴

The **GEORGIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW** was established in 1970 and is published three times a year. It is generally considered the second most prestigious journal at the Law School.¹⁵

The **JOURNAL OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW** is the nation's first student-edited law journal devoted solely to the field of intellectual property law, specifically to patent law, trademark, trade secrets, copyright, and related topics. The Journal publishes critical and analytical articles from leading academics and practicing attorneys as well as student-written notes on current legal issues. While not as established as the other two journals, its status as the first of its kind makes it highly regarded among students, especially those seeking to practice intellectual property law.¹⁶

MOOT COURT¹⁷

The moot court program at the University of Georgia has been described as a 'juggernaut.' UGA has been named National Champion (1990 & 1991) and International Champion (1990) in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The moot court teams have won one world and nine national championships in the last ten years; the mock trial teams have won one national and numerous regional and state titles. Due to the teams' exceptional success, Moot court and all related activities are highly regarded at the school, and apparently equal in prestige to journal membership.

First-year students are required to participate in one round of competition. Subsequent rounds are optional. Most moot court teams are selected on the basis of the student's performance during the first-year competition and tryouts during the fall of the second year. Board members are chosen by the outgoing student board at the end of the student's second year of school.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁸

The University Of Georgia School Of Law's clinical programs complement the classroom curriculum by offering diverse practical experiences in a variety of legal settings and practice areas. Nearly three quarters of UGA's second- and third-year law students gain hands-on experience annually through the law school's clinical programs: Criminal Practice, Legal Aid and Defender Clinic (established in 1967), Prosecutorial Clinic (established in 1970), Civil Practice Externship Clinic, Family Violence Clinic, Public Interest Practicum and the Etowah Practicum (Law and Ecology, Upper Etowah Watershed).

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁹

UGA's student organizations include the American Bar Association/Law Student Division, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Business and Corporate Law Association, Christian Legal Society, Dean's Ambassadors, Environmental Law Association, Equal Justice Foundation, Federalist Society, Gay & Lesbian Legal Network, Georgia League, Georgia Society for International and Comparative Law, Hispanic Law Students Association, Human Rights Society, Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Association, Jewish Law Student Association, Phi Alpha Delta, the Student Bar Association and the Women Law Students Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 500+

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 80.4²⁰

Percentage of grads employed nine months from graduation: 98.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 61.8
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 12.9
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 11.8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4.8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 8.1
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/brief/lawrank_brief.php
- 2 <http://www.law.uga.edu/career/statistics/empstats02.html>
- 3 <http://www.law.uga.edu/admissions/jd/profile/index.html>
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 5 Id.
- 6 <http://www.law.uga.edu/admissions/jd/profile/index.html>
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 466;
- 8 Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 466.
- 9 <http://www.law.uga.edu/facstaffstu/students/gradedist2002-2003.html>
- 10 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 11 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 466.
- 12 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 466.
- 13 <http://www.law.uga.edu/academics/journals/index.html>
- 14 <http://www.law.uga.edu/galawrev/index.html>
- 15 <http://www.uga.edu/ruskcenter/giicl.html>
- 16 <http://www.law.uga.edu/jipl/>
- 17 <http://www.law.uga.edu/academics/advocacy/moot.html>
- 18 <http://www.law.uga.edu/academics/clinics/index.html>
- 19 <http://www.law.uga.edu/facstaffstu/students/studentorganizations.html>
- 20 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php
- 21 Id.

RANK

27

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW

The University Of Illinois College Of Law is currently ranked Number 27 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The school's faculty members have a reputation for being much more open to lively interactions and casual discussions with students than their counterparts at many other top academic institutions. The low student-faculty ratio of 16.2¹ directly contributes to this positive situation.

With a fall 2003 entering class of only 225 students,² the school clearly understands the value of providing small class discussion groups. Students are pleased with the comparatively low tuition cost³ and the diversity of the student body. Students come from as many as 32 different states and three foreign countries.⁴

Illinois Law uses a standard 4-point scale which is largely unmodified. Illinois is also unique among law schools, as it does not impose a mandatory curve on any of the classes. However, the faculty often refers to a recommended curve for classes with more than 50 students. The exact mean for the recommended curve is not disclosed.⁵

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 159 - 164⁷
- Median GPA: 3.37⁸, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.12 - 3.61⁹
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,777¹⁰
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 595¹¹
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 21.4¹²

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:¹³

	B+	3.333	C+	2.333	D+	1.333			
A	4.0	B	2.0	C	2.0	D	1.0	F	0.000
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667	D-	0.667		

*Only the top 15 students in each class are ranked each semester.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁴

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	3.75 GPA
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.50 GPA
<i>Cum laude</i> :	3.25 GPA
Dean's List:	11% – 30% (During one semester)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁵

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Harno Fellow	Top 10% for one semester.
Harker Prize	Top two students in graduating class.
Rickert Award	Outstanding third-years in eight categories (30 – 40).
CALI Excellence for the Future Award	Highest grade in each course each semester.
West Publishing Company Award	Highest grade in selected courses.
Brinks Hofer Award	Outstanding academic excellence in the areas of copyright, trademark, or patent.
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd Best Advocate Award	First-years for excellence in oral and written advocacy skills.
J. Nelson Young Tax Award	Outstanding academic excellence in tax by third-year students (2 – 3).
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal Award	Excellence in Legal Research and Writing
Larry Travis Bushong Award	Best paper addressing Gay and Lesbian legal issues
Neal Gerber & Eisenberg Law Review Writing Award	Best Law Review Note

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

JOURNALS¹⁶

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW¹⁷ is an academic periodical published five times per year. The Law Review provides practitioners, judges, professors, and law students with cogent analyses of important topics in the law. Students who excel in a summer writing competition are invited to become members; the Review no longer uses a “grade-on” system for acquiring membership.¹⁸

The **ELDER LAW JOURNAL**¹⁹ is published twice annually and is the only law review in the country devoted to legal issues facing older people. It is considered the second most prestigious journal at Illinois and all interested students must take part in the writing competition.^{20*}

The College of Law's newest journal is **THE JOURNAL OF LAW, TECHNOLOGY, AND POLICY**.²¹ Launched in 2001, the Journal is a highly innovative, interdisciplinary publication devoted to cutting-edge issues of intellectual property. Students are invited to become members after submitting a writing sample and demonstrated interest in intellectual property matters.

The College also publishes the prestigious **COMPARATIVE LABOR LAW & POLICY JOURNAL**,²² a major international forum for the best scholarship in labor law, employment policy, and social security issues.

College of Law students also write **ILLINOIS LAW UPDATE**, a column focusing on recent developments in Illinois law, published monthly in the *Illinois Bar Journal* and read by thousands of practicing lawyers throughout the state. These students are chosen from among the top legal writing students in the College.

MOOT COURT²³

For second and third-year students, moot court is an elective. They can choose to participate in any of the following: the Frederick Green Moot Court Competition, Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition, Philip C. Jessup Moot Court Competition, Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, National Hispanic Bar Association Competition or the Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁴

Within the University of Illinois College of Law's legal clinics, the student is the lead attorney/first chair, which gives the students hands-on experience as they make most of the ultimate decisions on the case. The program is divided into the Civil Law Clinic, Appellate Defender, Litigation, Transactional and Community Economic Development Clinic, the International Human Rights Clinic, Employee Justice Clinic, Externships, ADR, and Negotiations.

ORGANIZATIONS²⁵

The University of Illinois College of Law's student organizations include the American Bar Association - Student Division, American Civil Liberties Union – College of Law Chapter, American Constitution Society, American Inns of Court, Asian-American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Chicago Bar Association – Student Division, Christian Law Students Association, Client Counseling Competition, Disability Law Society, Diversity Committee, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Illinois State Bar Association - Student Division, Intellectual Property Legal Society, International Law Society, Intramural Sports, Irish Law Students Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Latino/Latina Law Students Association, Law Revue Musical, Military Law Society, Moot Court Competitions/Bench, Muslim Law Students Association, Myra Bradwell Association for Women Law Students, Peer Advisors Program, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Prisoners' Rights Research Project, Public Interest Law Foundation, Sexual Orientation & Legal Issues Society, Sports Law Society, Student Bar Association, Trial Team, Native American Law Students Association, Business Law Society, Law School Republicans, Student Alumni Association, Negotiations Competition, Advancing Legal & Strategic Opportunities, Cinematic Justice, Justinian Society of Law Students, Law School Democrats, Street Law, Law Students for Choice, LRAP Exploratory Committee, Animal Law Society, Health & Biotechnology Law Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 100+²⁶
Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 81.5²⁷
Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 100

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 65
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 11
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 14
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 E-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Virginia Vermillion, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Administration, and BCG research staff.
- 2 <http://www.law.uiuc.edu/admissions/pdf/PROFILE.pdf>
- 3 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 340.
- 4 Correspondence dated 1/10/03 from Virginia Vermillion assistant Dean for Academic and Student Administration, to BCG Attorney Search.
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 <http://www.law.uiuc.edu/admissions/pdf/PROFILE.pdf>
- 7 Id.
- 8 Id.
- 9 E-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Virginia Vermillion, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Administration, and BCG research staff.
- 10 Id.
- 11 Id.
- 12 E-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Virginia Vermillion, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Administration, and BCG research staff.
- 13 Id., www.law.uiuc.edu/courses/pdf/CCH.pdf, page 25. "...the Registrar's Office does keep and provide the appropriate individuals... [the] precise class rank of the top 15 students of each class at the end of each semester."
- 14 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 482.
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 482.
- 16 www.law.uiuc.edu/publications/index.asp.
- 17 <http://home.law.uiuc.edu/lrev/>.
- 18 E-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Virginia Vermillion, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Administration, and BCG research staff.
- 19 <http://home.law.uiuc.edu/elderlaw/>.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
*Statements relating to the relative prestige of publications are based purely on student body opinion are not endorsed by the faculty or staff at the law school.
- 21 <http://www.jltp.uiuc.edu/>.
- 22 <http://www.law.uiuc.edu/publications/CLL&P/Default.htm>.
- 23 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 481-482.
- 24 Id. at 481; www.law.uiuc.edu/admissions/pdf/2003-04-UI_Law_Viewbook.pdf,
- 25 <http://www.law.uiuc.edu/students/orgs.asp>.
- 26 See www.law.uiuc.edu/career/summer.asp: According to a career services web page, the University of Illinois College of Law's "on-campus interviewing program . . . draws scores of employers from around the country." www.law.uiuc.edu/career/programs.asp.
- 27 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php
- 28 Id.

RANK

40

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

The Indiana University School of Law is currently tied with Ohio State University for Number 40 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Indiana University's campus has been designated as one of the five most beautiful in the country and the New York Times has listed Bloomington as one of the nation's top ten college towns.¹ Bloomington lives up to its motto of "close to everything – nearly perfect," depending of course on your definition of "everything." Indianapolis, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Louisville are all within reasonable driving distance.² Indiana offers a number of outdoor recreational opportunities, and devoted fans of music and basketball will not be disappointed.

Since its founding over 150 years ago, the Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington has prepared students from all across the country and around the world for careers as lawyers in private practice, government and business, and in academic fields.³ The school offers a number of important specialty areas, including some of the nation's leading programs in environmental, communications and information, and global and international law, a strong clinical program, several joint-degree programs, and opportunities for study abroad. The Indiana University School of Law has an average entering class size of 221 students and a student-faculty ratio of 12.8

Indiana Law adheres to a standard 4.0 grading scale with most courses graded on a 3.0 curve and seminars with a curve of 3.5. Generally, the 50th percentile mark falls around a GPA average of 3.17.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 162⁵, 25th – 75th Percentile: 159 – 164⁶

Median GPA: 3.42⁷, 25th – 75th Percentile: 2.99 – 3.68⁸

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,952

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 927

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 33.5

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

A+	4.0	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D	1.3
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	F	0.0

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ¹⁰	3.51	3.36	3.28	3.17	N/A	2.3

* According to student surveys, Indiana University professors adhere to a strict curve with 3.0 set as the median. The only classes where 3.0 is not the required median are seminars, which some students claim can have medians of up to 3.5. Most students feel that grade inflation does not exist at all.¹¹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Top 1%
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	Top 10% (2nd-10th percentile)
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 30% (11th-30th percentile)
Dean's List:	Top 30%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Highest Grade Award	Student with highest grade in all classes with more than 10 students. ¹⁴
Scribes Awards	Top first-years in Legal Writing sections.
Merit Scholarships	Merit-based.
Order of the Barristers	Excellence in advocacy.
CALI Excellence for the Future	Top grade in class; faculty choice.
Sig Beck Award	Writing award given to one second-year and one third-year based on an essay contest regarding commercial law. ¹⁵
West Publisher's Award	Top GPA in each class.
Vice President Scholar	Top second-year student.
JUMP Scholars	For academic achievement.
Moot Court Awards	Merit-based.
John Edwards University Fellowship	Top Indiana University student.
Chancellor's scholarships	Top merit.

Student surveys indicated that the nationally recognized Order of the Coif award is the most prestigious and coveted award at the Law School.¹⁶

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁷

Students have the chance to serve on one of the school's three journals. Students can either grade on or write on to all three of the journals, with different criteria for each one. Student surveys indicated that the *Indiana Law Journal* is the most competitive and most prestigious with the *Communications Law Journal* at second, the *International Law Journal* was said to be the least reputed.¹⁸ All three journals have a note writing competition during second year as well.¹⁹

INDIANA LAW JOURNAL²⁰ is published quarterly and is one of the nation's oldest public university law reviews. The top 10% of a class (approximately 20 people) can automatically grade on, as long as it is their journal of choice. Additionally, a few spots remain for any students not in the top 10% that have exceptional writing ability. Those students who write on do not have their grades factored in at all. However, because of the automatic extension of membership to all those in the top 10%, the write-on spots are rare and highly competitive.

The **INDIANA JOURNAL OF GLOBAL LEGAL STUDIES**²¹ is a faculty-edited, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal focusing on the intersections of global and domestic legal regimes, markets, politics, technologies and cultures. This is the journal of choice for IU students seeking to practice international law or those with a general interest in the subject. As with the *Indiana Law Journal*, students gain admittance to this journal through a combination of writing and grades. Students in the top 10% of the class may elect to be on this Journal without having to submit to the writing contest, so long as they choose this Journal as their first preference. The second year writing contest plays a bigger role in deciding the rest of the positions, although grades are a factor for everyone who chooses to apply.

The **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS LAW JOURNAL**²² is the nation's oldest and most widely circulated communications law journal and the official journal of the Federal Communications Bar Association. Students with an interest in communications law in the top 10% of their class can choose to automatically qualify for this journal. Due to the prestige of the journal within communications legal circles, positions are very coveted. The rest of the student staff is chosen through the writing competition, with a lesser consideration for their grades.

MOOT COURT²³

Although participation in Moot Court is not mandatory at Indiana University for first-years, almost 75% of the second-year class participates in an internal Shermon Minton Competition in the fall and spring involving both an oral and a written component. The top students are then selected to serve on the moot court board for the following year and to participate in external competitions. Since a very large majority of the school chooses to participate, the competition is predictably fierce. The school puts a large emphasis on this program, making it one of the most successful at Indiana University.²⁴

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

The Community Legal Clinic provides greatly needed assistance on a range of family law issues for the indigent of Monroe County, Indiana.²⁵ In the Child Advocacy Clinic, students are appointed as guardians ad litem.²⁶ Several non-client service opportunities allow second- and third-year students to work on real cases under the supervision of members of the faculty, practicing attorneys, or judges.²⁷ Volunteers in the Protective Order Project work closely with a local shelter for battered women and their children. The Inmate Legal Assistance Project requires volunteers to travel to the federal prison in Terre Haute to meet directly with inmates to resolve their problems with the institution. Legal Services Organization Assistance Project provides legal aid to the indigent through the local office of the Legal Services Organization. Lastly, in the Environmental Law Research Group, students work directly with attorneys on environmental problems.

ORGANIZATIONS²⁸

The University of Indiana School of Law's active student organizations include the American Bar Association, Amnesty International, Animal Legal Defense Fund (Student Chapter), Asian Pacific Islander American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Business and Law Society, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society for Law and Public Studies, Feminist Law Forum, Inmate Legal Assistance Clinic, Intellect, International Law Association, Latino Law Student Association, Law Drama Society, Law/SPEA Student Organization, Moot Court Board, Older & Wiser Law Students, OUTLAW (Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Law Caucus), Outreach for Legal Literacy, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Protective Order Project, Public Interest Law Foundation, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Student Law Association and the Women's Law Caucus.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 81²⁹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 76.9³⁰

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 92.0

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 47
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 8
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 14
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 21

Some students surveyed felt that the above statistics were inaccurate and that students could not verify if this employment breakdown was actually representative of Indiana graduates, others indicated that the breakdown does not account for the large percentage of unemployed graduates.³²

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/prospective/bloomington.shtml>.
2 Id.
3 <http://www.law.indiana.edu>
4 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 174.
5 Id.
6 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/prospective/qanda.shtml>
7 Id.
8 Id.
9 Id.
10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 174.
11 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2000 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 174.
12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
13 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 174.
14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 174.
15 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
16 Id.
17 Id.
18 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/publications/>.
19 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
20 Id.
21 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/ilj/index.shtml>.
22 <http://ijgls.indiana.edu/>.
23 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/fclj/>.
24 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 173.
25 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
26 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/curriculum/programs/clinical.shtml>.
27 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/curriculum/programs/clinics/cac.shtml>.
28 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/curriculum/programs/clinical.shtml>.
29 <http://www.law.indiana.edu/students/groups/index.shtml>.
30 http://www.law.indiana.edu/careers/general_info/annual_reports/2001rpt.pdf.
31 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php
32 Id.
33 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

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UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF LAW

The University of Iowa College Of Law is located in Iowa City and attracts many students who prefer a curriculum that stresses legal writing skills. The school prepares its graduates for the best jobs available in private practice and in the corporations headquartered in the Midwest and other parts of the country. The school's top graduates claim the faculty is particularly strong in the fields of constitutional law, civil procedure, tax, International Law, Globalization of the Law, and contracts law.

Currently ranked Number 23 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, the University of Iowa College of Law is a favorite among those interested in finding a school with a relatively small entering class size and a low student-faculty ratio. There were 220 students enrolled in Iowa's fall 2003 entering class, and the ratio of students to faculty is just 11.0. Students get to choose from approximately 200 employers who participate in the on-campus interview program.¹

Iowa uses a numerical grading system with a range of 92 to 55. The points are associated with alphabetical equivalents from A- F. No + and - grades are given out in any other category except B's. The mean GPA is 75 range with a strict first year curve for individual courses which also falls within the B range. As the system is designed to minimize grade inflation, even the top students at Iowa, usually have lower GPA's than those from their counterparts at other top tier law schools.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:³

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 161, 25th - 75th Percentile: 157 - 164

Median GPA: 3.59, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.27 - 3.79

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 1,721

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 416

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 24.2

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03042.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:

	B+ 80 – 84			
A 85 – 92	B 75 – 79	C 65 – 69	D 60 – 64	
	B- 70 – 74		F 50 – 59	

GPA's falling in the 12.5th percentile and the 37.5th percentile are posted for each class. Students must estimate class standing by extrapolating from the numbers given.⁴ Students have indicated that in actuality the grading scale ranges from 50 to 90, as scores of 91 or higher are rarely, if ever, given. It was noted that due to the low curve (when compared with most other top tier schools), top students routinely receive grades between 82 and 87 (B+ and A), and the cumulative GPA median is usually in the 65 to 69 range (C level)*. Students in the top 10% of their class are informed of their rank every semester after the end of their first year.⁵

*Law School administration provided that the GPA range is 75 – 77 rather than 65 – 69 as the student surveys indicated, putting the average in the B instead of a C range.⁶

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):⁷

The following strict grading guidelines are provided for the faculty, leading to minimal grade inflation and lower than usual grades for even the top achievers:

Both small and large sections have a 75 median, with the distribution as follows:

(A) SMALL SECTIONS:

85 and over –	0% to 15%, with a norm of 10%
84 to 80 –	10% to 25%, with a norm of 15%
79 to 75 –	20% to 35%, with a norm of 25%
74 to 70 –	20% to 35%, with a norm of 25%
69 and under –	15% to 40%, with a norm of 25%

(B) LARGE SECTIONS:

85 and over –	5% to 15%, with a norm of 10%
84 to 80 –	10% to 20%, with a norm of 15%
79 to 75 –	20% to 30%, with a norm of 25%
74 to 70 –	20% to 30%, with a norm of 25%
69 and under –	20% to 35%, with a norm of 25%

In neither small sections nor large sections may any more than 15% of the grades assigned be 64 and under.

The faculty does not apply a mandatory grade curve beyond the first year although generally grades in second- and third-year courses are expected to approximate the curve used in large section first-year courses.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST :⁸

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% of graduating class; members chosen by faculty
Highest Distinction:	Cumulative GPA of 85+
High Distinction:	Top 12.5% of graduating class
Distinction:	Top 37.5% of graduating class
Dean's List:	Top 10% in each class

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Michelle R. Bennett Client Representation Award	Outstanding service in the clinical law programs (1 – 2).
Donald P. Lay Faculty Recognition Award	Student who has made distinctive contributions to College of Law community or education programs.
Faculty Scholar Award	Student who has made an especially distinctive contribution to the development of written legal scholarship.
Hancher-Finkbine Medallion	Outstanding graduates (2).
BNA Award for Scholastic Progress	For the most improved grades from first to third year.
West Publishing Company Awards	For outstanding scholastic achievement (4).
Philip G. Hubbard Human Rights Award	For outstanding contributions to human rights and equal opportunity, as described in the University's Human Rights Policy.
Antonia Miller Award for Advancement of Human Rights	For the advancement of human rights in the law school community by a student (1 – 2).
Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers Award	Outstanding advocate in the Roy L. Stephenson Trial Advocacy Competition.
International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award	Student who has distinguished him or herself in appellate advocacy skills.
Iowa State Bar Association Prize life of the college.	For scholastic achievement and general contribution to the life of the college.
John F. Murray Prize	Outstanding scholastic achievement.
National Association of Women Lawyers Award	Third-year law student, chosen by the Organization for Women Law Students and Staff.
Robert S. Hunt Legal History Award	Outstanding contribution in the area of legal history.
Erich D. Mathias Award for International Social Justice	For commitment to international social, economic, and cultural justice.
Iowa College of Law Appellate Advocacy Award	Outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy.
Judge John F. Dillon Prize	Outstanding scholarship in legal history or jurisprudence.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

The University of Iowa College of Law is unique in that all students, without regard to GPA, are eligible to write for any of the four University of Iowa student-published legal periodicals. No membership or staff positions for any of the student published legal periodicals are offered on the basis of grades.

To be considered for membership in the *IOWA LAW REVIEW*,¹¹ students must complete a write-on packet during the first three weeks after the spring semester ends. Students who are selected to write for the Review must compile source lists, edit pieces, conduct authority checks and compose a student note during the academic year. Upon successful completion, writers achieve permanent member status and may apply for an editorial board position. The Law Review is the school's most prestigious publication.¹²

*THE JOURNAL OF CORPORATION LAW (JCL)*¹³ is the nation's oldest student-published legal periodical specializing in corporate law. Upon satisfactory completion of the write-on requirement, students attain membership status. Membership status carries with it the obligation to attend authority checks, perform secondary hours as required, and meet writing deadlines.

*TRANSNATIONAL LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS*¹⁴ is produced twice a year. Each issue of this international law journal presents a symposium addressing a contemporary issue of international concern. Recent issues have covered such diverse topics as regional trade agreements, global warming, and international arms control. The Journal also publishes articles written by Iowa law students and sponsors an internationally advertised student writing contest each year. Law students who have completed at least two semesters may earn up to three semester hours of credit by writing for the journal. Highly qualified students who complete the writing and secondary hour requirements may be chosen to fill an editor position, for which they earn additional credit and a monetary stipend.

The *JOURNAL OF GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE*¹⁵ published its first issue in the fall of 1997, with feminist inquiry and critical race analysis as the touchstones of their endeavor. All new writers are required to complete one 'Recent Development' of 10 to 15 pages in length; then, writers who register for two credits must complete a note or comment of 30 pages in length, while those who register for three credits must write a paper that is 50 pages long. Each writer is also required to complete a minimum of 30 secondary hours per semester.

MOOT COURT¹⁶

All second-year students participate in a mandatory Appellate Advocacy Program (AA-I). After AA-I, students have the option to participate in AA-II. Students enrolled in Appellate Advocacy II may participate in the Van Oosterhout Competition, of which six finalists are entered into the National Moot Court Competition. Participants in AA-II and intramural competition may interview for positions on the moot court board, a student-run organization composed of staff writers, judges, and an executive board. Participation in the moot court program at Iowa is highly coveted and a significant part of students' law school experience.¹⁷

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁸

The University of Iowa College of Law offers both clinical and clerkship opportunities. In the clinical program, students represent financially distressed farmers in bankruptcy proceedings, inmates in Iowa correctional institutions involved in habeas corpus and civil cases, clients in the AIDS project, and other clients in a wide range of civil and criminal cases. In the clerkship programs, students act as law clerks to trial court judges. They observe court proceedings, conduct research, and draft legal memoranda and court papers.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁹

The University of Iowa College of Law's student organizations include the ABA/LSD (Law Student Division), Black Law Students Association, Chicano Association of Legal Education, Equal Justice Foundation, Environmental Law Society, The Federalist Society, Intellectual Property Law, Iowa Society of International Law and Affairs, Iowa Student Bar Association, Law Student Division of the Iowa Association of Trial Lawyers, National Lawyer's Guild, OUTLAWS, Organization for Women Law Students and Staff, and Phi Delta Phi.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200²⁰

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 71.8²¹

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 97.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²²

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 59
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 12
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 6
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 14
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 www.law.uiowa.edu/careerservices.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Information verified by the fax correspondence dated March, 22 2004 between BCG research staff and Karen K. Klouda, Director of Career Services. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 Information provided via fax correspondence dated March 22 2004 between BCG research staff and Karen K. Klouda, Director of Career Services.
- 4 www.uiowa.edu/registrar/catalog/CollegeofLaw/AcademicPolicies.html.
- 5 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 6 Information provided via fax correspondence dated March 22 2004 between BCG research staff and Karen K. Klouda, Director of Career Services.
- 7 <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/fachand/grading.php>
- 8 These figures apply to students who entered the College of Law in August 1998 or later, figures represent % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 487. www.uiowa.edu/registrar/catalog/CollegeofLaw/AcademicHonors.html.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 486; www.uiowa.edu/registrar/catalog/CollegeofLaw/AcademicHonors.html.
- 10 www.law.uiowa.edu/journals.
- 11 <http://www.uiowa.edu/~ialawrev/student.htm>.
- 12 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 13 <http://www.uiowa.edu/~lawjcl/overview.htm>; <http://www.uiowa.edu/~lawjcl/membership.htm>.
- 14 <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/tlcp.php>.
- 15 <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/journals/grj.php>.
- 16 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 486; www.law.uiowa.edu/courses/coursesj-l.php#jessup; www.law.uiowa.edu/courses/coursesm-q.php#moot.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 www.law.uiowa.edu/legalclinic.
- 19 <http://www.law.uiowa.edu/catalog/studentorganizations.php>.
- 20 www.law.uiowa.edu/careerservices.
- 21 Information provided via fax correspondence dated March 22 2004 between BCG research staff and Karen K. Klouda, Director of Career Services.
- 22 Id.

RANK

50

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW

The University of Kentucky College of Law is a medium-sized, reasonably priced state law school, large enough to provide a diverse and stimulating curriculum and small enough to host a close-knit community of faculty and students. The school is located in historic Lexington, Kentucky, a city of over 250,000 people, and surrounded by some of the nation's most scenic landscapes. The distinctive blend of clean industries, scenic horse farms, and college town ambience is unique to Lexington.¹

The University of Kentucky College of Law makes a return appearance on the list of Tier One law schools at Number 50, after being absent from the 2004 list.² The faculty's wide range of experiences, from the practical to the theoretical, prepares students to enter most any type of practice. With an average entering class size of 146³ students and a student-faculty ratio of 15,⁴ it is not uncommon for faculty members to take a genuine interest in the lives of their students.

The legal community at the University of Kentucky is strong, in close proximity to federal and local courthouses and the seats of state and local government. Students can also take advantage of many outdoor sports and recreational opportunities, not to mention a thriving art and music scene, without worrying about high costs, high crime rates, or traffic.

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁵

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

Median LSAT: 158 – 161⁶, 25th – 75th Percentile: 157 – 162⁷

Median GPA: 3.26 – 3.51⁸, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.26 – 3.76⁹

Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 1481¹⁰

Number accepted during one recent sample year: 399¹¹

Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 26.9¹²

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:¹³

B+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 0.7
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ¹⁴	3.56	3.29	3.18	2.98	2.67	2.00

HONORS:¹⁵

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% (approx 14)
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	3.8+ GPA
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	3.6 – 3.8 GPA
<i>Cum laude</i> :	3.4 – 3.6 GPA

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁶

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Ashland Inc. Legal Scholar	Prestigious 3-year scholarship for best entering applicant with financial need.
Bert Combs Scholars	Prestigious 3-year scholarship for best entering applicants (2).
Frost Brown Todd	For outstanding credentials (2).
Greenebaum Doll & McDonald	Highest ranking students in first and second year (2).
John Y. Brown, Sr. Scholar	Candidate with strong academics and ability for criminal trial practice.
Stoll, Keenon & Park	For outstanding work on KLJ, moot court (3).
Savage, Garmer & Elliot	For outstanding work on moot court.
Colvin P. Rouse	Third-year student with best writing for KLJ.
Massey Scholarships	For outstanding work on JNREL (4 – 5).
Leland Awards	For outstanding work on moot court (1 – 3).
Boehl Stopher & Graves	For outstanding work on moot court.
Charles Cassis Award	For outstanding writing.
Oexmann Award	For outstanding writing in criminal law area (1 – 2).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁷

The **KENTUCKY LAW JOURNAL (KLJ)**¹⁸ is the tenth oldest law review published by the nation's law schools, with continuous publication since 1912. Four issues are published annually by the College of Law. The KLJ is edited entirely by a student editorial board with guidance from a faculty advisor. Each issue contains articles written by prominent national scholars and notes written by KLJ members encompassing a broad range of legal topics. The journal chooses about 20 first years on the bases of grades and 11 on the basis of the writing competition. The grade cut-of is 15% to make this Journal.

The **JOURNAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT LAW (JNREL)**¹⁹ is a multi-disciplinary journal published twice yearly by the Mineral Law Center at the University of Kentucky College of Law. This journal chooses about 10 first years on the basis of grades alone and 15 on the basis of the writing competition. The grade cut-of is a generous 25%.

MOOT COURT²⁰

Kentucky Law maintains a first-year voluntary oral advocacy program with assistance from the Moot Court Board.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²¹

The College of Law's Law Clinic is housed across the street from the College of Law. Under the Kentucky Supreme Court's limited practice rule, students represent clients in negotiations with federal and state agencies, in administrative hearings, and in court proceedings. In addition to the Legal Clinic, UK Law offers four externships for which students can obtain academic credit on a pass/fail basis: the Innocence Project, Judicial Clerkship Externship, Prison Externship, and the Prosecutorial Externship.

ORGANIZATIONS²²

The University of Kentucky College of Law's student organizations include the Student Public Interest Law Foundation, International Law Society, Federalist Society, Women's Law Caucus, Trial Advocacy Board, Christian Legal Society, Equine Law Society, Student Bar Association, Environmental Law Society, Phi Delta Phi, Appalachian Law, Health Law Society, Honor Council, Student Research, KATA, Non-Traditional Students, and the Black Law Students Association

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 104²³

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 80.7²⁴

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.3

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁵

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 70
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 19
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 0
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/community.htm>.
- 2 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/law/brief/lawrank_brief.php.
- 3 <http://www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm>.
- 4 The Princeton Review, Complete Book of Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 240.
- 5 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03063.php
- 6 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm: "The LSAT median in recent years has ranged from 158 to 161, with a GPA median of 3.26 to 3.51."
- 7 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 367.
- 8 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm: "The LSAT median in recent years has ranged from 158 to 161, with a GPA median of 3.26 to 3.51."
- 9 Id.
- 10 Id.
- 11 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 367.
- 12 Calculated from the numbers above.
- 13 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/regulations.htm; Note that the NALP guide lists 1.0 as the numerical equivalent for the grade of D, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 494.
- 14 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 494.
- 15 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 494.
- 16 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 494.
- 17 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm. , Entrance standards provided by National Association of Law Placement Directory of Law Schools 2003-2004 p. 945.
- 18 <http://www.uky.edu/Law/KLJ/>.
- 19 <http://www.uky.edu/Law/JNREL/>.
- 20 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm.
- 21 www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/students.htm, www.uky.edu/Law/admissions/pubint.html.
- 22 Id.
- 23 www.uky.edu/Law/career/career2000b.htm; adding the bracketed numbers in the column titled "Fall On-Campus Interviews" calculates to exactly 104 different employers; if any a single employer is represented in more than one bracket, then obviously the number of firms interviewing on campus would be smaller.
- 24 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03063.php
- 25 Id.

RANK

43

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Maryland School of Law is notable among first-tier law schools, in that it permits students to enroll either as day or evening students. Both categories of acceptance are based on the same rigorous median LSAT and GPA admissions criteria. The school prides itself on offering only a JD degree, so as to provide a concentrated effort into producing lawyers.¹

The law school made a return to *US News and World Report* top 50 at number 47 last year, this year it moves up to number 43. Maryland boasts an exceptionally favorable student/faculty ratio of 14.1, which facilitates a lot of one-on-one time between individual students and their professors. Even the large first year courses only contain 50 to 75 students. Further the Law School provides several specialization programs with a Healthcare law program that ranks third in the nation and an Environmental law program which ranks fourth nationally.²

University of Maryland School of Law uses a modified 4-point scale with a range of 4.3 to 0.67, A+ to F respectively. The Law School releases an individual rank for each student, which is available upon request, and the 50th percentile falls at 3.14, squarely in the middle of a B and B+.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 166, 25th - 75th Percentile: 156 - 162
- Median GPA: 3.60, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.3 - 3.7
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4,065
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 569
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 14.0

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁴

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.67	F 0.67

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁵	3.56	3.37	3.28	3.14	2.92	1.78

Although Maryland does not publish a class rank on the transcript, students may request their individual class rank from the registrar after all first year grades are recorded. Students may also list such a rank on their resume if they desire.⁶

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	N/A
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	N/A
<i>Cum Laude</i> :	Top 1/3rd

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Thomas Prizes	Students graduating #1 and #2 (2).
Larry B. Shoda Award	Evening student demonstrating academic excellence.
Joseph Bernstein Fund Prizes	Best work in each student journal.
Hoffberger Clinical Law Prizes	Students excelling in Clinical Law Program (4).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

Students are selected based on a written petition submitted at the end of their first year for day students and their second year for evening students. The process is entirely grade blind for two of the journals: Margins and the Journal of Health Care Law and Policy, students are selected solely on the basis of their petition score. Grades do play a small role in the selection of members for The Maryland Law Review and The Business Lawyer. Specifically, 25% of the available positions are determined by a combination of petition scores and grades.¹⁰

THE BUSINESS LAWYER is the official journal of the ABA's section of business law. The ABA has chosen University of Maryland School of Law to publish this journal as a fully student edited publication. The University website boasts that the Journal has the largest circulation of any law journal/review in the world. The print run tops 58,000 and is distributed to subscribing practitioners, academics and judges nationwide. By way of comparison, *Harvard Law Review* distributes approximately 8,000 copies. The journal mainly publishes articles by legal practitioners or academics, and the materials are submitted directly to the ABA. Students may publish work on this journal only by entering an ABA contest to find publishable student works.

THE JOURNAL OF HEALTH CARE LAW AND POLICY (JHCLP) is starting its seventh year at the University Of Maryland School Of Law. The JHCLP was created to provide attorneys, law students and others a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of leading issues in law and health policy fields.

MARGINS LAW JOURNAL takes as its subject matter class, gender, race and religion and provides a forum for discussions of thorny issues involving the interplay of these factors within and upon American culture. The Journal professes to take a step back from traditional case and statutory analysis and focuses more on the impact of law on individuals and communities with marginal status.

MARYLAND LAW REVIEW is the major legal publication of the school and produces four issues a year, one of which is dedicated to Maryland law. The Review consists of a 60 – 70 member staff at one time, with an editorial board that exercises full control over the layout and content of the Journal. Most issues include articles by leading scholars and practitioners, and the issue dedicated to Maryland law welcomes comments and case notes by students as well as professionals.

MOOT COURT¹¹

Moot Court Board membership is reserved for upper class students who achieve exceptional scores in Appellate Advocacy, or hold the top 20 scores in a Moot Court competition. The board that oversees the Moot Court competition is made up of upper class law students. They have been judged on their grades (which typically fall within the top 10%) and appellate-brief writing ability along with notable skill in oral advocacy. Each year, two internal competitions are held in which second-year day and evening students compete for membership.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹²

University of Maryland's Clinical Programs aim to teach students to understand how legal theory integrates with law practice. The school boasts an astounding 21 clinical opportunities and claims that each and every student, who wishes, has an opportunity to participate in a clinic during their time at the Law School.¹³ Established in 1987, The Environmental Law Program has developed a broad and innovative curriculum of regular course offerings with special seminars taught by leading experts. The program has been ranked among the top environmental law programs in the country in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual survey. The Law and Health Care Program (L&HCP) was established in the late 1980s by the University Of Maryland School Of Law in response to growing demand for attorneys and health-care professionals able to negotiate through today's health care system. The Program prepares students to deal with increasingly complex issues and to consider these issues from both legal and interdisciplinary perspectives. This program is also highly regarded and ranks in the top programs nationally. The Law Asper Fellowship Program offers opportunities for law study credit for supervised law-related work with state and federal judges and with attorneys and not-for-profit organizations. The Program is open to students who have completed their first year of law school. Student Aspers are required to devote 140 hours during the semester to their placement (10 hours per week for 14 weeks during the fall and spring semesters or 20 hours per week 1 summer session or a schedule mutually acceptable to both the student and the Asper placement where amount of hours are satisfied). Classroom sessions include presentations by practicing attorneys and judges.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁴

There are a wide variety of student organizations that include: Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Criminal Law Association, Intellectual Property Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Law Students for Animal Rights, Literary and Debate Society, several fraternities, the Student Bar Association, the University Student Government Association and the Women's Bar Association

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years:

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 80.2¹⁵

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 97.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 33.8
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 21.1
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 20.3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3.8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 14.8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 2.5

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/deansmessage.asp>
- 2 Id.
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 506.
- 5 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 506.
- 6 http://www.law.umaryland.edu/pdf_files/handbook.pdf pg. 28-29
- 7 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 507.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 507.
- 9 www.law.umich.edu/JournalsAndOrgs/orgs.htm; <http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/student-services/handbook/handbook.pdf#page=46>.
- 10 Journal admission standards provided by Tricia O'Neil, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, by way of e-mail correspondence dated April 2nd, 2004 between Mary Alice Hohing, Operations Manager and BCG Staff.
- 11 <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/mootcourt/>
- 12 http://www.law.umaryland.edu/specialty_program.asp
- 13 <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/deansmessage.asp>
- 14 http://www.law.umaryland.edu/osa_studorg.asp
- 15 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03071.php
- 16 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 edition, 403.

RANK

07

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR

MAILING ADDRESS

625 S. State Street
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MAIN PHONE

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REGISTRAR'S PHONE

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(734) 764-0546

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

At present, the University of Michigan Law School is ranked Number Seven (along with the University of Pennsylvania) on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. Michigan has long been one of the nation's finest institutions of legal education. The law school is home to a distinguished and diverse faculty, many of its scholars preeminent in their fields. It is recognized as a leader in interdisciplinary legal studies; the insights and methods of other areas of study are apparent throughout the broad curriculum offerings.

Michigan has over 70 full-time faculty members, and many distinguished visiting scholars further enhance course offerings.¹ This fall, 406 new students arrived eager to see how quickly they could master the requisite studying skills. With a student-faculty ratio of 14.0 it is relatively easy for students to contact their professors between classes with their questions and concerns.

Michigan uses a modified 4-point grading system, with a range of 4.3 to 0.0 and a grade range of A+ to E. Students at Michigan are ranked but the school does not release student rank, the mean GPA for upper class students sits squarely between a B and a B+ at 3.2.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 167³, 25th – 75th Percentile: 164 – 169
- Median GPA: 3.60⁴, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.43 – 3.76
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 5,439
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: approximately 1,164
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 21.4

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03082.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 3.3	D+ 1.3
A 4.0	B 3.00	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁶	Although students are ranked these percentiles are N/A					C

* Grades for upperclassmen are usually curved around a 3.2.⁷

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% of third-year class
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	GPA of 4.00 or higher
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	GPA of 3.700 – 3.999
Cum laude:	GPA of 3.400 – 3.699

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Bates Law Student Travel Fellowship	Grant to pursue legal studies abroad.
Jane L. Mixer Memorial Award	Students who have made the greatest contribution to activities designed to advance social justice.
Juan Tienda Scholarship	Student with Spanish-speaking background with commitment to work for the advancement of Spanish-speaking people in the U.S.
Butch Carpenter Memorial Scholarship	Student who has intent to apply legal training to assist development of disadvantaged community.
Robert B. Fiske, Jr. Fellowship for Public Service	Students taking post-graduate positions in government (up to 3).

Many other awards and honors are available.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

The **MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW (MLR)**¹¹ is a legal journal edited entirely by students. During the first year on MLR the editor writes a note on a legal issue and cite-checks the pieces appearing in the publication. During the second year, members edit student notes and faculty articles and help with the tasks required to publish eight issues a year. Members of the first-year class are invited to join the Review on the basis of first-year grades and performance in a writing competition. MLR also has a diversity plan designed to bring a range of perspectives and experiences to its membership.

The **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF LAW REFORM (JLR)**,¹² founded in 1968, strives to provide policy-makers and legal practitioners with the tools necessary to influence the evolution of law. During their second year in law school, members of JLR research and write notes about contemporary law reform. Junior staff members are expected to write a publishable student note. Before the start of the fall term, junior staff members spend approximately one week conducting preliminary research for development of their note topic and final topic selection. Junior staff members are also expected to verify citations, correct errors of form, and proofread articles which have been accepted for publication. Members are selected on the basis of writing ability after completion of their first year.

The **MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (MJIL)**¹³ is the student-run international publication at the Law School. The MJIL presents cutting-edge articles from scholars and practitioners in international, comparative, and foreign law, as well as research notes written by the student editors. The MJIL has evolved into a highly regarded quarterly journal in international law. The editorial board selects new associate editors from the first-year class each year on the basis of writing ability, international interest and experience, and diversity of perspectives. After *Law Review*, this is generally considered the best journal to work on.¹⁴

The **MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF GENDER & LAW (MJGL)**¹⁵ is dedicated to providing a forum where different segments of the feminist community can explore the impact of gender and related issues of race, class, sexual orientation, and culture on the development of law and society. The Journal published its first issue in the winter of 1994 and now publishes two issues per year. Members include students from all classes. Editors' tasks include article editing, solicitation of new articles, technical production of the final draft, and student writing development. The Journal is committed to publishing student work.

The **MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF RACE & LAW (MJR&L)**¹⁶ serves as a forum for scholars of all races to develop and expand theoretical, critical, and socially relevant approaches to intersections between race and the law. The Journal welcomes both traditional and non-traditional submissions from a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds. Members are strongly encouraged to produce publishable notes, and the Journal seeks to present student works at its symposia. Applicants must demonstrate interest in and commitment to issues of race and law in their personal statements. A legal writing sample is also required to evaluate each candidate's writing ability.

The **MICHIGAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW (MTTLR)**¹⁷ was one of the first law journals to champion the use of interactive media to promote informed discourse about the interrelated legal, social, business, and public policy issues raised by emerging technologies. Published online and in hard copy for distribution, MTTLR is a unique medium for the in-depth analysis of academic legal questions as well as a source for timely analysis of emerging legal-technological disputes. Students are required to write a note or comment on a topic of their choice during their first year with MTTLR. First-year law students are encouraged to apply at the end of their first year for membership. Members are selected based on demonstrated interest, writing ability, academic or employment experience, and career objectives.

MOOT COURT¹⁸

All first-year students do one oral appellate argument and brief as part of the required Legal Practice class. Moot court is open to both second- and third-year students. Miscellaneous moot court activities are undertaken most years – Jessup, Copyright, Environmental, and Frederick Douglas.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁹

In Michigan's litigation clinics, students represent clients in housing, child advocacy, environmental, criminal, employment, poverty, and asylum and refugee cases. In the transactional clinic, students help develop affordable housing in Detroit. Courses such as Trial Practice, Negotiation and Drafting, and the Evidence Workshop offer practical skills training in simulated practice settings. Finally, the South Africa externship program, Family Law Project, and the Asylum and Refugee Law Project offer valuable experience to students.

ORGANIZATIONS²⁰

The University of Michigan Law School's student organizations include the Advocates For Animal Rights, American Civil Liberties Union, Armed Forces Association, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Alliance, Business Law Society, Campbell Competition, Catholic Law Club, Christian Law Students, Criminal Law Society, Critical Race Theory Reading Groups, DICTA: Literary Arts Journal, Employment and Labor Law Association, Entertainment Law Students Association, Environmental Law Society, Family Law Project, Federalist Society, First-Year Information Fellows, Headnotes, Intellectual Property Students Association, International Law Society, Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Jewish Law Students Union, Latino Law Students Association, Law School Democrats, Law School Student Senate, Law Students for Reproductive Choice, Legal Skills Workshop and Competitions, Minority Affairs Program, Muslim Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students Association, Orientation Leading and Service Day, Outlaws, Phi Delta Phi Fraternity, Public Interest Group, Res Gestae (Student Newspaper), Student Funded Fellowships, Student Network for Asylum and Refugee Law Project, Students Against Racism, Symposia, Tutoring, Volunteer Students Tutoring Association and the Women Law Students Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 720²¹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 92.7²²

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²³

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 73.0
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 22.0
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 4.2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5.7
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4.2
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.3
- Percent of grades employed by the US military: 1.3

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 420.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 Information provide via e-mail correspondence dated March, 20th 2004 between Lisa Mitchell-Yellin, Director of Communications at Michigan School of Law and BCG research staff.
- 4 Id.
- 5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 518; www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/studentsservices/handbook/handbook.pdf, page 56.
- 6 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 518.
- 7 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 8 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 518; www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/studentsservices/handbook/handbook.pdf, page 57. "From time to time, these honor point averages may be revised in order to reflect the desired percentage distributions of honors degrees within graduating classes." Id.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 518.
- 10 www.law.umich.edu/JournalsAndOrgs/orgs.htm; <http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/studentsservices/handbook/handbook.pdf#page=46>.
- 11 <http://students.law.umich.edu/mlr/>.
- 12 Id.
- 13 Id.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 <http://students.law.umich.edu/mjgl/>.
- 16 <http://students.law.umich.edu/mjrl/index.htm>.
- 17 <http://www.mtlr.org/>.
- 18 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 517.
- 19 www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/studentsservices/handbook/handbook.pdf, page 29; See also www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/clinical; National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 517.
- 20 <http://www.law.umich.edu/JournalsAndOrgs/orgs.htm>.
- 21 <http://www.law.umich.edu/currentstudents/careerservices/ourservices.htm#interview>
- 22 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php
- 23 Information provide via e-mail correspondence dated March, 20th 2004 between Lisa Mitchell-Yellin, Director of Communications at Michigan School of Law and BCG research staff.

RANK

19

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES

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ADMISSION'S PHONE

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REGISTRAR'S PHONE

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CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(612) 625-1866

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

The University Of Minnesota Law School is located in the city of Minneapolis, just a short distance from its “twin” city of St. Paul. The school continues to provide a very reasonably priced education for both in-state and out-of-state students. It is currently ranked Number 19 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.

The school has one of the largest and most distinguished clinical programs in the country, dating back to its pioneer clinical program, established in 1913.¹ More than 60% of the students take the opportunity to participate in live-client clinical programs before graduating (compared with a national average of 25%). The students are supervised by clinical faculty and represent real clients and appear in court practicing under Minnesota’s Student Practice Rule.²

The school enrolled 281 students for its fall 2003 entering class and the student-faculty ratio is 15.5. The University of Minnesota’s law library is the eighth largest academic law library in the United States and offers an exceptional international collection.³

The law school follows a unique grading scale that ranges from a 16 to a 4. Although the school does not rank its students, it does provide quartiles, with the top 25% having a GPA of around 13.00 or higher.⁴ First-year courses are curved at 11.4-11.8 range, while large upper level courses stick to an average of 11.5 – 12.5.⁵

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163, 25th – 75th Percentile: 160 – 165
- Median GPA: 3.61⁶, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.36-3.82
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,388
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 752
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 31.5

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World’s America’s Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

A+ 16	B+ 13	C+ 10	
A 15	B 12	C 9	D 5 – 7
A- 14	B- 11	C- 8	F 4 & below

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁸	N/A	13.272	N/A	12.571	11.855	8.000

University of Minnesota does not rank its students; however, it does provide quartiles in which students are divided based on Minnesota's unique numerical grading system. Quartiles are available for the classes of 2003 – 2005. Complete information for earlier classes from 1995 – 2003 is available online,⁹ and percentages for the class of 2006 are available on request from the career services office. Every instructor of a first year class must calculate grades so that each class has an average grade between 11.4 and 11.8. Upper class courses with an enrollment of more than 25 must have average grades between 11.5 and 12.5.¹⁰

FINAL QUARTILES FOR CLASS OF 2003¹¹

First: 14.725 – 13.069

Second: 13.049 – 12.550

Third: 12.547 – 11.881

Fourth: 11.870

CURRENT QUARTILES FOR CLASS OF 2004

First: 14.907 – 13.070

Second: 13.018 – 12.300

Third: 12.296 – 11.569

Fourth: 11.566

CURRENT QUARTILES FOR CLASS OF 2005

First: 15.852 – 12.741

Second: 12.739 – 11.778

Third: 11.741 – 10.630

Fourth: 10.593

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	15.00 and above
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	13.50 – 14.99
<i>Cum laude</i> :	12.00 – 13.49
Dean's List:	11.00 and above
	Dean's List with an A average above 13.5

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	
Briggs & Morgan Scholarship	Leonard E. Lindquist Scholarship
Frederikson & Byron (joint degree)	Michael McHale Memorial Scholarship
Ava & Russell Lederman Memorial Scholarship	MIPLA Scholarship for Intellectual Property

NAME OF AWARD

Russell Lederman Memorial Scholarship	Roger & Violet Noreen Scholarship
Caroline Brede Scholarship	Clarence A. Rolloff Award
Mary Jeann Coyne Scholarship	Melvin C. Steen Scholarship
Faegre & Benson Scholarship	Robert A. Stein Scholarship
Gerald and Elenor Heaney scholarship	Royal A. Stone Memorial Scholarship
Henson & Efron, PA Scholarship	Walter J. Trogner Scholarship
Law Class of 1924 Memorial Scholarship	Judge Betty W. Washburn Scholarship
Law Review Memorial Award	Leonard, Street & Deinard Scholarship
many others	

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁴

The **MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW**, established in 1917 as the school's first legal periodical, publishes articles by leading legal scholars as well as student notes and comments on timely legal developments. A student editorial board, selected on the basis of scholarship, writing ability, and diversity factors, directs publication of the *Law Review*.

LAW AND INEQUALITY: A JOURNAL OF THEORY AND PRACTICE was founded in 1981 to examine the social impact of law on disadvantaged people. The Journal publishes articles by legal scholars and practitioners, law students, and non-lawyers. Members of the staff are selected on the basis of their writing abilities and their commitment to eliminating inequality. Editors are elected from among staff members to serve during their third year in law school.

The **MINNESOTA JOURNAL OF GLOBAL TRADE** focuses on international economic law and policy, taking an interdisciplinary approach. The Journal balances the theoretical and the practical, analyzing changes in the major public institutions of international trade and the private sector responses to them. Faculty advisors well known in the field offer student authors their expertise and insight.

MINNESOTA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REVIEW is the school's newest publication. It is dedicated to issues of intellectual property law. The first issue was published in May of 2000.

MOOT COURT¹⁵

To fulfill the Law School's unique second-year writing requirement, each second-year must serve on either a Law Review-caliber journal or participate in Moot Court, which is a year-long academically supervised and graded appellate practice exercise. Students can participate in the Jessup International Law Moot Court, Environmental Law Moot Court, National Moot Court, Wagner Labor Law Moot Court, Civil Rights Moot Court, Giles Sutherland Rich Intellectual Property Moot Court, Maynard Pirsig Moot Court, the ABA Moot Court Competition Team, and the Maynard Pirsig Moot Court interscholastic competition. First-year law students apply for acceptance into the competition of their choice during spring semester. Acceptance into each competition is based on the individual program requirements.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁶

The University of Minnesota School of Law is a leader in hands-on training. It offers an impressive range of 17 clinics, which include: Civil Practice Clinic, Public Interest Law Clinic, Bankruptcy Clinic, Domestic Assault Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Domestic Felony Prosecution Clinic, Housing Law Clinic, Federal Prosecution Clinic, Prosecution and Defense Criminal Clinics, Child Advocacy Clinic, Indian Child Welfare Act Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Federal Income Taxation Clinic, Worker Compensation/Social Security Disability Clinic, Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners and the Criminal Appeals Clinic.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁷

The University of Minnesota Law School's student organizations include the American Bar Association Law Student Division, American Constitution Society, American Indian Law Student Association, Amnesty International, Asian American Law Student Association, Asylum Law Project, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Entertainment and Sports Law Students Association, Environmental Law Society, The Federalist Society, Gamma Eta Gamma, Graduate and Professional Schools Assembly, International Law Student Association, Jewish Caucus, Latino Law Students Alliance, Latter Day Saints Student Group, Law and Medicine, Law Council, Law School Recreational Sports, Lambda Law Students, Media Law Society, Minnesota Justice Foundation, Muslim Law Students, National Lawyers' Guild (UMN Chapter), Property Law Student Association, Student Intellectual Property Law Association, Women's Law Student Association and T.O.R.T. (theatre of the relatively talent less).

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 125¹⁸

Number of firms interviewing off campus in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.: 90

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 86.5¹⁹

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁰

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 51.6
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 26.9
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 5.8
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4.0
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 10.3
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.9

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.law.umn.edu/students/lawclinics/skills_theory.php.
- 2 <http://www.law.umn.edu/admissions/profile.htm>.
- 3 Id.
- 4 <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/images/172/quartilechart2003.pdf>
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 <http://www.law.umn.edu/prospective/profile.html>
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 522; <http://www.law.umn.edu/student-services/ranks.html>; <http://www.law.umn.edu/cso/gradingwriting.html>.
- 8 The Law Faculty imposes a standard distribution for grades to prevent grade inflation--Instructors calculate first-year grades so that each class has an average (mean) grade between 11.4 and 11.8. Upper class courses with 25+ students have an average grade between 11.5 and 12.5. Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 522.
- 9 <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/images/172/quartilechart2003.pdf>
- 10 <http://www.law.umn.edu/cso/gradingwriting.html>
- 11 <http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/images/320/webfinal03.pdf>
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 522; <http://www.law.umn.edu/student-services/ranks.html>
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 522.
- 14 <http://www.law.umn.edu/journals/default.htm>.
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 521; http://www.law.umn.edu/prospective/moot_court.
- 16 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 521.
- 17 <http://www.law.umn.edu/students/groups.htm>.
- 18 Correspondence dated December 26, 2002 from Susan Gainen, University of Minnesota Director of Career Services to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 19 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 427.
- 20 Id.

RANK

27

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL

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	(919) 962-1249	(919) 962-6998	

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law ("UNC") is located just about a quarter of a mile from the main campus. Set in the rolling hills of Piedmont country, Chapel Hill is a highly desirable place to live. This university town is in close proximity to Research Triangle Park, the urban centers of Durham and Greensboro, and the state capital of Raleigh. Each year, a fairly small entering class of about 235 students arrives for an unforgettable intellectual experience.

At present, UNC is ranked Number 27 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The entering class is comprised of students from approximately 24 different states.¹

The school maintains a student-faculty ratio of 16.2, which allows for plenty of enlightening office visits with professors. Students graduating from UNC enjoy one of the highest employment rates in the country.

UNC operates on a modified 4-point grade scale, with the range being 4.3 to a 0.6, A+ to F respectively. A fairly stringent B to B+ curve is in place with the average graduating GPA for most classes being between 3.1 to 3.3. First and upper-class courses are also required to adhere to a B curve, with summer courses and small seminars being exempt from the curve.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162, 25th - 75th Percentile: 157 - 164
- Median GPA: 3.64, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.42 - 3.84
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3012
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 594
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 19.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:³

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.00
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.6 or below

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE GPA ⁴	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
	3.577	3.380	3.329	3.163	2.888	2.0

*Min GPA for graduation for those entering before 1999 was 1.85.

Average GPA at graduation is around 3.1. This GPA is based on grades used to determine rank and does not include summer courses that are not graded on a curve and are widely known as “GPA boosters.” Therefore, the actual GPA that appears on a graduate’s transcript is usually higher.⁵

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Student surveys indicated that the first-year courses are graded on a strict 3.0 curve with deviations only for first-year legal research and writing (which is graded on a pass/fail basis) and a three-hour writing exercise (which has a separate higher curve). After the first year, professors have more leverage with the curve, and smaller courses and summer courses are not strictly governed by the curve.⁶

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%;	3.568 GPA;	31 Students
Highest Honors:	Top 0.3%;	3.93 GPA;	1 Student
High Honors:	Top 5.3%;	3.6 GPA;	17 Students
Honors:	Top 16.1%;	3.29 GPA;	51 Students

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Order of the Barristers	For outstanding achievement in service to moot court.
James E. & Carolyn B. Davis Society	Third-years outstanding in academics, leadership, etc (8).
NC Academy of Trial Lawyers	Third-years in trial advocacy demonstrating improvement.
Block Improvement Award	Third-year with most improvement since first year.
Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition	Second-year or third-year; best papers on copyright law each year.
Millard S. Breckenridge	Third-year: by law faculty for excellence in taxation.
Judge Heriot Clarkson Award	Students making highest grades in Professional Responsibility.
Chief Justice Walter Clark Award	Third-years with highest scholastic averages in class (5).
William T. Joyner Awards Fund	Third-years: excellence in writing on Law Review & ILJ (2).
Investors Title Insurance Co.	Second-year with highest average grade in property class.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
James W. Morrow III Award	Second-year or third-year: outstanding service to Holderness moot court.
Ferebee Taylor Award	Third-year: outstanding performance, three or more corporate classes.
West Publishing Company Award	All three classes: outstanding scholastic achievement.
US Law Week Award	Third-years: most academic progress in final year.
Certificate of Merit	High grade in each course.

Students surveyed indicated that the Order of the Coif is the most respected award among the student body, and the rest of the awards are relatively unknown to the students⁹.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

The four journals at UNC chose an equal number of students using three differing methods. First, the top students (the percentages differ for each journal and are stated below) are invited to join. An equal number is then chosen by the writing competition, which is administered as a closed book exercise following second semester finals. Another third of the students are chosen by a combination of grades and the writing exercise. Prior to the writing contest, the students are asked to fill out an application ranking their preference for each journal and their interest in the subject matter. After the contest the editors of each of the journals consult and decide the new members based on scores and stated interests. Students estimated that about 1/3 of the class participates in one of the journals while at UNC Law.¹¹

The **NORTH CAROLINA BANKING INSTITUTE JOURNAL**¹² furthers academic discourse in banking law. The Journal publishes student-edited pieces prepared for the annual Banking Institute along with top-quality, student-written and edited notes and comments on cutting-edge banking law issues. The Journal is published in conjunction with an annual continuing legal education program on banking law that attracts nationally prominent speakers. Offers are extended to the top 15% of students based on GPA.

The **NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COMMERCIAL REGULATION**, one of the nation's leading publications on international law and commerce, provides practical information about public international law and the commercial marketplace. The Journal features articles, comments, case notes, recent developments, and book reviews by students, professors, and practitioners. Offers are extended to the top 15%.

The **NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL OF LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (JOLT)**¹³ is the newest student-edited academic publication at UNC School of Law. JOLT covers a broad range of legal issues related to technology. JOLT is published exclusively online and through Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

The **NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW**, a prominent state and national scholarly journal established in 1922, analyzes current legal problems and significant new developments in the law. Six times each year, the review publishes not only the scholarship of lawyers, judges, and professors from across the country, but also the contributions of student staff members. It accepts for membership the top 13 students and an additional 13 through a combination of grades and writing.

MOOT COURT¹⁴

Moot Court consists of seven teams: Client Counseling, International, Invitational, Negotiation, Environmental Negotiation, Environmental Appellate Advocacy and a National Team, each with written and oral advocacy elements. Second- and third-year students are selected through competitive tryouts. Academic credit is given for participation on the teams.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁵

The University Of North Carolina School Of Law offers the following clinical programs: Criminal Clinic, Community Development Law Clinic, Civil Clinic, Externship Program, Pro Bono Program and the UNC Nonprofit Leadership Certificate Program. Student surveys indicated that the Externship program is the most sought after among the student body in terms of prestige and quality of experience.¹⁶

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁷

UNC's student organizations include: American Constitution Society, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Attorney General Staff, Black Law Students Association, Carolina HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance Project, Carolina Intellectual Property Law, Carolina Law Incoming Student, Carolina Mediation, Carolina Public Interest Law Organization, Christian Legal Society, Community Legal, Conference on Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, Entrepreneurial Law Association, Environmental Law Project, Federalist Society, First Amendment Law Review, Health Law and Policy Association, Hispanic/Latino Law Students Association, Holderness Moot Court, Immigrants Outreach Project, Jewish Law Association, Lambda Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students, Parents Active As Law Students, Phi Delta Phi, Prisoners' Rights, Prospective Students Association, Second Careers In Law, Sports and Entertainment Law Association, Trial Law Academy, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Women in Law and the Workers' Rights Project.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 350¹⁸

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 69.2¹⁹

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.3

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁰

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 66
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 14
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 7
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

Students at UNC provided that the preceding numbers were accurate based on their experience and those of their peers.²¹

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.unc.edu/admissions/profile.html>.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 550.
- 4 2003 percentile ranks received via e-mail correspondence dated March 29, 2004 between Ellen Stark Hill, Deputy Director of Career Services, and BCG research staff.
- 5 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 6 Id.
- 7 2003 GPA for honors distinction received via e-mail correspondence dated March 29, 2004 between Ellen Stark Hill, Deputy Director of Career Services, and BCG research staff.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 550.
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 <http://www.law.unc.edu/academics/curriculum/orgs.html>.
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 12 <http://www.unc.edu/ncbank/>.
- 13 <http://www.jolt.unc.edu/>.
- 14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 549.
- 15 Id.
- 16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 17 <http://www.law.unc.edu/academics/curriculum/orgs.html>.
- 18 Correspondence dated 1/10/03 from Audrey Ward, Director of Communications, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 19 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 475.
- 20 2003 employment statistics received via e-mail correspondence dated March 29, 2004 between Ellen Stark Hill, Deputy Director of Career Services, and BCG research staff.
- 21 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book

RANK

20

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL

Established in 1869, Notre Dame Law School is among the country's oldest law schools and is the nation's oldest Catholic law school. The school's Catholic heritage and Anglo-American legal tradition are aligned with its mission to educate a different kind of lawyer; the school is committed to providing students of all faiths with the opportunity to study law within the context of ethics. Students are encouraged to go one step beyond the required reading to examine the concepts of social justice and mercy and the interplay between one's faith and professional responsibilities.¹

Notre Dame Law School is currently ranked Number 20 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The law school curriculum prepares students for a wide range of national and international legal practices, far beyond mere professional competence; it is particularly strong in the area of trial advocacy. There is a strong sense of community at Notre Dame Law School, furthered by the school's research apprenticeships, curricular, and co-curricular activities.

There were 184 students enrolled in Notre Dame Law School's fall 2003 entering class,² and the school has a student-faculty ratio of 13.8. The law school grades its students according to a 4.0 – 1.0 scale with the median GPA being around 3.0. The University does not rank its students.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163, 25th – 75th Percentile: 161 – 166
- Median GPA: 3.59. 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.38 – 3.79⁴
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,700⁵
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 499⁶
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 13.5

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

	B+	3.3333	C+	2.3333	D	1.333	
A	4.000	B	3.000	C	2.000	F	0.00
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667		

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁸	Notre Dame Law School does not rank its students. The mean GPA is usually 3.0.					2.000

Students have indicated that Notre Dame Law School's refusal to rank its students results in little or no grade inflation.⁹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁰

<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	3.8 GPA
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	3.6 GPA
<i>Cum laude:</i>	3.4 GPA
Dean's List:	3.6 GPA

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹¹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Dean's Awards	Highest grade in course. (1 per course)
Col. William J. Hoynes	Based on GPA, leadership.
Dean O'Meara	Based on GPA, leadership.
Farabaugh Prize	Based on GPA, leadership.
Legal Writing	For excellence in legal writing.
Trial Advocacy	Several different awards for excellence in trial advocacy.
Dean Link Award	For outstanding service in social justice.
Dean Konop Award	For outstanding service in the Legal Aid and Defender Associations.
ABA Negotiation Award	Excellence in the art of negotiation.
Dean William O. McLean	For outstanding service to the law school.
Nathan Burke Memorial Award	Best paper in copyright law.
Smith-Doheny Legal Ethics Award	Best paper in legal ethics.
National Association of Women Lawyers	For scholarship, motivation and contribution to the advancement of women in society.
Indiana Bar Foundation	Students intending to practice in Indiana.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹²

The **NOTRE DAME LAW REVIEW** is published five times a year. Members of the staff are selected at the end of first year on the basis of grades, in the top 10% of the class or demonstrated writing ability. Membership is highly coveted, as the Law Review is the school's most prestigious publication.¹³ The editor-in-chief of the Law Review is elected on the basis of scholastic, literary, and leadership achievements. The editor-in-chief, in turn, selects the other officers.

The **JOURNAL OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY LAW**, published four times a year by the Notre Dame Law School and the National Association of College and University Attorneys, is the only law review in the United States dedicated exclusively to the law of higher education. Headed by both faculty editors and a student editor, the Journal maintains a staff of 25 students who both process the work of outside authors and contribute their own work for publication. Members are selected through a write-on competition.¹⁴

The **JOURNAL OF LEGISLATION** is presently one of the country's leading legislative law reviews and is a member of the National Conference of Law Reviews. Staff members are selected from students who have either written a note of publishable quality or completed a major research project approved by the editorial board.

The **JOURNAL OF LAW, ETHICS & PUBLIC POLICY** publishes in a symposium format and solicits contributions from distinguished scholars and prominent members of the public community. It is among Notre Dame's most prestigious publications, and members are selected on the basis of a write-on competition with a minimum required GPA.¹⁵ Recent issues have addressed the problems posed by serious juvenile crime, homelessness, and AIDS. Forthcoming issues will focus on civil disobedience, the drug problem, the feminist challenge to traditional legal doctrine, and the law governing the news media.

MOOT COURT¹⁶

The Moot Court program coordinates intramural and intercollegiate competitions in its appellate, trial, and international divisions. First-year students are required to brief and argue at least one appellate case. Each year a number of students participate in the second-year program of the Notre Dame Moot Court. After successful completion of the second-year rounds, the highest-ranking participants are invited to represent the Law School in national competitions in their third year.

Students may participate in the Notre Dame Law School Trial Competition from which students are selected to represent the Law School in the annual National Trial Competition. Students are selected to represent the Law School in the national competition held each spring on the basis of interscholastic competition in the fall. The Jessup competition provides an opportunity for students to develop the art of oral advocacy in the increasingly important area of international law. The Law School team won the 1985 Jessup competition and advanced to the Nationals, where its brief was judged best in the nation. The Notre Dame team also won the Midwest Regional Competition in 1990, and subsequently participated in the National and International competition in Washington, D.C.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁷

Notre Dame Law School's clinical programs include: Legal Aid Clinic, Appellate Advocacy, Trial Advocacy, Criminal Trial Advocacy, Public Defender program, Immigration Law Clinic, Client Counseling, Moot Court (second and/or third year), Legislative Research Service, and various work-study programs with local agencies.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁸

Notre Dame Law school's student organizations include the Asian Law Students Association, Black Law Students of Notre Dame, Christian Legal Society, Client Counseling Competition, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity International, The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, Hispanic Law Students Association, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, Italian Law Students Association, Jus Vitae of Notre Dame, Military Law Students Association, Notre Dame Environmental Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, The Public Interest Law Forum, Social Justice Forum, St. Thomas More Society, Student Bar Association and the Women's Legal Forum.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200+¹⁹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 85.5²⁰

Percentage of grads employed nine months from graduation: 96.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 77.1
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 7.1
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 5.3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4.1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 5.3
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.2

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/prospective_students/index.html; http://www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/prospective_students/academic.htm.
- 2 http://www.law.nd.edu/prospective_students/admissions/profile.html
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 http://www.law.nd.edu/prospective_students/admissions/profile.html
- 5 Id.
- 6 Id.
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 558.
- 8 Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2000 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 558.
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 558.
- 11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 558.
- 12 <http://www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/student/journals.html#Notre%20Dame%20Law%20Review>
- 13 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 14 Id.
- 15 Id.
- 16 <http://www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/student/moot.html>.
- 17 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 557.
- 18 <http://www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/student/groups.html>.
- 19 Provided by the University of Notre Dame Law School's Office of Career Services.
- 20 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php
- 21 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 503.

RANK

07

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PENN LAW

Penn Law has always been one of the nation's preeminent law schools, tracing its origins from the founding of the republic. In recent years, Penn Law has undertaken academic innovations in response to the profound changes and complex issues facing society. Using a multi-faceted approach that encompasses legal training and knowledge in diverse areas, Penn Law students graduate prepared to properly examine a wide range of issues, from the protection of individual rights to the organization of businesses.

The most important innovation has been the strengthening and broadening of cross-disciplinary academic programs. The faculty is strongly cross-disciplinary in their interests and fields of expertise; close to 70% hold graduate degrees in complementary areas. And, Penn Law has the advantage of being physically adjacent and academically linked to one of the finest arrays of professional schools in the nation, enabling faculty and students to draw on the collective expertise of this Ivy League University.

Currently ranked Number Seven on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, the school continues to attract many of the nation's top undergraduates. The school enrolled 261 students in its fall 2003 entering class and has a student-faculty ratio of 14.0. The school's modern facilities are housed in a self-contained complex of buildings.¹ One of the school's innovative requirements is that all of its upper-level students must complete 70 hours of public service legal work before graduation.²

Students at Penn Law are not ranked and attempts to rank are discouraged by the school. The Law School maintains that its courses adhere to a strict B-/C curve (for 1Ls only) and that A+/As are not always awarded.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁴

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 169, 25th – 75th Percentile: 164 – 170
- Median GPA: 3.7, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.45 – 3.83
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 5,130
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: approximately 770
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 15

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

A+ very rare	B+ awarded	C+ not awarded	D not awarded
A awarded	B awarded	C awarded	F awarded
A- awarded	B- awarded	C- not awarded	

In the fall of 1995 the Law School adopted a grading system of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C and F grades, with a rare A+ awarded for distinguished performance. In any given semester, only a handful of students will achieve more than two As while, due to the mandatory nature of our 1L grading curve, students will receive B- and C grades.

University of Pennsylvania Law School students are not ranked in class. The University of Pennsylvania Career Planning & Placement Co-Director, Diane Downs, advises that, “employers should take care in comparing our system with those of other schools – Penn Law students are admitted under very competitive standards, yet the Law School’s mandatory curve requires that some students fall into all grade categories.”⁶

Additionally, the 1L Legal Writing Course is graded on a pass/fail basis. Students who perform exceptionally well in this course receive the grade of Honors.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁷

Order of the Coif:	10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	approx. 1%
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	approx. 5%
<i>Cum laude</i> :	approx 25%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁸

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
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* Approximately 32 awards for a variety of accomplishments are awarded at commencement.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁹

Each journal at the University of Pennsylvania Law School has different criteria for membership, and in order to be considered for membership on any of the four journals, a student must complete the writing competition. In addition to performing editorial functions, associate editors are required to write a comment, which is a significant piece of legal scholarship.

The **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW**^o has both a professional and an educational mission. The Law Review affords its members two valuable educational experiences. First, members are trained in the performance of all editorial and administrative tasks associated with the publication of a professional legal journal. Second, each member receives assistance in the preparation of an original work of scholarship suitable for professional publication. High grades may be used in consideration of membership offers.¹¹

The **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW**² was established in 1997 to provide a forum for the scholarly analysis of issues related to labor and employment law. The Journal publishes articles and comments regarding a wide range of topics, from traditional collective bargaining matters to current issues in employment discrimination. Positions on this journal are chosen through the writing competition almost exclusively. Since labor and employment law is considered one of the more practical applications of a law degree, there is high interest in this journal.¹³

The **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW**⁴ is a forum dedicated to the discussion of timely issues in the field of international economic law. The Journal defines international economic law as a multi-disciplinary approach that includes, but is not limited to: private international transactions, national governmental regulation, and international intergovernmental regulation. Similar to the other journals, the writing competition is the major factor in deciding membership for this journal.¹⁵

The **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**⁶ is published quarterly by students at the University Of Pennsylvania Law School. Writing and grades are both considered in order to get on the journal, with more weight given to the writing competition.¹⁷

MOOT COURT⁸

Appellate Advocacy II is the University of Pennsylvania Law School's second-year intramural moot court competition. Second-year students research and write a brief, then present their case in one or perhaps two rounds of oral argument before a panel of students, faculty, and practitioner judges. The competition results are ranked, with the top four students becoming the third year Keedy Cup Teams (working on a new brief in the fall semester of their third year, and arguing before a panel of distinguished jurists); three students representing Penn at the National Moot Court Competition in their third year; and seven students becoming members of the moot court board in the next academic year. Board members prepare problems and review the work of contestants.

In recent years, Penn students have also participated in the National Moot Court Competition (Bar Association, City of New York), the Merna B. Marshall Moot Court Competition (Federal Bar Association, Philadelphia Chapter), The Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition (National Black Law Student Association) and the Jessup Cup Competition (Columbia Law School). All of the competitions are highly regarded.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁹

The University of Pennsylvania School of Law offers the following clinical programs: Civil Practice Clinic, Legislative Clinic, Small Business Clinic, Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic, Lawyering in the Public Interest, Mediation Clinic, Externships, and the Criminal Defense Clinic. Students coming out of the program praised the mediation clinic, among others. Others seemed to indicate that, while the experience seems invaluable, the programs are extremely difficult to get into and they are much more difficult and time consuming than normal classes.²⁰ In addition, all students must perform 70 hours of pro bono service as in the award-winning Public Service Program as a requirement for graduation.

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

The University of Pennsylvania Law School's student organizations include the American Constitution Society for Law & Policy; Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA); Bioethics, Law, and Public Policy Society; Black Law Students Association (BLSA); Business and Law Club; Christian Legal Society; Clinic for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights; Council of Student Representatives (CSR); Custody and Support Assistance Project; Eminent Refrain (a cappella group); Environmental Law Society (ELS); Equal Justice Foundation (EJF); Federalist Society ; Feminist Working Group; Film, Music & Media Society; Guild Food Stamp Clinic; International Human Rights Club ; International Human Rights Pro Bono Project; International Law Organization (ILO); Jessup International Moot Court Team; Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA); John Marshall Society; Journal of Constitutional Law; Journal of International Economic Law (JIEL); Journal of International Law and Policy Club; Journal of Labor and Employment Law; Journal of Law and Social Change (Hybrid); Lambda Law; Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA); Law School Light Opera Company (LSLO); LL.M. Association; Older, Wiser, Law Students (OWLS); Penn Advocates for the Homeless; Penn Arab Law Students Society; Penn Biotech Group; Penn Intellectual Property Group; Penn Law Bowling League; Penn Law Boxing Club; Penn Law Dance Troupe; Penn Law Democrats; Penn Law Film, Music, and Media Society; Penn Law for Choice; Penn Law Golf Club; Penn Health Law Club; Penn Law Immigration Clinic; Penn Law Intramurals; Penn Law Real Estate Club; Penn Law Republicans; Penn Law Tennis Club; Penn Law Yoga Club; Penn Litigation Society; Penn National Basketball Association; Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International; PLEAD Forum (Pro-Life Education and Dialogue); Prisoners' Rights Project; Sadie T. Alexander Memorial Conference; Sons of Italy at Penn Law; South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA); Sparer Public Interest Law Conference; Sports and Entertainment Law Society; Spouses and Partners Group; Street Law; Student Animal Legal Defense Fund; Unemployment Compensation Project; United Law Students of Color Council (ULSCC); University of Pennsylvania Law Review; and Women's Law Student Network of Philadelphia.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 300²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 98.4²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 98.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 77
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 15
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0

FOOTNOTES

- 1 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 540.
- 2 Information provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 31, 2004 between Joan Rose, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 2003 admission information provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 31, 2004 between Joan Rose, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 570.
- 6 Quote provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 31, 2004 between Joan Rose, Assistant Dean for Communications and BCG research staff.
- 7 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 570.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 570.
- 9 http://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/lrev/html/journal_competition.html.
- 10 http://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/lrev/html/mission_statement.html
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 12 <http://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/jlel/>
- 13 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 14 <http://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/jiel/>
- 15 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 16 <http://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/conlaw/>
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://www.law.upenn.edu/>, Students, Co-Curricular and Joint Programs.
- 19 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 570.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 <http://www.law.upenn.edu/>, Students, List of Student Groups.
- 22 Information provided via e-mail correspondence dated March 31, 2004 between Joan Rose, Director of Career Services and BCG research staff.
- 23 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php
- 24 Id.

RANK

47

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

MAIN PHONE

(412) 648-1415

ADMISSION'S PHONE

(412)-648-1413

WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://www.law.pitt.edu/>

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

use main number

CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(412)-648-1411

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law is located in the center of Pittsburgh's Oakland section, an area surrounded by friendly neighborhoods, excellent restaurants, shopping districts, clubs and cultural events—all no more than a pleasant walk or short bus ride away. The University of Pittsburgh's original Legal Studies program was a part of University curriculum and the school's first law degrees were conferred in 1843. The School of Law itself was founded in 1894 by John D. Shafer with a class of 35 students.¹

Pittsburgh makes a surprise appearance on the *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools at Number 47 in the 2005 rankings. There were 240 students enrolled in the school's fall 2003 entering class, with an impressive faculty to student ratio of 14.9.

The Law School has committed to a policy of not providing an academic ranking of students. Students fall into the following "bands" of grades: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D. Students may list their numeric Q.P.A. and/or these letter grade averages on resumes. Ninety-five to ninety-seven percent of a class of students has grade averages in the five grade bands A- to C+.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: N/A, 25th – 75th Percentile: 157 – 162
- Median GPA: N/A, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.03 – 3.63
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,114
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 607
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 28.7

*Unless otherwise cited, the above statistics come from
http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03141.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:³

A+	4.00	B+	3.25	C+	2.25		
A	4.00	B	3.00	C	2.00	D	1.00
A-	3.75	B-	2.75	C-	1.75	F	0.00

*minimum grade for graduation

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁴

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% at 3.480
<i>Suma cum laude</i> :	1 – 2 Students
<i>Magna cum Laude</i> :	Top 10%
<i>Cum Laude</i> :	Top 20%
Top 25% is at 3.371	

The Law School is committed to a policy of not providing an academic ranking of students. Students fall into the following “bands” of grades: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D. Students may list their numeric Q.P.A. and/or these letter grade averages on resumes. Ninety-five to ninety-seven percent of a class of students has grade averages in the five grade bands A- to C+. The Law School career services office will provide rankings for the limited purposes of government jobs and judicial clerkships.

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁵

LAW ALUMNI SCHOLAR	ALUMNI COMMITTEE
Truxall Scholar	Financial Aid Committee
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart	Financial Aid Committee
Dean’s Scholar	Financial Aid Committee
Mortiz Scholar	Financial Aid Committee
Perlow Scholar	Financial Aid Committee
Lerach Scholar	Financial Aid Committee
David Bookstaver Award	N/A
William H. Eckert Award	N/A
Herman L. Foreman Award	N/A
Murray S. Love Award	N/A
Tax Club Memorial Award	N/A
Benjamin Teplitz Award	N/A
Esther Teplitz Award	N/A
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers	N/A
Order of the Barristers	N/A

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS:

The University of Pittsburgh has two major publications: the *University Of Pittsburgh Law Review* and the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. Students are selected for membership on the editorial board of either publication on the basis of academic achievement or superior writing and analytical ability. Most law students selected to participate in *Law Review* or the *Journal* are in the top 10 – 15 percent of their law school class.⁶

The **UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW**, founded in 1934, is an entirely student-run organization which publishes four issues each year. In the 2003 – 2004 academic year the Review will be publishing its 65th volume. The *Law Review* welcomes submissions from both students and legal professionals. Over the years, the Review has published articles, notes and book reviews on a wide variety of topics including constitutional law, securities regulation, criminal procedure, family law, international law and jurisprudence

The **JOURNAL OF LAW AND COMMERCE** strives to publish highly relevant articles related to domestic and international commercial and business law. The staff works collaboratively to select those articles deemed most useful to legal practitioners and scholars interested in commercial matters such as the U.N.'s Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, corporate governance, securities regulation, contract formation, and environmental legislation, to name a few of the recent topics explored within the pages of our issues.

MOOT COURT⁷

Second- and third-year students can participate in the intraschool Appellate Court Competition where two-member teams write a brief and orally argue the merits of the case before local attorneys who act as appellate judges. Participants receive one credit, and finalists receive cash prizes and a second credit.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS⁸

Civil litigation certificate program, Environmental Law, Science and Policy Certificate program, Health Law Certificate program, International and Comparative Law Certificate Program, Intellectual Property and Technology Law Certificate Program, Bioethics & Law Practicum, Corporate Counsel Practicum, Law and Education Practicum, Alternative Dispute Resolution Practicum, Health Law Practicum, Family Support Legal Clinic, Environmental Law Legal Clinic, and Lawyering process III.

ORGANIZATIONS⁹

Baylor University Student Bar Association, Christian Law Fellowship, Christian Legal Society, Civil Rights Society, Harvey M. Richey Moot Court Society, Hemphill Inn Chapter of Phi Delta Phi, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, James P. Alexander Senate of Delta Theta Phi Minority Law Student Association, R.E.B. Baylor Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, Texas A & M Club, Women's Legal Society, Baylor Law Auxiliary, and The Federalist Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: unavailable
Graduates known to be employed at graduation: 86.1¹⁰
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation 98.5

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 52
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 12
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 11
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4
- Percent of grads employed by private industry :9
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.pitt.edu/about/facts.html>
- 2 <http://www.law.pitt.edu/students/career/lawschoolgradingpolicy.htm>
- 3 <http://www.law.pitt.edu/students/registrar/grade.html>
- 4 National Association of Law Placement Directory 2002-2003, pg. 574 Numbers based on 2001 graduating class.
- 5 Id.
- 6 http://www.law.pitt.edu/students/student_affairs/law_review.html
- 7 http://www.law.pitt.edu/students/student_affairs/moot.html
- 8 National Association of Law Placement Directory, Pg. 573
- 9 Id.
- 10 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03141.php
- 11 Id.

RANK

18

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MAILING ADDRESS

Trousdale Pkwy at Exposition Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90089

MAIN PHONE

(213) 740-7331

WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://lawweb.usc.edu>

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(213) 740-2523

ADMISSION'S PHONE

(213) 740-7397

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOL

Located just south of Los Angeles' downtown business district and courthouses, the University of Southern California's campus is a small, pleasant community unto itself. Fans of the old "Paper Chase" series shown on PBS might recognize a few of the school's walkways and buildings, which were used as backdrops for the show.

Currently ranked Number 18 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, the University of Southern California Law School ("USC") remains one of the top California law schools. Instruction seems to strike that fine, though often evasive, balance between the theoretical and practical aspects of the law. USC graduates usually find the types of jobs they are seeking quite easily, thanks in part to the school's top-notch placement office.

There were 208 students enrolled in USC's fall 2003 entering class and the student-faculty ratio of 14.1 encourages lively interactions with faculty once classroom discussion ends. Though the majority of the students are native Californians, students from approximately 40 other states attend this school.¹

The law school has adhered to a 4.4 – 1.0 grading scale beginning with the class of 2004. The new scale places the top 50% of the class as receiving a GPA of around 3.20.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: N/R, 25th – 75th Percentile: 164 – 167
- Median GPA: N/R, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.5 – 3.7
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 7,032
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 1,251
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 17.8

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03082.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:³

Beginning with the class of 2004 (entering in August of 2001), USC phased in a new grading system. To replace the old system of 65-to-90, the new system's grades range from 1.9-to-4.4 with explicit letter-grade equivalents ranging from F to A+. Although old system grades cannot be converted officially to new system grades, the equivalent grades on the two systems are displayed below:

NEW SYSTEM LETTER GRADE	NEW SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE	OLD SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE	NEW SYSTEM LETTER GRADE	NEW SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE	OLD SYSTEM NUMERICAL GRADE	NEW SYSTEM LETTER GRADE	NEW SYSTEM NUM. GRADE	OLD SYSTEM NUM. GRADE
A+	4.4	90	B+	3.4	80	C	2.4	70
A+	4.3	89	B+	3.3	79	D	2.3	69
A+	4.2	88	B	3.2	78	D	2.2	68
A+	4.1	87	B	3.1	77	D	2.1	67
A	4.0	86	B	3.0	76	D	2.0	66
A	3.9	85	B-	2.9	75	F	1.0	65
A	3.8	84	B-	2.8	74			
A-	3.7	83	B-	2.7	73			
A-	3.6	82	C+	2.6	72			
A-	3.5	81	C+	2.5	71			

CLASS RANK:

The following statistics pertain to the Class of 2003 and prior.

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁴	82.14	80.31	79.94	79.15	N/A	70.00

Student Rankings Based on GPA for the Class of 2005:⁵

- Top 10% = 3.56
- Top 25% = 3.40
- Top 33% = 3.31
- Top 50% = 3.20

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁶

- Order of the Coif: Top 10%; approx 20
- Highest Honors: 4.4 GPA
- High Honors: 3.9 – 4.3 GPA
- Honors: 3.4 – 3.8 GPA

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁷

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Warren J. Ferguson Social Justice Award	Best essay on social justice.
Carl Mason Franklin	Excellence in international law.
Kelly Prize	Highest GPA during second year.
Peter Knecht Memorial	Excellence in contracts, copyright, or entertainment.
Law Alumni	Highest GPA during law school.
Malcolm Lucas	Highest GPA after first year.
Alfred J. Mellenthin	Highest GPA after first and second years.
Dorothy Wright Nelson	For contribution to the improvement of administration of Justice.
Norman Zarky	For excellence in entertainment law.
Shattuck	For leadership.
Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Award	Contribution to assist the poor & under-represented.
Mason C. Brown	Student who excels in trial advocacy and public interest.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW⁸ is the major USC Law Journal, which publishes articles on broad legal topics. Membership is competitive and based solely on grades. Each year the top fifteen students in the first year class are invited to participate. The membership for the board is close to sixty. In addition to the general editing and writing student notes, members are also saddled with the daunting task of sifting through almost 1300 unsolicited submissions per issue for about fifteen spots. Each member of the board including editors and staff are involved in selecting articles for publication.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LAW JOURNAL⁹ takes on the task of assessing legal problems and issues and attempting to find solutions from both within and outside conventional legal thinking and resources. The Journal boasts a fifty one student membership, with twenty students selected from the first year class on the basis of grades.

REVIEW OF LAW OF WOMEN'S STUDIES¹⁰ is an interdisciplinary journal which strives to look at the law through a feminist lens. In addition, the Journal attempts to look at issues concerning women and the law from the perspective of other influential disciplines like psychology, sociology, political science and literature. The Journal's goal is to provide a variable framework for law and policy in a distinct and alternative voice. Membership is small, with only twenty eight students on the staff and the board, and staff members are selected on variable criterion where grade cut-offs are inapplicable.

MOOT COURT¹¹

All students participate in Introduction to Lawyering Skills during the first year. A small number of students participate during their second year in the Hale Moot Court Honors program. They are chosen based on their first year brief scores and oral argument scores from Introduction to Lawyering Skills. Board members are chosen by third-year outgoing board members and faculty advisors.

ORGANIZATIONS¹²

USC's student organizations include the American Bar Association, Law Student Division, American Civil Liberties Union, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Corporate Law Society, Criminal Law Society, Diversity Week Planning Committee, Sports, Music & Entertainment Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Gay and Lesbian Law Union, Hale Moot Court, Health Law Society, Intellectual Property Society, International Law Society, Islamic Legal Society, Jewish Law Students Association, La Raza Law Student Association, Law & Technology Association, *Law Street Journal*, Middle Eastern South Asian Law Association, National Lawyers Guild Native American Law Students Association, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Pacific Rim Law Society, Public Interest Law Foundation, Round Table Society, Street Law Society, Student Bar Association, Tax Law Society, Technology and Corporate Law Society and the Women's Law Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: "Hundreds"¹³

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 95.6¹⁴

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁵

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 68
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 5
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 10
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 3
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 10
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 8

FOOTNOTES

- 1 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 597.
- 2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 3 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 598; <http://lawweb.usc.edu/students/handbook/sec-6.8.html#a>
- 4 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2003 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 598.
- 5 <http://lawweb.usc.edu/enrollment/grades/Standing2003.htm>
- 6 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 598; <http://lawweb.usc.edu/enrollment/HDBK/HDBK68a.html>
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 599.
- 8 <http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~usclev/index.html>.
- 9 Id.
- 10 <http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~rlaws/>.
- 11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 598.
- 12 <http://lawweb.usc.edu/enrollment/studentorgs/student-orgs.html>.
- 13 <http://lawweb.usc.edu/admissions/carserv/pages/interviews.html>
- 14 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 643.
- 15 Id.

RANK

15

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN

MAILING ADDRESS

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(512) 471-5151

ADMISSION'S PHONE

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WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.utexas.edu/law

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

(512) 475-7689

CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE

(512) 232-1150

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LAW SCHOOL

The University of Texas Law School, located in the capital city of Austin, lies just east of the state's rolling hill country. It does not take students much time to learn how close the campus is to several beautiful lakes and natural springs, not to mention the proximity of lively downtown 6th Street. The law school continues to attract some of the country's top legal scholars and offers one of the nation's best "returns on investment" based on a comparison of tuition with median starting salaries.¹

The University of Texas Law School is currently ranked Number 15 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The law school is one of the oldest in the country, and has been ranked in the top tier of national law schools for over thirty years, and has one of the most prestigious faculties in the nation.

The fall 2003 entering class numbered in at 543 students. Though the student-faculty ratio of 17.1 is rather high, most of the professors go out of their way to make themselves available during regular office hours. The University of Texas Law School at Austin has continued to affirm its strong commitment to diversity, despite recent legal challenges that prohibit the consideration of race in admission.²

The law school adheres to an average B curve with a numerical grading scale of 4.3 to 1.3. The law school neither ranks its students nor allows students to indicate an estimated rank on their resumes. Although the law school steers clear of ranking systems, it did provide a percentile rank for its classes in May 2003, noting that the top 25% of 3Ls had a GPA average of around 3.50.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 163, 25th – 75th Percentile: 160 – 166
- Median GPA: 3.6, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.41 – 3.83
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 6,066
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 992
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 16.4

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03155.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁴

GRADES AND GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

A+	4.3 (5%)*	B+	3.3 (15%)	C+	2.3 (10%)	D	1.7 (5%)
A	4.0 (10%)	B	3.0 (20%)	C	2.0 (10%)	F	1.3
A-	3.7 (10%)	B-	2.7 (15%)				

* The numbers in parentheses represent percentiles for the recommended curve.

CLASS RANK*:						MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD ^{5*}
PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	
May 2001 Class	3.69 calculated	not calculated	not calculated	not calculated	not calculated	1.9
2000 – 2001 1L Class	not calculated	3.40	not calculated	3.09	not calculated	
2000 – 2001 2L Class	not calculated	3.47	not calculated	3.14	not calculated	

*The University of Texas, School of Law does not employ a formal class ranking system. Currently students are not allowed to indicate an estimated class standing or percentile rank on their resumes. Students may indicate a GPA which must not be rounded to one decimal point. Students may also indicate a letter average in lieu of a numerical GPA; these numbers are the same for 1L's 2L's and 3L's.⁶

The following numerical equivalents are attributed to the letter grades:

A+	4.30
A	4.00 – 4.29
A-	3.70 – 3.99
B+	3.30 – 3.69
B	3.00 – 3.29
B-	2.70 – 2.99
C+	2.30 – 2.69
C	2.00 – 2.29
D	1.70 – 1.99
F	1.30 – 1.69

The university provides the following percentile breakdown for 1L's, who will be the class of 2006:

Top 25%: 3.66
Top 50%: 3.33

The University provides the following percentile breakdown for 2L's and 3L's completing their first or second year of study, respectively, as of May 2003:⁷

2Ls	3Ls
Top 25%: 3.40	3.48
Top 50%: 3.11	3.19

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁸

Order of the Coif:	10%; 3.69 GPA;	47 graduates
<i>Summa cum laude:</i>	0.01%; 4.05 GPA;	3 graduates
<i>Magna cum laude:</i>	3%; 3.85 – 4.04 GPA;	16 graduates
<i>Cum laude:</i>	27%; 3.35 – 3.84 GPA;	124 graduates

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Chancellors	Students (who are not already members) holding highest scholastic GPA and having completed 42 hours of coursework. Membership may not exceed 5% of preceding senior class (18).
Order of the Barristers	Outstanding student advocates in moot court and mock trial competition (10).
Dean's Achievement	Highest grade in each course (75-85 each semester).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁰

The **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW**¹¹ is one of the top student-edited legal journals in the nation devoted to exploring current issues in criminal law. The Journal is published three times a year and is one of the largest circulating journals at the University of Texas School of Law. Each issue contains articles by law school faculty, members of the judiciary, and practicing attorneys, as well as a significant amount of student work written by Journal members.

THE REVIEW OF LITIGATION¹² is a national law review published three times a year. Through articles by scholars and scholar-practitioners as well as student-authored law notes, the *Review* synthesizes substantive scholarly analysis into suggestions for practical application in litigation. The seventy-member staff is chosen for demonstrated excellence in writing and legal analysis.

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL¹³ is published quarterly and gives timely and practical information about developments in environmental law. It includes articles by practitioners and academics, information about recent developments involving cases, statutes, and rules relevant to environmental law, and notes submitted by law students throughout Texas.

The **TEXAS FORUM ON CIVIL LIBERTIES & CIVIL RIGHTS**¹⁴ bridges the gap between theoretical and practical issues in the fields of civil liberties and civil rights. Published in conjunction with the Section on *Individual Rights and Responsibilities of the State Bar of Texas*, the *Texas Forum* synthesizes and analyzes current thinking on issues in these areas in Texas through articles by legal scholars, practicing attorneys, state and federal judges, and students. Membership is open to second- and third-year students who participate in the write-on competition.

The **TEXAS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW JOURNAL**¹⁵ is dedicated to all aspects of intellectual property law on the national and the state level. The *Journal* focuses on issues of interest to academics and practitioners with topics such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, entertainment law, and unfair competition. Articles and notes are written by scholars, practitioners, and students. The Journal is managed and edited by students and is published three times a year. The Journal selects members based on their writing and analytical skills.

The **TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL**¹⁶ is the fourth oldest international law journal in the country. The Journal has been publishing important scholarly articles and promoting international symposia since 1965. It is one of the most competitive journals at the school.¹⁷

The **TEXAS JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LAW**⁸ is the largest business law journal in Texas and one of the largest in the nation with approximately 4,100 subscribers. The Journal is staffed by J.D. and joint J.D./M.B.A. students from the University of Texas and is the official publication of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. The mission of the Texas Journal of Business Law is to serve as a leading source in the practice of business law in Texas.

The **TEXAS JOURNAL OF WOMEN & THE LAW**⁹ explores the relationship between women and the law through articles and sponsorship of an annual symposium. The staff seeks to inspire a dialogue about gender-related issues that will lead to a greater awareness of the ways the law affects women and to innovative reforms in the lives of all people. The Journal takes an interdisciplinary approach to many issues, striving to deepen the relationship between theoretical and practical perspectives on gender and the law.

The **TEXAS LAW REVIEW**,²⁰ established in 1922, is devoted to scholarly writings on general legal subjects of national and local interest. The student editorial board prepares articles by outstanding legal authorities and law notes written by the student staff for publication. Students become eligible to join the staff of the Review on the basis of high academic achievement and demonstrated writing proficiency. Ten students are invited to join the Review based solely on the strength of the writing competition.²¹ The editorial board annually selects its successors from the members of the staff.

The **TEXAS REVIEW OF ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW**²² was founded in 1997 by law students committed to publishing the best available scholarship on legal issues that affect the entertainment and sports industries. Among the areas covered by the Journal are copyright, labor-management/relations, antitrust, and corporate affairs.

The **TEXAS REVIEW OF LAW & POLITICS**²³ mission is to be the prime forum for the discussion and debate of contemporary social issues, including crime, federalism, affirmative action, constitutional history, and religious liberties. The Review publishes thoughtful and intellectually rigorous conservative articles to serve as blueprints for constructive legal reform.

The **HISPANIC JOURNAL OF LAW & POLICY**²⁴ publishes articles that deal with law and policy affecting Hispanics in the US, especially Texas. All students of the JD class are encouraged to apply, with members chosen among those first-years who excel in legal research and writing.

MOOT COURT²⁵

Students must participate in moot court during the second semester of their first year. This competition is part of the first-year legal writing program. The students write a brief and participate in oral arguments.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁶

The University of Texas School of Law offers the following clinical programs: Capital Punishment Clinic, Children's Rights Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Housing Law Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Juvenile Justice Clinic, Mediation Clinic, Mental Health Clinic and the Judicial Internships (in the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Third Court of Appeals and U.S. District Courts). The school's clinical programs are among its major strengths.²⁷

ORGANIZATIONS²⁸

The University of Texas Law School's student organizations include the American Bar Association Law Student Division, American Constitution Society, Asian Law Students Association, Assault & Flattery, Board of Advocates, Cabinet of College Councils Representative, Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Entertainment and Sports Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Graduate Student Assembly, Intellectual Property Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Law Social Society, Legal Research Board, Muslim Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, Order of the Coif, Outlaw (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Law School Alliance), Peregrinus, Phi Alpha Delta, Public Interest Law Association, St. Thomas More Catholic Legal Society, State Bar of Texas Law Student Division, Student Bar Association, Student Recruitment & Orientation Committee, Teaching Quizmasters, Texas Federalist Society, Texas Law Democrats, Texas Law Fellowships, The University of Texas Student Government, Thurgood Marshall Legal Society, Women's Law Caucus and the Women's Roundtable.

Approximate number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 500²⁹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation 90.9³⁰

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.4

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 67
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 11
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 10
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 2

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.utexas.edu/law/depts/admissions/know.html>.
- 2 <http://www.utexas.edu/law/depts/admissions/minorityissues/hopwood.html>.
- 3 http://www.utexas.edu/law/depts/career/handouts/Grade_Report.pdf
- 4 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 606.
- 5 *Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 606.
- 6 http://www.utexas.edu/law/depts/career/handouts/Grade_Report_11s.pdf
- 7 http://www.utexas.edu/law/depts/career/handouts/Grade_Report.pdf
- 8 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 607.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 607.
- 10 <http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/sjou.WBX>.
- 11 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S02.
- 12 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S20.
- 13 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S25.
- 14 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S27.
- 15 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S29.
- 16 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S30.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S31.
- 19 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S32.
- 20 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S34.
- 21 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 22 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S38.
- 23 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S35.
- 24 http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/orjo.WBX?group_code=S28.
- 25 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 605.
- 26 Id.
- 27 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 28 <http://utdirect.utexas.edu/lorege/sorg.WBX>.
- 29 Correspondence dated 1/9/03 from Susana Aleman, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, University of Texas at Austin Law School to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 30 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 683.
- 31 Id.

RANK

47

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

Founded in 1913¹ and recently renamed, University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law offers a nationally recognized and progressive legal education in a collegial, surprisingly cosmopolitan, and historically rich setting. Located only minutes from downtown Salt Lake City, the College of Law is ripe with diverse professional and social opportunities. Salt Lake City was recently voted one of the country's most livable cities and the University of Utah hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics.²

The University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law is currently ranked Number 47 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The law school has a curriculum that emphasizes all practice areas, but is particularly strong in the area of environmental law, with a solid certificate program in environmental law and natural resources.³

The College of Law takes pride in its modern facilities, the diversity of its student body, and the friendlier, less hectic "Western lifestyle" that permeates the Utah experience.⁴ There were only 126 students enrolled in the school's Fall 2003 entering class, and with a student-faculty ratio of 16.5, the strong sense of community between faculty and students is a given.

Law school classes abide by a grading scale between 4.0 and 1.0. The top 10% of a recent class received GPA's of 3.56 or higher.⁵

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 158 - 163
- Median GPA: 3.61⁷, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.36 - 3.78
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 1,287
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 298
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.2

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03155.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7
				D	1.00

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁹	3.56	3.31	3.24	3.12	2.91	2.0

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST :¹⁰

Leary Scholar: Top 20% (each semester for 2Ls and 3Ls, each year for 1Ls)

Order of the Coif: Top 10%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹¹

NAME OF	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Outstanding Achievement Award	Student with most outstanding performance in a specific course.	
Various writing awards	For submitted papers.	

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹²

The **UTAH LAW REVIEW**³ is a journal of critical analysis and commentary on current legal problems. A writing competition and the student's cumulative law school GPA determine selection at the completion of the first year. The Law Review is the school's most prestigious publication.¹⁴

The **JOURNAL OF LAW & FAMILY STUDIES (JLFS)**¹⁵ is an interdisciplinary journal addressing a broad range of empirical and doctrinal topics concerning families, family relationships and the law. JLFS explores issues in family and juvenile law as well as other family-related issues relevant to public policy. JLFS is published at least twice a year, and membership is determined by a summer writing competition.

The **JOURNAL OF LAND, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (JLREL)**¹⁶ is published twice a year. JLREL's objective is to stimulate innovative thinking in the areas of energy, natural resources, and the environment. Membership for this journal is determined by a summer writing competition. The Journal is the school's second most prestigious publication.¹⁷

MOOT COURT¹⁸

The S.J. Quinney College of Law has a comprehensive program in appellate litigation and trial advocacy. In addition to the mandatory first-year writing program, which includes a moot court component, students may participate in the Traynor Moot Court Competition, the National Moot Court team competition, Advanced Appellate Litigation, and Trial Advocacy. Participation in the upper levels of the competition is highly coveted.¹⁹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁰

The S.J. Quinney College of Law offers the following clinical programs: Mediation Clinic, Environmental Clinic, Criminal Defender & Criminal Prosecutor Clinic, Judicial Clinic, Legislative Clinic, Health Clinic and the Civil Clinic.

ORGANIZATIONS²¹

The S.J. Quinney College of Law's active student organizations include the Student Bar Association, Federalist Society, Phi Delta Phi, International Law Society, LDS Law Student Association, Minority Law Caucus, Native American Law Student Association, Public Interest Law Organization, Women's Law Caucus, Gun Rights Advocates, Natural Resources Law Forum and the American Constitution Society.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 40²²

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 69.7²³

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 95.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁴

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 54
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 22
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 10
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.utah.edu/prospective/profile.html>.
- 2 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 724.
- 3 2003 student statistics received via fax correspondence between BCG research staff and Reyes Aguilar Associate Dean of Student Services, S.J. Quinney college of Law, on March 24 2004.
- 4 http://www.law.utah.edu/prospective/why_utah.html.
- 5 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 6 <http://www.law.utah.edu/prospective/profile.html>
- 7 Id.
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 622.
- 9 Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002 - 2003, 622.
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002 - 2003, 622.
- 11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 622.
- 12 <http://www.law.utah.edu/programs/journals/>.
- 13 <http://www.law.utah.edu/programs/journals/utahlawreview.html>
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 <http://www.law.utah.edu/programs/journals/jlfs.html>.
- 16 <http://www.law.utah.edu/programs/journals/jlrel.html>.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://www.law.utah.edu/programs/moot.html>.
- 19 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 20 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 621.
- 21 <http://www.law.utah.edu/current/orgs.html>.
- 22 Provided by the University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law's Office of Career Services.
- 23 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 723.
- 24 Id.



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MAILING ADDRESS	MAIN PHONE	ADMISSION'S PHONE	WEBSITE ADDRESS
580 Massie Road Charlottesville, VA 22903	(434) 924-7349	(434) 924-7351	www.law.virginia.edu
	REGISTRAR'S PHONE	CAREER SERVICE'S PHONE	
	(434) 924-7351	(434) 924-7349	

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Students who are lucky enough to spend their law school years on a campus as beautiful as that of the University of Virginia School of Law have no qualms about admitting that they get one of the “best bang for your buck” legal educations in the country. The law school is located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Charlottesville, Virginia, has an expert faculty known for its interdisciplinary strength, and offers a reasonably priced education, especially for in-state students.

The University of Virginia School of Law is currently ranked Number Nine on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. *American Lawyer* magazine identified it as one of only two law schools in the country with graduates practicing in each of the nation’s top 100 law firms.¹

It is no surprise that Virginia boasts one of the nation’s highest ratings of student satisfaction. The school has a broad curriculum and is particularly strong in the areas of constitutional law, international law, business law and environmental law.² The average entering class size of 369 students and the relatively low student-faculty ratio of 14.4 foster a friendly environment where strong bonds are formed between students and faculty.

The law school uses a 4.3 grading scale with the lowest numerical value being a 0.0. UVA is known to curve its law school classes to a generous B+ average. However, as the number of A’s and C’s must be even, students have found a rigid bell curve to exist with most of the grades being in the middle range. The University provides neither an individual rank nor a cumulative GPA in its law school transcripts.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 167⁴, 25th – 75th Percentile: 165 – 170⁵
- Median GPA: 3.66⁶, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.55 – 3.81⁷
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 4,588⁸
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 996
- Overall acceptance rate: 21.7

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World’s America’s Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03162.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁹

A+	4.3	B+	3.3	C+	2.3		
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.00	D	1.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7			F	0.0

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Students surveyed provided that the Law School adheres to a strict B+ curve, which translates into a 3.3 GPA for a great majority of each class. The students found that the professors usually stick as close as possible to the B+ curve; hence, each A must be balanced with a C. Professors who do not wish to give too many C's must limit the numbers of A's as well. Students also responded that for the foregoing reasons, there are only one or two A's in a class of 30 or so students and about three or four A's if the class is a large one with 80-100 people. One student pointed out that the system protects the "lazy," as many students who deserve A's do not get them, while those undeserving of B's are often rewarded.¹⁰

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP	N/A	3.48	N/A	3.3	N/A	N/A

University of Virginia provides students with a letter grade for each class; however it does not provide a cumulative GPA or a class rank on the transcript. The mean for student grades falls in the B+ range. Given the highly competitive admission standards however, the University urges employers to consider factors other than grades in making hiring decisions for its students.¹¹

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif: Top 10%

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹³

All the journals use a combination of methods for membership, including extensive writing contests, note writing and statements of interest, and diversity. Student Surveys indicated that although there is no official cut-off for application to the journals, a student should have a GPA of at least 3.3 to be competitive in gaining membership.¹⁴

VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW¹⁵ is a journal of general legal scholarship that publishes eight times a year. There are four ways to be invited to join the editorial board of the *Virginia Law Review*: 'Grade-on', which accounts for the top 25 highest-ranking members of the first-year class and up to five members of the third-year class who meet the minimum qualifications of the previous year; 'Write-on', which accounts for five to 15 participants from the journal tryout process; 'Virginia Plan' which considers grades, journal tryout, and statements of diversity; and 'Note-on', where those whose note is selected to be published are invited to become members. The *Law Review* is the school's most prestigious publication.¹⁶

The **VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**¹⁷ is the oldest continuously-published, student-edited law review in the United States devoted exclusively to the fields of public and private international law. Positions on the Journal's editorial board are open to all students in the law school and in other schools of the University who successfully complete a written tryout that is conducted every spring and fall. Students have indicated that this journal is the school's second most presti-

gious publication.¹⁸

VIRGINIA TAX REVIEW¹⁹ publishes four times annually and is devoted to matters related to federal taxation. The Tax Review is one of the oldest student-run law journals at the University of Virginia, and the only journal to deal exclusively with tax and corporate topics. It is among the school's most prestigious publications.²⁰

The **JOURNAL OF LAW AND POLITICS**²¹ is the first and only non-partisan publication devoted exclusively to examining the interaction between law and politics. Founded in 1982 under the guidance of then-Circuit Judge Antonin Scalia, this interdisciplinary publication consists of articles, essays, and commentaries by scholars, practitioners, and national political leaders.

The **VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL (VELJ)**²² is dedicated to providing a national forum for research and discussion in the areas of environmental and natural resource law. Published quarterly by the students of the law school, the *Journal* includes articles by scholars, practitioners, and environmental professionals, as well as student notes, on a broad array of topics from environmental justice to corporate liability. VELJ is a student-run organization with a staff of approximately 50 second- and third-year law students. Membership is open to all law students who demonstrate exceptional skill in legal writing and analysis in a rigorous three-day written tryout.

VIRGINIA SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL focuses on all aspects of both sports and entertainment law. Published biannually by the students and the law school, the *Journal* features articles written by sports and entertainment law professors, as well as those written by experienced practitioners in both the sports and entertainment law fields. In addition, law students interested in sports or entertainment law are invited to join through a written tryout process held each semester.

MOOT COURT²³

Moot court is not a required activity for first years at UVA Law School. However, more than 250 second-year students, compete in two-person teams, and hone their oral argument skills in the annual William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition. The competition, which has been designated by students as the most prestigious competition at the school,²⁴ is presided over by distinguished federal and state judges in the semifinal and final rounds. Winners receive a cash prize and their names are inscribed on a plaque located outside the three moot court rooms. Teams of students chosen from among those entered in the competition may represent the School of Law in the national Moot Court Competition and other extramural competitions nationwide. Participation in the upper levels of competition is highly coveted.²⁵

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²⁶

The University of Virginia School of Law's clinical programs include: Appellate Litigation Clinic, Child Advocacy Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, Employment Law Clinic, Environmental Practice Clinic, First Amendment Clinic, Housing Law Clinic, International Human Rights Law Clinic, Patent and Licensing Clinic and the Prosecution Clinic. Students have indicated that the school's clinical programs have improved greatly over the past few years.²⁷

ORGANIZATIONS²⁸

The University of Virginia School of Law's many student organizations include Action for Better Living, Ambulance Chasers Running Club, American Constitution Society, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Conference on Public Service & the Law, Criminal Law Student Association, Domestic Violence Project, Environmental Law Forum, Federalist Society, First Year Council, Graduate Law Students, JD/MBA Society, Jewish Law Students Association, John Bassett Moore Society of International Law, Lambda Law Alliance, Law Christian Fellowship, Law Partners, Law School Co-Ed Soccer, Legal Assistance Society, The Libel Show, Moot Court Board, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Students Association, North Grounds Softball League, Peer Advisor Program, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi,

Pro Bono Criminal Adjudication Project, Public Interest Law Association, Rape Crisis Advocacy Project, Rex E. Lee Society, Saint Thomas More Society, Student Bar Association, Student Legal Forum, Students United to Promote Racial Awareness, Virginia Eagle, Virginia Employment and Labor Law Association, Virginia Law Democrats, Virginia Law and Business Society, Virginia Law Families, Virginia Law and Graduate Republicans, Virginia Law Veterans, Virginia Law Weekly (newspaper), Virginia Law Women, Virginia Society of Law & Technology, Volunteer Income Tax Association, Voz Latina and Women of Color.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 371²⁹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 97.3^{30*}

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99.7

WHERE THE GRADS GO:³¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 75.2
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 16.7
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 4.2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1.1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2.2
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

*Student surveys pointed out that international students are more than likely unaccounted for in the preceding statistics since very few tend to find jobs after graduation from UVA.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/about/about.htm>.
- 2 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 <http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/about/factsstats.htm>
- 5 Id.
- 6 Id.
- 7 Id.
- 8 Id.
- 9 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 630.
- 10 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 11 http://www.law.virginia.edu/lawweb/lawweb2.nsf/pages/lev2calc?OpenDocument&Fr1=pages/Employers&Fr2=/home2002/frames/lf_Career.htm
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 630.
- 13 <http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/academics/academicjournals.htm>.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 15 <http://www.virginialawreview.org/>.
- 16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 17 <http://scs.student.virginia.edu/%7Evjil/>.
- 18 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 19 <http://www.student.virginia.edu/%7Evtra/>.
- 20 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 21 <http://jlp.law.virginia.edu/submit.htm>.
- 22 <http://www.velj.org/about.htm>.
- 23 http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/students/moot_dillard.htm.
- 24 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 25 Id.
- 26 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 629.
- 27 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 28 <http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/students/studentorgs.htm>.
- 29 <http://www.law.virginia.edu/home2002/html/about/factsstats.htm>
- 30 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 743.
- 31 Id.

RANK

34

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW

The very same things that make Seattle a wonderful place to live make the University of Washington School of Law an excellent place to study an interdisciplinary field like the law. The diversity of the "Emerald City" and the relaxed and friendly attitude common to the Northwest provide an ideal setting in which to study the practical and ideological facets of law. Despite rumors to the contrary, the perpetual rainy season doesn't turn away too many folks. The school has a long-standing commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and public service and it consistently turns out well-rounded graduates who are both world-class scholars and highly employable practitioners.¹

The University of Washington School of Law is currently ranked Number 34 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. With the fall 2003 entering class size of 192 and a student-faculty ratio of 12.5, there is easy interaction between students and faculty. In line with the school's reputation of having something for everyone, its situation on the main campus of the University of Washington, with an enrollment of 33,500 students,² fosters an abundance of social and extracurricular activities.

The Law School uses a standard 4-point grading system. Most courses follow a B+ median that sits at a generous 3.3. The school ranks only with letter grade quartiles, rewarding 75% of the class with a B or above.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 159 - 166
- Median GPA: 3.60⁵, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.44 - 3.79
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,721⁶
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 524
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 19.3

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

A+ 3.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.0

CLASS RANK

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁸	A	A-	A-	B+	B	C

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
High Honors:	Top 5%
Honors:	Top 6 – 20%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Honor Graduate	Top student in graduating class.
Carkeek Prize	Best student contribution to Law Review on a point of law of particular interest to Washington lawyers.
Delta Theta Phi Founders Scholarship	Highest academic achievement for first- and second-year students.
Hugh Miracle Award	Best opening statement in trial advocacy, trial practice, or moot court/mock trial program.
Mary Ellen Krug	Demonstrated interest and proficiency in labor and employment law and related subjects.
Nathan Burkan	Best papers by graduating students on subjects within the field of copyright law. (2)
Judge Lawless Award	Highest academic achievement in first year.
George & Barbara Akers Scholarship	Academic achievement and community service.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW¹² is a quarterly journal comprised of student-written pieces and professional articles on a wide range of legal issues. Annual events include the Spring Symposium, community service programs, and social events. Membership is competitive and based upon first-year grades and writing competition scores.

PACRIM LAW & POLICY JOURNAL¹³ was founded in 1990 as an innovative vehicle for the discussion of legal and interdisciplinary policy-oriented issues affecting both Asian and trans-Pacific affairs. The Journal, as one of the only two student-edited law journals in the United States devoted to the Pacific Basin, and the only journal featuring translations of East Asian legal scholarship, encourages the debate of issues vital to the Pacific Rim. Membership is competitive and based upon first-year grades and writing competition scores.

MOOT COURT¹⁴

An annual moot court competition is part of the first-year writing course (Basic Legal Skills). Moot Court Honor Board members are selected on the basis of first year and other competitions. Students also compete in intramural, local, regional, national and international moot court competitions.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁵

The University of Washington School of Law's organizations include the American Bar Association/Law Student Division, Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Docket, Federalist Society, Filipino Law Students Association, GreenLaw, Immigrant Families Advocacy Project, Innocence Project Northwest, International Law Society, Labor Law Society, Latino/Latina Law Students Association, Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Law Women's Caucus, Lawkids, Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Legal Society, Minority Law Students' Association, Moot Court Honor Board, National Lawyers Guild, Native American Law Student Association, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Law Association, Sports and Entertainment Law Club, Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington, Student Bar Association, Technology Law Society and the Washington State Trial Lawyer's Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 100¹⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 74.5¹⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 93.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 50.8
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 16.4
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 18.7
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 5.5
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 7.0
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.8

FOOTNOTES

- 1 http://www.law.washington.edu/LawSchool/admit/admit_Community.html.
- 2 <http://www.law.washington.edu/Admissions/Statistics.html> Statistics for 2003 entering class.
- 3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- 4 <http://www.law.washington.edu/Admissions/Statistics.html> Statistics refer to 2003 entering class.
- 5 Id.
- 6 Id.
- 7 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 634.
- 8 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 634.
- 9 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 634.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 634.
- 11 http://www.law.washington.edu/LawSchool/admit/admit_StudOrg.html.
- 12 <http://www.law.washington.edu/WLR/about.htm>.
- 13 <http://www.law.washington.edu/PacRim/>.
- 14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 633.
- 15 http://www.law.washington.edu/LawSchool/admit/admit_StudOrg.html.
- 16 <http://www.law.washington.edu/Career/services.html>. (In regards to Fall Interview Program).
- 17 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php
- 18 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 755.

RANK

31

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

The University of Wisconsin Law School is truly a national law school; its central location and situation at one of the world's leading research universities attracts students from coast to coast and beyond. The beautiful and affordable city of Madison, with a population of over 200,000, is consistently named one of the top five cities in the nation for quality of life.¹

The University of Wisconsin Law School is currently ranked Number 31 (Brigham Young, Fordham, the University of California – Davis and the University of Georgia) on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The school's "law-in-action" approach to teaching and learning the law encourages students to embrace the far-reaching and practical implications of a legal education, transcending the traditional ideological approach.

The school takes much pride in its long-standing commitment to diversity; students of color comprise more than 25 percent of the student body. But what may be even more telling is the fact that the school's faculty also reflects diversity in race, sexual orientation, religion, and national origin.² The University of Wisconsin, School of Law enrolled 261 students in its fall 2003 entering class,³ and it has a student-faculty ratio of 12.2.

Students at the law school are subjected to a grading scale that ranges from 65 to 95. First-year courses are curved at 82.5-84 and the upper level courses follow a looser curve at 81.5-85. Although the University does not formally rank students, it does provide a breakdown of percentiles for employers. The top 10% of the class usually has a GPA around 80 or higher.⁴

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 162⁵, 25th – 75th Percentile: 158 – 164
- Median GPA: 3.37⁶, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.14 – 3.60
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,110
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 708
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 22.8

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php

GRADES AND RANKING:⁷

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE):

University of Wisconsin uses a numerical system, which ranges between 65 and 95, where no grades above 95 are possible. Furthermore, all classes with 30 or more students, whether first-year or upper level, are required to adhere to a normalization curve. The normalization curve for first-year classes is between 82.5 – 84, while for upper level courses the curve is between 81.5 and 85. While some seminars and classes with fewer students may be letter graded, these grades are not factored into the student’s GPA. The following table is provided for employers by the University to show equivalents to a letter grade system:

A	87 – 95
AB	85 – 86
B	83 – 84
BC	80 – 82
C	77 – 79
D	70 – 76
F	65 – 69

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP* ⁸	87.66	86.25	N/A	84.21	82.75	77.0

University of Wisconsin does not rank the law students. They provide the following Class Standing Table for use by employers to evaluate the relative position of a student within the class.⁹

	0 – 17 Credits	18 – 30 Credits	31 – 45 Credits	46 – 60 Credits	61 – 79 Credits	80 + Credits
Top	93.0	92.0	92.0	91.8	91.8	91.1
5%	88.5	88.2	88.1	87.7	88.0	87.9
10%	87.3	87.2	87.1	86.9	87.1	87.2
15%	86.8	86.4	86.4	86.5	86.7	86.7
20%	86.3	85.9	85.9	86.1	86.3	86.3
25%	85.8	85.5	85.6	85.6	85.9	85.9
30%	85.3	85.1	85.3	85.3	85.5	85.5
35%	84.8	84.7	84.9	84.8	85.1	85.1
40%	84.3	84.3	84.6	84.5	84.7	84.8
45%	84.0	83.9	84.2	84.2	84.4	84.5
50%	83.5	83.6	83.9	83.9	84.1	84.2
55%	83.3	83.3	83.6	83.6	83.8	83.8
60%	82.8	82.9	83.3	83.3	83.5	83.5
65%	82.3	82.5	83.0	82.9	83.2	83.3
70%	82.0	82.2	82.6	82.5	82.8	82.9
75%	81.6	81.7	82.1	81.9	82.3	82.3
80%	81.0	81.2	81.6	81.3	81.9	81.8
85%	80.3	80.5	81.0	80.8	81.4	81.2
90%	79.5	79.9	80.2	79.9	80.9	80.4
95%	78.5	78.6	78.7	78.5	79.9	79.3

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹⁰

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	Weighted average of 90+
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	Weighted average of 87.5+
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Weighted average of 85.5+

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹¹

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Academic Excellence Award	Student who receives the highest grade in any numerically graded class.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹²

WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW is edited and published six times each year by law students. Attention is devoted to special problems of Wisconsin law, where the *Law Review* can make unique contributions, and to national and international legal problems. Articles are contributed by attorneys, judges, and law professors. A substantial portion of each issue contains student research. Students are admitted to the *Law Review* by competing in a writing competition at the end of the first year.

THE WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL, established in 1982, is written by both professionals in the field and by law students. Student members of the journal edit articles of interest in various areas of international law and draft articles for submission and possible publication. Each spring, the Journal staff coordinates a conference on recent topics of interest in international law.

The **WISCONSIN WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL**, open to all students, is a student-edited journal, national in scope, which publishes contributions from students, teachers, and practitioners. This journal, established in 1985, combines the University of Wisconsin's "law in action" tradition with the interdisciplinary nature of women's studies. Articles on all legal topics are considered, including corporate, environmental, and criminal law issues, as well as family law.

The **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL**, published semiannually, provides a forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in environmental law. Since 1992, the Journal has served as a resource for practicing attorneys, academics, and interested members of the environmental community.

MOOT COURT¹³

Students try out for moot court during first- and second-year. It is one of the most competitive activities offered by the school and membership is selective.¹⁴ Board members are elected by vote of students participating. Teams include: Administrative Law, Chicago Bar, Corporate Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Medical Legal Ethics, Jessup International, Pace, Product Liability, Thomas Tang, and Vanderbilt.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁵

The University of Wisconsin Law School offers the following clinical programs: Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons (LAIP), Innocence Project, Family Law Project, Criminal Appeals Project, Restorative Justice Project, Economic Justice Clinic (Consumer Law Clinic & Neighborhood Law Project), Prosecution Project, Public Defender Project, Center for Patient Partnerships and the Legal Defense Program. In addition to the clinics, the school also offers internships and externships that are similar to the clinics, which include: Judicial Internship Program, Labor Law Externship, Department of Justice Clinical Externship Program, Criminal Appellate Practice Externship, Domestic Violence Externship, Externship in Rural America, Thurgood Marshall Externship, and the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy.¹⁶ Students consider the clinical program to be one of the strongest programs the school has to offer. Clinical programs involving criminal law are particularly sought after, as criminal law is one of the school's leading fields.¹⁷

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁸

The University of Wisconsin Law School's organizations include the American Bar Association/Law Student Division, American Civil Liberties Union, Black Law Students Association, Business & Tax Law Association, Children's Justice Project, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Law Association, Dean's Cup, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Indigenous Law Students Association, Intellectual Property Students Organization, Jewish Law Students Association, Korean Law Students Association, Latino Law Student Association, Law Revue, Legal Information Center, Legal Education Opportunities Program, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, South Asian Law Student Association, Mock Trial, National Lawyers Guild, Older Wiser Law Students, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Theta Phi, Praxis Law School Magazine, QLaw (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Law Students), Student Bar Association, Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic, Wisconsin International Law Society, Wisconsin Public Interest Law Foundation, Wisconsin Sports Law Society, and the Women's Law Student Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years, on average: 110¹⁹

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 78.7²⁰

Percentage of grades employed nine months after graduation: 98.4

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²¹

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 62
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 8
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 17
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 4
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 2

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/prospective/madison.htm>.
- 2 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/prospective/diversityb.htm>.
- 3 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/prospective/stats.htm>
- 4 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/career/gradesystem.htm>
- 5 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/prospective/stats.htm>
- 6 Id.
- 7 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/career/gradesystem.htm>
- 8 Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 638.
- 9 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/career/gradesystem.htm>
- 10 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 638.
- 11 E-mail correspondence dated 1/02/03 from Jane Heymann of the University of Wisconsin Career Services Office to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 12 <http://www.law.wisc.edu/prospective/organizations.htm>.
- 13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 638.
- 14 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 15 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 638.
- 16 E-mail correspondence from Carolyn Lazar Butler, Assistant Dean, University of Wisconsin Law School, to BCG Attorney Search.
- 17 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 18 <http://students.law.wisc.edu/orgs.htm>
- 19 E-mail correspondence dated 1/02/03 from Jane Heymann of the University of Wisconsin Career Services Office to A. Harrison Barnes of BCG Attorney Search.
- 20 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php.
- 21 Id.

RANK

17

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VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

Vanderbilt Law School is located just minutes from downtown Nashville, but its campus is also a nationally recognized arboretum. The capital of Tennessee is sometimes referred to as the "Athens of the South." Nashville is listed regularly among the best cities in which to live and work. It is a financial, business, and governmental center that combines the energy and attractions of a major metropolis – professional sports, theater, ballet, and symphony – with the charm of a small town's friendly and welcoming citizens.¹

Vanderbilt Law School is currently ranked Number 17 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. It is known both for its stimulating intellectual environment and for its quality teaching. Vanderbilt offers more than 149 diverse courses in such areas as health law, intellectual property, international law, child welfare, cyberspace, constitutional law, and federal courts.² With just 198 students enrolled in its fall 2003 entering class, a student-faculty ratio of 16³, and the faculty's open-door policy, regular interactions between students and their professors have become one of the mainstays of the Vanderbilt Law School experience.

Vanderbilt Law utilizes a modified 4-point scale with grades ranging from a 4.3 to a 0.0, A+ to F respectively. A recommended bell curve is followed.^{4*}

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:⁵

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164⁶, 25th – 75th Percentile: 162 – 166
- Median GPA: 3.65⁷, 25th – 75th Percentile: 3.46 – 3.82
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,600
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 682
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 18.9

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁸

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.00
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	F 0.00

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Vanderbilt is known to adhere to a curve. The grades are distributed as follows: 25% A- or higher, with one or more A+'s possible, 55% B or B+, and 20% B- or lower.⁹

Survey participants have indicated that the curve has recently changed. The old curve was at a 3.0 and the new curve is set at 3.3. Students have also noted that despite the increase in the curve standard some professors continue to adhere to the old 3.0 curve even though they are not required to do so.¹⁰

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ¹¹			N/A			2.0 Cum.
						*effective class of 2001

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:¹²

Order of the Coif:	Top 10%
Dean's List:	Top 20% (Each semester)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹³

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Founder's Medal	Student in the graduating class who has attained the highest GPA.
Junius L. Allison Legal Aid Award	Awarded annually to the student who made the most significant contribution to the work of the Legal Aid Society.
The Banks Award	Selected and awarded by the Jessup Moot Court competition team to the member who has made the greatest contribution to the team's overall success during the prior year.
Bennett Douglas Bell Memorial Award	Awarded to the graduating student who is not only well versed in the law, but who embodies the highest conception of the ethics of the profession.
Damali A. Booker Award	Awarded to 3L student dedicated to legal activism and committed to confronting social issues facing the law school and Nashville community.
The Bureau Of National Affairs Award	Member of the senior class judged by the faculty to have made the most scholastic progress during the final school year.
Nathan Burkan Memorial Prize	Awarded annually by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for the best paper on copyright.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
G. Scott Briggs Transnational Legal Studies Award	3L who has exhibited a high degree of scholastic achievement in transnational legal studies and who has made the most significant contribution to the development of international legal inquiry while a student of Vanderbilt Law School.
The Philip G. Davidson III Memorial Award	Student, chosen by the Vanderbilt Bar Association Board of Governors, who is dedicated to the law and its problem-solving role in society, and who provides exemplary leadership in service to the Law School and the greater community.
Weldon B. White Prize	Awarded to the student in the graduating class judged to have submitted the best paper fulfilling the advanced writing requirement.
Robert F. Jackson Memorial Prize	Awarded to “that member of the second-year law class who has maintained the highest scholastic average during the two years.”
LL.M. Research Prize	Awarded for outstanding achievement in the completion of the LL.M. scholarly research and writing project.
Lightfoot, Franklin & White Legal Writing Awards	Awarded annually for Best Brief and Best Oralist in each of the eight sections of the first year Legal Writing & Introduction to Lawyering course.
Archie B. Martin Memorial Prize	Student of the first-year class who has earned the highest general average for the year.
Jordan A. Quick Memorial Award	Student judged to have made the greatest contribution to the quality of life at the law school through his or her leadership with the Vanderbilt Bar Association.
Stanley D. Rose Memorial Book Award	Student who has submitted the best legal writing in the field of jurisprudence or legal history during each academic year.
Carl J. Ruskowski Clinical Legal Education Award	Student who, in his or her representation of clients in the Law School’s clinical program, demonstrated excellence in practice of law and best exemplified the highest standards of the legal profession.
Vanderbilt Scholastic Excellence Award	Student designated by the professor as receiving the highest grade in all courses except seminars and limited enrollment courses.
West Group Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement	Graduating students in recognition of superior research and writing.
Weldon B. White Prize	Student who submits the best written study of an aspect of the law of the state of Tennessee.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
<i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> Second-Year Staff Award	Second-year staff member who has made the most significant contribution to the advancement of the <i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> during the school year.
<i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> Outstanding Editor Award	Member of the third-year staff selected as having done the most outstanding work on the <i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> during the academic year.
Grace Wilson Sims Prize For Student Writing In Transnational Law	Student submitting the best piece of student writing for publication in the <i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> during the school year.
Grace Wilson Sims Medal In Transnational Law	Editorial board member, other than the editor-in-chief, who has done the most outstanding work on the <i>Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law</i> during the school year.
Law Review Candidate's Award	Awarded by the second-year staff of the <i>Vanderbilt Law Review</i> to the third-year staff member, other than the editor-in-chief, who has made the most significant contribution to their development as staff members of the <i>Vanderbilt Law Review</i> .
Law Review Associate Editor's Award	The associate editor among the third-year staff who has contributed most significantly toward the improvement of the <i>Vanderbilt Law Review</i> .
Morgan Prize	A cash award, in honor of Professor Edmund M. Morgan, given to the student contributing the most outstanding piece of student writing published in the <i>Vanderbilt Law Review</i> during the school year. The winner of this prize is ineligible to receive the Dean's Award.
Myron Penn Laughlin Recent Development Award	The student, other than the recipient of the Morgan Prize, who has contributed the best student note published in the <i>Vanderbilt Law Review</i> during the school year.
Bass Berry & Sims Moot Court Competition Award	Semifinalists in the Intramural Appellate Competition.
John A. Cortner Moot Court Competition Award	The two members of the winning team in the Intramural Appellate Competition.
K. Harlan Dodson Moot Court Staff Award	Senior member of the moot court staff, other than the chief justice, who rendered the most outstanding service during the year in all aspects of the moot court program.

NAME OF AWARD

National Association of Women Lawyers'
Outstanding Law Student Award

RECIPIENT

Awarded to the student whose law school involvement best fulfills the goals of contributing to the advancement of women in society and promoting women's issues in the legal profession, and who has exhibited tenacity, enthusiasm and academic achievement while earning the respect of others.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹⁴

VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW¹⁵ is published six times a year and selects new members in the spring of their first year. Members are selected based on a combination of their case comment competition score and their first year grade point average. Although officially a combination of grades and writing is considered, students surveyed indicated that grades were weighted more heavily in gaining membership.¹⁶ The *Law Review* selects thirty first-year students annually. Second-year students may also write on to the *Law Review*. Second-year students are required to assist the managing department in cite-checking professional and student pieces. The *Law Review* also requires all second-year members to write a student note. Third-year members have the opportunity to serve on the *Law Review's* editorial board.

VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW publishes five issues a year and ranks among the top 6 student-run international law journals, and among the top 10 of international law journals in general (including faculty edited journals). The Journal participates in the joint competition for members (along with the *Law Review* and JELP), selecting 30 members from the rising second-year class each year. Half are selected solely on the basis of writing and citation skills, the other half are selected on the basis of grades and writing. Second-year students may also become associate editors by writing notes of publishable quality during their second year of law school.¹⁷

VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF ENTERTAINMENT LAW & PRACTICE (JELP)¹⁸ was founded in 1998 and strives to present an informative discussion of the contemporary legal issues that face the entertainment industry. They endeavor to provide a venue where entertainment practitioners and scholars alike can confront the principal concerns of a rapidly changing industry that transcends both culture and medium. JELP takes writing samples over the summer and chooses six for each of its subjects, which range from television to internet law, and usually two are published. The Journal aims at being a legal guide for the entertainment industry in addition to the traditional audience of legal professionals, making it quite unlike most other journals.¹⁹

MOOT COURT²⁰

Moot court is a voluntary activity and board members are selected from second-year competitors in a moot court competition in the fall semester. Participation is a highly prestigious honor; hence most eligible students participate early in their law school career.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²¹

Vanderbilt University Law School offers the following clinical programs: Civil Practice Clinic, Criminal Practice Clinic, Juvenile Practice Clinic, Domestic Violence Clinic, Business Law Clinic and Economic and Community Development Clinic. The clinical programs tend to focus on litigation, but those interested in the clinics offered felt that they were given a great deal of responsibility and were able to negotiate, try, and settle cases with little supervision.²²

ORGANIZATIONS²³

Vanderbilt University Law School's organizations include the Vanderbilt Bar Association, ACLU, American Constitution Society, Amnesty International, Animal Law Society, Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Colloquy, Catholic Law Students Association, Criminal Law Association, Entertainment & Sports Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Foreign Service Legal Society, Gay/Straight Alliance, Health Law Society, Honor Council, International Law Society, ISAAF, Jewish Law Students Association, Law & Business Society, Law Partners, Legal Aid Society and Public Interest Stipend Fund, Moot Court Board, Patent & Intellectual Property Student Organization, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Spanish American Law Students Association, Student Plaintiff's Bar Association, Thurgood Marshall Legal Activist Society, Vanderbilt Alternative Dispute Resolution Organization, Vanderbilt Law School Ambassadors, Vanderbilt Law School VENT, Vanderbilt Law Transfer Students Association, Vanderbilt Trial Advocacy Society, and Women Law Students Association.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 250+²⁴

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 92.9²⁵

Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 96.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 69
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 14
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 6.0
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/nashville.html>.
- 2 <http://law.vanderbilt.edu/admiss/nutshell.html>.
- 3 <http://www.law.vanderbilt.edu/admiss/nutshell.html>
- 4 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on. *Students felt that traditionally, the mean for each class was set at 3.0 or a B-, but recently, the mean has increased to a 3.3. These statements were not verified by administrative officials at the law school.
- 5 Admission numbers for 2003 provide via e-mail correspondence dated March 26, 2004 between Sue Ann Scott, Asst. Dean for Personnel & Special Projects and BCG research staff.
- 6 Id.
- 7 <http://www.law.vanderbilt.edu/admiss/nutshell.html>
- 8 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 646.
- 9 Per correspondence dated March 26, 2004 between Sue Ann Scott, Asst. Dean for Personnel & Special Projects and BCG research staff.
- 10 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 11 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2003 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 598.
- 12 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 646.
- 13 <http://law.vanderbilt.edu/academics/honors.html>.
- 14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 646.
- 15 <http://www.law.vanderbilt.edu/lawreview/about.html>.
- 16 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book
- 17 Per correspondence dated March 26, 2004 between Sue Ann Scott, Asst. Dean for Personnel & Special Projects and BCG research staff.
- 18 <http://law.vanderbilt.edu/jelp/index.html>
- 19 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 20 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 645.
- 21 Id.
- 22 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only used this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have included survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 23 Per correspondence dated March 26, 2004 between Sue Ann Scott, Asst. Dean for Personnel & Special Projects and BCG research staff.
- 24 Id.
- 25 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php
- 26 Id.

RANK

34

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

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WAKE FOREST LAW SCHOOL

Located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Winston-Salem, the Wake Forest campus is known for its breathtaking beauty. Winston-Salem has a population of about 170,000 and is a city steeped in history and the cultural arts.

Wake Forest Law School is currently ranked Number 34 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The school takes pride in its small class sizes, the individualized attention offered to its students, its nationally-oriented education, great teaching faculty, and outstanding building and technology infrastructure.

Wake Forest boasts of the accessibility of its faculty to students; not surprisingly, it has an impressive student-faculty ratio of 16.8, and there were just 189 students enrolled in its fall 2003 entering class. The school places a heavy emphasis on the development of skills in written and oral communication and the effective use of informational technology to prepare its students to live and work in a changing world.

Wake Forest institutes a curve for the majority of its large and/or required law courses. Most students find that the mandatory curve, which is around 81-83 depending on the course, results in low GPAs of around 85-86. In fact, the top 10% of a recent graduating class was recorded as having a GPA as low as 88.54.¹

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 161, 25th - 75th Percentile: 160 - 163
- Median GPA: 3.39, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.15 - 3.6
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,442
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 580
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.8

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:²

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENT	*OLD GRADE SYSTEM
A	91 - 100	85 - 94
B	81 - 90	75 - 84
C	71 - 80	65 - 74
D	66 - 70	60 - 64
F	below 66	below 60

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Wake Forest's grading scale changed beginning with the class of 1994. Grades are now being measured by a curve of 81 for first-year students and an 83 for classes taken during the second two years of law school. Additionally, smaller classes and some other special cases are exempt from the curve. Students indicated that the requisite curve results in generally low GPAs of around 85-86 even for the top 1/3 of the class. Professors may not deviate from the curve beyond 1/4th of a point except in electives or seminars with 10 to 15 students.³

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
NALP ⁴	88.54	86.54	85.71	84.63	82.53	73.000

Surveys indicated that students could request their individual rank for employment purposes

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁵

Order of the Coif:	Elected on basis of academics
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	Cumulative GPA of 91+
<i>Cum laude</i> :	Top 10%
Dean's List:	Top 10% each semester.

ACADEMIC AWARDS:⁶

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Order of Barrister	Faculty-recognized excellence in student advocacy (10).
Law Review Prize	Outstanding note or comment.
Moot Court Board Awards	Board selects most active third-year students to recognize (6).
CALI	Outstanding achievement in legal education to students attaining the highest grade in certain academically accredited, non-seminar courses.
West Publishing Company	Scholarly accomplishment.
NC Student Pro Bono Award	Awarded by the North Carolina State Bar.
Edwin M. Stanley Memorial	Open to second- and third-year students to hone their trial advocacy skills; conducted by the moot court board.
Zeliff Trial Competition	Open to second- and third-year students & conducted by the Student Trial Bar. Winner receives cash award and a trophy.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS

The **WAKE FOREST LAW REVIEW**⁷ is a student-run organization that annually publishes four issues. Membership is determined either through academic performance or participation in a writing competition. Students who are in the top 10% after their first year are invited to join the *Wake Forest Law Review*. An equal number of students are extended an invitation based upon their scores in the writing competition and their grades. Two-thirds weight is given to the paper score and one-third weight is given to grades. Students who are in the top 10% after their second year are also invited to join.

The **WAKE FOREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW JOURNAL**⁸ is published exclusively online and contains scholarly articles, notes, and comments from practitioners, students, and faculty. A relatively new journal, it is a welcome addition to the law school for students who seek to practice intellectual property law and those students who feel that one journal option limits them.⁹

MOOT COURT¹⁰

All students in the legal research and writing course are required to participate in first-year appellate moot court program conducted late in the spring semester. Members of the second- and third-year classes are encouraged to participate in the national and international moot court competitions with other law schools and in the Stanley Prize intramural competition. Membership on the moot court board is open to all second- and third-year students on the basis of academic performance, aptitude for supervisory work, and satisfactory completion of the legal writing and research and appellate advocacy courses. Second- and third-year board members, including the chief justice, associate chief justice, and committee chairpersons, assist second- and third-year students in the selection of problems and in preparation of oral arguments. Students who answered the surveys found Moot Court to be a good experience but not overly competitive due to the small size of the school.¹¹

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹²

Wake Forest University School of Law offers three main clinical programs: Litigation Clinic (with exposure to both civil and criminal law), Clinic for the Elderly, and Judicial externship. Clinics are especially valuable because of the great mentors the students get the opportunity to work with through the program, who were all hand-selected by the highly regarded program director. Students provided that getting a spot on a clinic is not very competitive, though the Criminal and Civil clinics are most highly regarded among the student body.¹³

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁴

Wake Forest University Law School's organizations include the American Bar Association Moot Court, Association Against the Death Penalty, North Carolina Bar Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Association of Trial Lawyers of America National Trial Team, Phi Alpha Delta, Criminal Law Roundtable, Public Interest Law Organization, Domestic Violence Advocacy Center, Student Bar Association, Environmental Law Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Association, Federalist Society, Student Trial Bar, Intellectual Property Law Association, The Hearsay (student newspaper), International Law Society, Women In Law, Wake Law Civil Liberties Union and the Honor Council.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 90+¹⁵
Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 79.6¹⁶
Percentage of grads employed nine months after graduation: 99

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁷

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 69
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 12
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 6
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 8
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1

FOOTNOTES

- 1 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 658.
- 2 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 658.
- 3 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 4 * Minimum grade required to attain, based on May 2001 graduating class. National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 658.
- 5 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 658.
- 6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 658.
- 7 <http://www.law.wfu.edu/lawreview/index.htm>; <http://www.law.wfu.edu/lawreview/membership.htm>.
- 8 http://www.law.wfu.edu/students/IPLA/ip_journal.htm
- 9 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 657.
- 11 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 12 http://www.law.wfu.edu/clinical_education.htm; <http://www.law.wfu.edu/eclinic/index.htm>.
- 13 This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- 14 <http://www.law.wfu.edu/students/index.htm>.
- 15 Provided by Wake Forest University Law School's Office of Career Services.
- 16 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php
- 17 Id.

RANK

23

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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Lexington, a historic college town of 10,000 nestled between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains of Virginia, is the home of Washington and Lee University Law School. Though many students enjoy the small town environment, the larger cities of Charlottesville and Roanoke are each just an hour's drive away.

The school is currently ranked Number 23 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools. The law school's curriculum is especially strong in the area of business and corporate law.¹

The Washington and Lee University School of Law offers an intimate entering class size of approximately 124 students. With a student-faculty ratio of just 10.4, students and faculty have countless opportunities to interact inside and outside of the classroom. Though the school is small, the administration has provided a number of meaningful clinical programs for students to choose from, as well as local research opportunities.²

The law school currently uses a 4-point grading scale ranging in numerical values from 4.00 to 0.00. Students have noted that larger required courses maintain a B/B- average while smaller seminar courses frequently have a 3.3-3.5 (B+ /A-) average.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:⁴

- Median LSAT: 166⁵, 25th - 75th Percentile: 163 - 168
- Median GPA: 3.49⁶, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.11 - 3.68
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 2,273
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 575
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 25.3

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03072.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁷

	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.7	F 0.00

GRADE NORMALIZATION (CURVE)

Students surveyed indicated that a strict B- to B curve is in place at Washington and Lee. Only about one or two people per first-year class receive A's. Survey participants observed that only about 20% of any graduating class will see any A grades during their law school career at Washington and Lee. Further, for electives and seminar courses, the curve is around 3.3 to 3.5 and certain professors adhere to the curve despite having the latitude to refrain from its use.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
GPA* ⁸	3.602	3.475	N/A	3.274	3.040	2.0 cumulative

*Current students have apprised us that the mean GPA for the class falls around 2.9-3.1. Alumni from 2002 have provided that the mean for their graduating class was 2.8.

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

Order of the Coif:	10%
<i>Summa cum laude</i> :	1%
<i>Magna cum laude</i> :	12.9%
Cum laude:	17.2%

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
John W. Davis Award (most prestigious according to students)	Graduate with best record for general excellence.
Kirgis International Award	Graduate with most outstanding record in international law.
Academic Progress Award	Graduate with most marked improvement in final year.
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association Award	Graduate with best overall record in courses having litigation orientation.
Calhoun Bond University Service Award	Graduate with significant contribution to the W&L community.
Wilfred J. Ritz Award	Graduate with outstanding contribution to the Alderson Legal Assistance Program.
Roy L. Steinheimer Commercial Law Award	Graduate with outstanding record in commercial law.
Steinheimer Law Review Award	Best article for Law Review publication.
West Publishing Achievement Award	Student having highest average in class.
National Association of Women Lawyers	Outstanding woman law student.
Charles V. Laughlin Award	Outstanding contribution to moot court program.

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Randall P. Bezanson Award	Outstanding contribution to diversity in the law school community.
Public Interest Law Grant	Graduates entering practice in the public interest are selected for the grant.
ODK Honor Society	Leadership in campus activities--scholastic & other, from top 35% of the class.
Virginia Bar Family Law Section Award	Graduate/excellence in the area of family law.
American Bankruptcy Institute Medal	Graduate/excellence in the study of bankruptcy law.
Barry Sullivan Constitutional Law Award	Graduate/excellence in the study of constitutional law.
James W. H. Stewart Tax Law Award	Graduate/excellence in the study of tax law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

The **WASHINGTON AND LEE LAW REVIEW**¹² is published quarterly by students of the Washington and Lee University School of Law. The *Law Review* contains articles, essays, book reviews, and student notes. The *Law Review* is the most prestigious publication at Washington and Lee, and members are selected on the basis of a writing competition and academic achievement. The writing competition consists of a closed research problem which requires students to draft a memorandum to a fictional supervising attorney or client. Each year, some students are selected for *Law Review* based solely on the basis of their writing contest submission, without regard to grades.¹³ Contrariwise, some students felt that the true determinant is an applicant's first year grades, which become the primary basis for garnering a position, though the above stated explanation is the official position of the publication.¹⁴

The **RACE & ETHNIC ANCESTRY LAW DIGEST (REAL)**¹⁵ is an annual research and reference publication focusing on legal issues that have an impact on racial and ethnic minorities. REAL concentrates on legal realities and reports on developments in both statutory and case law in an effort to monitor their impact on minority communities. This publication is also considered one of the most well respected at the Law School, based on student response. Membership is based on the writing contest.

The **CAPITAL DEFENSE JOURNAL**¹⁶ is published semiannually by the students in the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse at Washington & Lee University. All material in the *Journal* is student written. Some students find that this journal exceeds even the *Washington and Lee Law Review* in terms of prestige and reputation among the law student community and the competitiveness of securing a position. This publication basis membership on a good fit with the Journal, as evidenced by a one page personal statement and an interview, grades are not a significant factor in the selection process.¹⁷

The **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DIGEST**¹⁸ is a completely student-run organization that edits and produces a quarterly newsletter, the *Environmental Law News*, for the environmental law section of the Virginia State Bar. The Digest selects staff members annually in a fall write-on competition that is open to all W&L law students.

MOOT COURT¹⁹

The Moot Court Executive Board is composed of eight third-year students selected on the basis of demonstrated ability in brief writing, oral advocacy, and administration. Students noted that grades did not play a great role in gaining a position. In contrast, actual performance on moot court teams was found to be a significant criterion. Despite the fact that grades are not at issue, students found these positions to be highly competitive.²⁰ The board administers in-school competitions, open to interested second- and third-year students, in appellate advocacy, trial advocacy, negotiations, and client counseling. The Client Counseling Competition, John W. Davis Moot Court Competition, Mock Trial Competition, and Negotiations Competition are among those sponsored by the Board. Students who succeed in these competitions are chosen to represent the law school in regional and national competitions. Typically these include four moot court competitions, two trial advocacy competitions, and regional client counseling and negotiations competitions.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS²¹

The Washington and Lee University School of Law offers the following clinical programs: Legal Aid Society, Black Lung Administrative Law Clinic, Public Prosecutors Clinic (including the Commonwealth Attorney Program and U.S. Attorney Program), Community Legal Practice Clinic Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse and the Judicial Clerkship Program.

Students commented that the Black Lung Administrative Law Clinic was excellent for those going into administrative law, while the Public Prosecutors clinic is highly coveted among those interested in litigation. The students who answered the surveys did not seem to hold the Judicial Clerkship program in the highest esteem, observing that it was often used as an alternative for those unable to secure a clinical position.²²

ORGANIZATIONS²³

The Washington and Lee University School of Law's active student organizations include the Burks Scholars, Student Bar Association, International Law Society, Women Law Students Association, Federalist Society, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Res Ipsa, Intramural Athletics, Environmental Law Society, Asian-American Law Students Association, Jewish Law Students Association, Virginia Bar Association Law School Council, Public Interest Law Students Association, W&L Law News, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, GayLaw, Habitat for Humanity, Married Students Organization, Rutherford Institute, National Lawyers Guild, Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 138²⁴

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 75.7²⁵

Percentage of grads employed nine months from graduation: 92.6

WHERE THE GRADS GO:²⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 61.7
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 27.0
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 4.3
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 2.6
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 4.3
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 0.0

Survey respondents felt that the above statistics did not account for the 25%-35% of the students who are unemployed from the class of 2003. Furthermore, some students felt that the number attributed to judicial clerkships was higher than they had expected.²⁷

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ² American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 760.
- ³ These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.
- ⁴ http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/admis_03167.php
- ⁵ Id.
- ⁶ Id.
- ⁷ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 666.
- ⁸ Provided by Casey L. Higgins, Office of Career Services, in an e-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 to BCG research staff
- ⁹ Id.
- ¹⁰ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 666.
- ¹¹ <http://law.wlu.edu/publications/>.
- ¹² <http://lawreview.wlu.edu/about.html>.
- ¹³ Information received via e-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Casey Higgins, Career Services Office and BCG research staff.
- ¹⁴ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ¹⁵ <http://real.wlu.edu/>.
- ¹⁶ <http://law.wlu.edu/publications/capitaldefense.htm>.
- ¹⁷ Information received via e-mail correspondence dated March 25, 2004 between Casey Higgins, Career Services Office and BCG research staff.
- ¹⁸ http://eld.wlu.edu/About_the_ELD.htm.
- ¹⁹ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 666.
- ²⁰ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ²¹ National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 666.
- ²² This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.
- ²³ Id.
- ²⁴ Provided by the Washington & Lee University School of Law's Associate Dean for Student Services on 12/10/02.
- ²⁵ http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carcr_03163.php.
- ²⁶ American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 759
- ²⁷ This information was gathered from a survey of current students and recent graduates of the law school. In all instances, we at BCG have only included this information if the responses we received to our survey warranted their inclusion in some form. We have used survey responses in 37 of the 50 schools we discuss in this book.

RANK
20

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://law.wustl.edu>

REGISTRAR'S PHONE

(314) 935-5959

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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Since the completion of its remarkable Anheuser-Busch Hall in 1997, the Washington University School of Law has undergone a revitalization of sorts.¹ The building's antiquated architectural form actually contains one of the most technologically advanced law school facilities in the country; the paradox seems right in line with the law school's ability to provide a progressive legal education in the midst of more than 125 years of tradition. The school is currently ranked Number 20 on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools.

The Hilltop Campus is just 15 minutes west of downtown St. Louis. Situated in the heart of the Midwest, St. Louis is considered one of the 10 most livable cities in the U.S. The Washington University Law School experience truly is student-centered. There is an emphasis placed on hands-on training through clinical studies, and global and interdisciplinary studies, which offer far more opportunities than the standard core curriculum alone. With only 237 students enrolled in its fall 2003 entering class, its small class size and a student-faculty ratio of 13.1, the school's environment is comfortably collegial.

The grading system at Washington University has recently been upgraded beginning with the Class of 2004. The numerical values for each letter grade have been reassigned so that the middle grade is now 4 points higher at an 87. The law school provides individual and class rank for the top 5% of the class only, with grade cut-of provided up to the top 33rd percentile.²

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 164³, 25th - 75th Percentile: 161 - 166
- Median GPA: 3.6⁴, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.2 - 3.8
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,472
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 802
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 23.1

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from *The U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03163.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁵

LETTER GRADE	CLASS OF 2004 AND FUTURE CLASSES*	CLASS OF 2002, 2003 AND PRIOR YEARS
A+	97 – 100	98 – 100
A	94 – 96	90 – 97
A-	91 – 93	
B+	88 – 90	88 – 89
B	85 – 87	83 – 87
B-	82 – 84	
C+		81 – 82
C	79 – 81	75 – 80
D	74 – 78	70 – 74
F	70 – 73	65 – 69

*The grading scale was changed in January 2002, effective for the class of 2004.

CLASS RANK:

PERCENTILE* ⁶	TOP 10%	TOP 25%	TOP 33%	TOP 50%	TOP 75%	MIN GRADE REQ FOR GRAD
Class of 2001	88.67	87.01	85.77	N/A	N/A	75.00
Class of 2004 ⁷	92.00	90.00	88.67	N/A	N/A	79.00

GRADING METHODOLOGY:

This law school provides extensive information on their grading methodology. Cumulative grade point averages for students are computed as a weighted average by multiplying the numeric grade for each course attempted by the number of credit hours given for the course and dividing the total by the number of numerically graded hours attempted (credit/no credit, transferred hours, and non law courses are not included in these computations). A “Fail” in a Pass/ Fail course (whether Modified or “pure”) is recorded as a 70 (65, under the grading system in use ending with the class of 2003) and is used to compute the student’s average. A “Low Pass” in a Modified Pass/Fail course is recorded as a 78 (previously, a 74) and is also used to compute the GPA. A “High Pass” in such a course is recorded as a 94 (previously, a 90) and is also used to compute the student’s average, unless the effect would be to lower the student’s cumulative GPA.

At the end of the fall and spring semesters, a GPA percentile table is created for each class. The GPA percentile table lists the 1%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, and 33 1/3% cut-of for each class. Effective last year, the law school no longer releases percentile cut-of below the top third of the class. Students receive a memo at the end of the semester providing them with the preceding information and their standing within the above system.⁸

HOW THE BEST ARE SEPARATED FROM THE REST:⁹

Order of the Coif:	Top 10% at graduation
Honor Scholar Award:	Top 10% (yearly average); 20 – 30
Dean’s List:	Top 1/3 semester average; 70 – 80

ACADEMIC AWARDS:¹⁰

NAME OF AWARD	RECIPIENT
Alumni Association Prize	Highest cumulative GPA.
Gary I. Boren Memorial Award	Highest average in graduate tax program.
Breckenridge Scholarship Prize	1st and 2nd highest academic average during third year (2).
Dan Carter/Earl Tedrow Memorial Award	Selected by third-year class.
Jack Garden Humanitarian Award	Chosen by Deans and faculty.
Mary Collier Hitchcock Prize	Chosen by quarterly faculty advisor (2).
Charles Trobman Memorial Award	Highest grade in immigration law.
Scribes	Chosen by law review faculty advisors.
Judge Myron D. Mills Admin. Law Award	Chosen by faculty.
National Association of Women	Chosen by faculty.
Pro Bono Law Association Public Service Award	Chosen by Pro Bono Society (3).
American Bar Association, Section of Urban, State and Local Gov. Law Prize	Highest grade in Land Use and State and Local Gov
Family Law Award	Highest grade in Family Law.
Charles Wendell Carnahan Award	Highest grades in Conflict of Laws (2).
Phillip Gallop Award	Highest grade in Real Estate Transactions.
Christophine G. Mutharika international Law Prize	Highest grades in International Law (2).
F. Hodge O'Neal Corporate Law Prize	Highest grade in Corporations.
Judge Amandus Brackman Moot Court Prize	Chosen by clinical faculty. (2)
Judge John W. Calhoun Trial Practice Award	Chosen by clinical faculty.
International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award	Chosen by clinical faculty. (2)
Milton F. Napier Award	Chosen by clinical faculty. (2)
William M. Pomerantz Trial Prize	Chosen by clinical faculty.(3)
The Order of Barristers	Chosen by clinical faculty. (10)
Judge Samuel M. Breckenridge Practice Court Prize	Chosen by clinical faculty.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS¹¹

The **LAW QUARTERLY** will accept approximately 35 students for membership. It makes offers to those students who are in the top 10% of their first-year class, with grades being calculated after both semesters; and put a good faith effort into the writing competition; and preference the *Quarterly*. Outside of the top 10%, the *Quarterly* makes offers based solely on the strength of the writing samples.

The **JOURNAL OF LAW AND POLICY** will accept approximately 30 students for membership. It selects members based on either placement within the top 10% of the class and a good-faith effort in the competition or excellence in completing the case comment and blue booking exercise.

The **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY GLOBAL STUDIES LAW REVIEW**¹² is a student-edited, biannual journal dedicated to publishing superior works by renowned scholars in the fields of international, foreign and comparative law. Students are selected for membership on the Review through a writing competition at the end of the first year. Global uses two criteria in selecting members. The first criterion is performance in the writing competition, which accounts for 80% of the total score. The second criterion is an applicant's overall grade point average, which accounts for the remaining 20% of the score. Thus no one can get on this publication via grades alone. About 25 students are admitted each year.

MOOT COURT¹³

The following is a breakdown of the Washington University School of Law's voluntary moot court programs:

- Wiley Rutledge Moot Court--fall semester; registration online; third-years have preference over second-years. Board selected by faculty advisors based on a statement of interest and/or prior success in competition.
- Environmental Moot Court--spring semester; registration online; third-years have preference over second-years. Board selected by faculty advisors based on a statement of interest and/or prior success in competition.
- International Moot Court Team--spring semester; selection by tryouts; no board.
- Intellectual Property Moot Court Team: Patents and Copyrights--spring semester; selection by tryouts; no board.
- Intellectual Property Moot Court Team: Trade Marks and Unfair Competition--spring semester; selection by tryouts; no board.
- Supervised Moot Court Board--fall or spring; Initiated by students who wish to participate in a non-school sponsored moot court competition; faculty supervision.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹⁴

The Washington University School of Law's 11 clinical programs include: Congressional/Administrative Law Clinic in D.C., Criminal Justice Clinic, Civil Justice Clinic, Employment Law Clinic, Judicial Clerkship Clinic, U.S. Attorney Clinic, Interdisciplinary Environmental Law Clinic, PreTrial, Trial, ADR, and Advanced Trial Advocacy.

ORGANIZATIONS¹⁵

The following is a list of the organizations found on the Washington University School of Law's campus: the American Civil Liberties Union, Asian American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Break Away in Law, Christian Legal Society, Criminal Law Society, Devil's Advocate, Environmental Law Society, Family Law Society, Federalist Society, Golf Club, Graduate-Professional Council, Honor Council, Illinois Student Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law Society, International Law Society, Jewish Law Society, Labor and Employment Law Association, National Association for Public Interest Law, OUTLAW, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Phi, Social Work and Law Student Association, Softball Club, Sports & Entertainment Law Society, Student Bar Association, Student Health Lawyers' Association and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 110+¹⁶

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 87.3¹⁷

Percentage of grads employed nine months from graduation: 97.8

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁸

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 57.6
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 5.9
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 8.2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 1.2
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 10.6
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 1.8

FOOTNOTES

1 <http://ls.wustl.edu/Dean/>.

2 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.

3 <http://law.wustl.edu/Admissions/faqs.html>

4 <http://law.wustl.edu/Admissions/faqs.html>

5 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 670.

6 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 670; <http://ls.wustl.edu/Registrar/class%20of%202004.pdf>

7 <http://ls.wustl.edu/Registrar/class%20of%202004.pdf>

8 <http://law.wustl.edu/Students/Handbook/grades.htm>

9 % of class receiving; GPA required (if calculated); # of students in each category, National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 670.

10 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 670.

11 <http://www.wulaw.wustl.edu/Publications/Writingcompetition/FAQ.html>.

12 <http://law.wustl.edu/Publications/WUGSLR/index.html>.

13 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 670.

14 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 669.

15 <http://law.wustl.edu/Organizations/>.

16 E-mail correspondence dated March 24, 2004 between BCG research staff and Tomea C. Mayer, Esq. Asst. Dean for Career Services.

17 http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03163.php

18 American Bar Association and Law School Admission Council, Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, 2003 Edition, 763.

RANK
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YALE LAW SCHOOL

Yale Law School, ranked Number One on the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Tier One law schools, finds its home in New Haven, Connecticut. This small, but lively coastal city on the Long Island Sound is known for its art and history museums, and for its quality regional theater groups.

With their job options almost endless upon graduation, students at Yale are always pleased to learn how seriously the school takes its role in helping them find top positions. Yale has the highest percentage of students per class size employed as judicial clerks among the top 50 law schools.

The entering class of just 194¹ students allows the school to provide first-years with plenty of personal attention; the average class size for the school's vast array of courses is under 25 students.² The student-faculty ratio of 7.5 is the lowest among the top 50 schools and encourages the free flow of ideas between faculty members and students. Yale provides its students with extraordinary opportunities to study and research the law both inside the classroom and beyond.

Yale's grading system is unique even among top law schools. Yale has neither letter nor numerical grades and relies on an Honors/Pass/Fail system. Further, first year classes are graded on a credit bases only, further reducing the ability to rank students after their first year core courses. Yale insists that this system is designed to provide a congenial learning environment for students, one that fosters discourse and creativity, rather than the cut-throat competitiveness that is usual at most law schools.³

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN:

The following LSAT/GPA data pertains to the fall 2003 entering class:

- Median LSAT: 171, 25th - 75th Percentile: 169 - 175
- Median GPA: 3.86, 25th - 75th Percentile: 3.8 - 3.97
- Approximate number of applications for one recent year: 3,773
- Number accepted during one recent sample year: 241
- Percentage accepted during one recent sample year: 6.4

*Unless otherwise footnoted, all the above statistics come from The *U.S. News & World's America's Best Graduate Schools 2005 Report* which was accessed on the worldwide web at http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/directory/dir-law/premium/carer_03163.php

CLASS RANKING AND GRADES:⁴

Credit Honors	Satisfactory. Significantly superior to the average level.
Pass Low Pass	Successful performance. Below the level of performance expected for the award of a degree.
Failure Requirement	No credit.
Completed	Indicates J.D. pre-participation in moot court or Barristers Union.

*There is no required or indicative “curve” for grades in Yale Law School classes. Individual rank is not computed.

Yale Law School does not rank its students and further first year core classes must be graded on a credit no credit system.⁵ It is virtually impossible to distinguish one Yale graduate from another in the traditional sense since first-year classes strive to give uniform credit to all those who make an effort to pass.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

JOURNALS⁶

Consistent with Yale Law School’s grading system, journal memberships are not based on class rank and there is no discernable competitive criterion for membership, aside from student interest.

The **YALE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**⁷ is a student publication that contains articles and comments written by scholars, practitioners, policymakers, 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 OF LAW & FEMINISM** is a student-run journal that publishes works concerning a broad range of legal issues as they pertain to women or to feminist theory. Because these issues are best explored through a variety of formats, the editors encourage submissions of artwork, poetry, fiction, autobiography, and interviews, as well as articles, essays, and reviews. To reflect feminist values, the journal is nonhierarchical – all members can participate fully in editing, screening, and administrative decision-making.

YALE JOURNAL OF LAW & HUMANITIES is a biannual publication edited by students and joined by a board of distinguished scholars in advisory capacity. The editors of the journal include students from the Law School and several graduate departments at Yale. Founded on the conviction that interdisciplinary scholarship is crucial to an understanding of both the law and our culture, the journal explores the intersections among law, the humanities, and the humanistic social sciences.

The **YALE JOURNAL OF REGULATION** publishes scholarly articles on telecommunications, information technology, bankruptcy, utilities, environmental law, health care, and other regulatory issues and provides a national forum for legal, political, and economic analysis of current issues in regulatory policy. The journal is edited, managed, and marketed by students. Membership is open to all interested students.

YALE LAW & POLICY REVIEW is a student-run journal on American domestic policy. YLPR provides a forum for a range of authors – legal scholars, law students, government officials, elected representatives, activists, economists, scientists, and practicing attorneys – to explore contemporary policy matters and the legal questions they raise. Membership is open to all students interested in the editing and publishing process; indeed, YLPR values – along with hard work and good humor – diversity of viewpoint and background.

YALE LAW JOURNAL publishes articles and student-written work of general scholarly and professional interest. A board of student editors manages and produces the journal eight times a year. Students are selected for membership on the journal and for positions on the editorial board through undisclosed procedures established by the current board.

The **YALE JOURNAL OF HEALTH POLICY, LAW & ETHICS**⁸ is a biannual publication of the schools of Law, Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health, and Nursing. The journal strives to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion on topics in health policy, health law, and biomedical ethics. It targets a broad and diverse readership of both academics and professionals in medicine, law, and public health as well as policymakers and legislators in health care. Submissions to the journal are peer-reviewed by a distinguished advisory board consisting of nationally recognized experts in a variety of health-related disciplines. More than 70 student members from Yale's graduate and professional schools edit the journal and oversee its production.

The **YALE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT LAW JOURNAL**⁹ is primarily an online publication, launched in the 1997-98 academic year. The Journal strives to provide a broad range of perspectives on issues at the intersection of human rights and development and is edited by students and advised by members of the Law School faculty; the Law School's Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights provides Internet access.

The **YALE JOURNAL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY**¹⁰ is the first law review in the world to be built using slashcode, offering its readers a cutting-edge, dynamic environment in which to acquire and produce knowledge about the interface between law and technology. The journal publishes a wide variety of material, including 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 COURT¹¹

Students may participate in moot court at any time except for the first semester of their first year. Morris Tyler Moot Court of Appeals is managed by student directors who are elected each year by outgoing directors. Participating students write an appellate brief and present an appellate oral argument on a recent case. Moot court judges include state and federal judges, practicing attorneys, and law professors. Final prize arguments are held at the close of each term.

The Jessup International Moot Court sends a team of two to five law students to compete in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, where law school teams argue a hypothetical case presenting questions of international law before a hypothetical International Court of Justice.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS¹²

Yale offers several clinical programs: Samuel Jacob Non-profit Organizations Clinic, Professional Responsibility Clinic Environmental Protection Clinic, Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, and the Jerome Frank Legal Services Organization, which affords students the opportunity to choose from nine different projects, including Children and Youth Community Legal Services, Housing and Community Development, Immigration, Landlord-Tenant, Legal Assistance for the Urban Poor in Civil Matters, and Prisons, Complex Federal Legislation, and Legislative Advocacy.

ORGANIZATIONS¹³

Yale Law School's active student organizations include the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society, Asia Law Forum, Black Law Students' Association, Collective on Women of Color in the Law, Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, Greenhaven Prison Project, Habeas Chorus, Initiative for Public Interest Law at Yale, Inc., Latino Law Students' Association, Law Talk, New Haven Cares, OutLaws (The Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Students), Pacific Islander, Asian, and Native American Law Students' Association, South Asian Law Students' Association, Street Law, Student Public Interest Network, Thomas Swan Barristers' Union, Umoja, Women and Youth in Support of Each Other, Yale Entertainment and Sports Law Association, Yale Environmental Law Association, Yale Federalist Society, Yale Human Rights and Development, Law Journal, Yale Jewish Law Students' Association, Yale Law and Technology Society, Yale Law Christian Fellowship, Yale Law School Workers' Rights Project, Yale Law Students for Social Justice and Yale Law Women.

Number of firms interviewing on campus most years: 200¹⁴

Percentage of grads employed at graduation: 97.9¹⁵

Percentage of grads employed nine months from graduation: 98.2

WHERE THE GRADS GO:¹⁶

- Percent of grads employed by private firms: 45
- Percent of grads employed as judicial clerks: 38
- Percent of grads employed by the government: 2
- Percent of grads employed by a public interest organization: 8
- Percent of grads employed by private industry: 2
- Percent of grads employed in an academic position: 4

FOOTNOTES

1 <http://www.law.yale.edu/outside/html/Admissions/admis-jdgeneral.htm>

2 <http://www.law.yale.edu/outside/pdf/Admissions/admis-JD2003.pdf>, pg. 3.

3 These statements are designed to provide an overview of the school's grading system, and are explained in the 'Ranking and Grades' section in detail. Unless otherwise indicated, the information is received via a combination of student surveys, or volunteered on the school's web page, or found in the NALP directory. Each assertion is explained and fully footnoted later on.

4 <http://www.yale.edu/bulletin/html2002/law/grades.html>; National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 710.

5 <http://www.yale.edu/bulletin/html2002/law/requirements.html>

6 <http://www.yale.edu/bulletin/html2002/law/organizations.html>.

7 <http://www.yale.edu/yjil/>

8 www.yale.edu/yjhple/

9 <http://diana.law.yale.edu/yhrdlj/>.

10 www.yjolt.org.

11 National Association for Law Placement, National Directory of Law Schools 2002-2003, 710.

12 www.law.yale.edu/outside/html/Academics/acad-clinic.htm.

13 <http://www.yale.edu/bulletin/html2002/law/organizations.html>; <http://www.law.yale.edu/outside/pdf/Admissions/admis-JD2003.pdf>, pg. 6.

14 Provided by Yale Law School's Office of Career Services.

15 Figures for 2003 provided via fax correspondence dated March 29th, between Jan Conroy of Yale Law School office of Career Services and BCG research staff.

16 Id.

