Stanford Law School

Overview
Stanford began offering a curriculum in legal studies in 1893, when the university engaged its first two law professors. One was Benjamin Harrison, former President of the United States, who delivered a landmark series of lectures on the Constitution. The other was Nathan Abbott, who served as head of the nascent law program. Abbott assembled a small faculty to which he imparted a standard of rigor and excellence that endures to this day.

For its first decade, the law department was composed of mostly undergraduate law majors. Student life was dominated by a proliferation of law clubs, which combined moot court training with social camaraderie. Notably, the law department enrolled many students who might not have been welcome at more traditional law schools at the time, including women and Hispanic, Chinese and Japanese students.

Student-Faculty Ratio
7.3:1

Admission Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSAT</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th-75th Percentile</td>
<td>169-173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median*</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median*</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the Fall 2013 entering class.

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate number of applications</td>
<td>3795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number accepted</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance rate</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

**Class Ranking and Grades**

**The New Grading System:**

For the majority of the courses, e.g., those graded by exam or paper and Legal Research and Writing/Federal Litigation in the first-year JD curriculum, the following grading system is applicable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing exceptional work, significantly superior to the average performance at the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing successful mastery of the course material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Restricted Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing work that is plainly unsatisfactory; work that if done over the course of the student's law school career in many or all of the student's courses, would be inconsistent with allowing the student to receive a degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing work that does not show minimally adequate mastery of the material.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In other classes, primarily the so-called “skills” courses, the following grading scale is in effect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Mandatory Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing P or better work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Restricted Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing work that is plainly unsatisfactory; work that if done over the course of the student’s law school career in many or all of the student’s courses, would be inconsistent with allowing the student to receive a degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representing work that does not show minimally adequate mastery of the material.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Awarded for/to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Bright Award</td>
<td>Significant achievement in environmental conservation efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven M. Block Civil Liberties Award</td>
<td>Best written work on personal freedom issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Mason Franklin Prize</td>
<td>Outstanding paper(s) on International Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Olaus and Adolph Murie Award | Best written work in Environmental Law
---|---
Hilmer Oehlmann Jr. Prizes | First Year Legal Research and Writing and Federal Litigation Award
Frank Baker Belcher Evidence Award | Best academic work in Evidence
Marion Rice Kirkwood Moot Court Prizes | Best oral advocate, best brief, best team, and best runner-up team
Stanford Law Review Awards | Best editorial contribution to SLR
Gerald Gunther Prize | Excellence in exam class
John Hart Ely Prize | Excellence in paper class
Judge Thelton E. Henderson Prize | Excellence in clinical course
Kirkland & Ellis Scholars | Scholastic achievement in the first year

### Journals

The **Stanford Environmental Law Journal** 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 Animal Law and Policy** was founded in August 2007 to provide a high-quality, widely accessible forum for the publication and discussion of animal law scholarship.

The **Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties** is an interdisciplinary journal dedicated to civil rights and liberties issues both domestically and internationally. It seeks to explore the changing landscape of the civil rights and civil liberties dialogue, the real world implications of these changes on society, and the larger structural and systemic implications of these issues.

The **Stanford Journal of Complex Litigation** was founded in 2012 and is the only law journal in the country focusing exclusively on complex litigation. The student-run, peer-reviewed journal prints articles by professors, practitioners, and students on a range of legal topics relating to complex litigation, including civil procedure, aggregate litigation, and mass torts.

The **Stanford Journal of Criminal Law and Policy** is Stanford’s newest law journal focused exclusively on criminal justice issues. The Journal is student-run and features a mix of traditional scholarly articles, response pieces by practitioners and criminal justice professionals, student notes, and short interest pieces.

The **Stanford Journal of International Law** 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. SJIL also publishes book reviews.

The **Stanford Journal of Law, Business & Finance** 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.

The **Stanford Journal of Law, Science, and Policy** is a peer-reviewed journal for innovative interdisciplinary scholarship that bridges the divide between legal and scientific scholarship. The semiannual journal provides a unique opportunity for scientists and legal scholars to write together and is freely available online to ensure a broad readership.

The **Stanford Law & Policy Review** is a non-ideological publication written for and distributed to the nation’s policymakers: lawyers, judges, government officials, scholars in law and the social sciences, and leaders in the business world.

The **Stanford Law and Visual Media Project** is an alternative law journal that produces student-made documentary films about contemporary legal topics.

The **Stanford Law Review** publishes one volume each year, 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.

The **Stanford Technology Law Review** strives to present well-rounded analyses of the legal, business, and policy issues that arise at the intersection of intellectual property law, science and technology, and industry. STLR publishes exclusively online, providing timely coverage of emerging issues to its readership base of legal academics and practitioners.

### Moot Court

The major moot court activity at Stanford Law School is the Marion Rice Kirkwood Memorial Competition, which takes place each year during Autumn and Winter terms. Students write briefs and complete the written portion of the Competition in the Autumn term and participate in the oral portion of the Competition in the Winter term. In order to maintain academic standards, enrollment in the Kirkwood Competition is limited to 20 two-person teams.

### Clinical Programs

The **Community Law Clinic** allows students to help about 500 low-income clients each year with a wide variety of legal challenges, including landlord-tenant disputes, employment issues, and government benefit claims.

The **Criminal Defense Clinic** gives students the chance to represent indigent individuals accused of crimes in Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The cases encompass a wide range of misdemeanor offenses and some of the more common charges include drug possession, assault, theft, and weapons possession.

The **Criminal Prosecution Clinic** focuses on criminal prosecutions and students prosecute cases at the San Jose Superior Court under the guidance of Santa Clara County prosecutors and faculty supervisors.

The **Environmental Law Clinic** places students in national, regional, and grassroots nonprofit organizations working on a variety of environment issues, with a focus on biodiversity and conserving natural resources.
The **Immigrants' Rights Clinic** allows students to represent immigrants in cases involving domestic violence or deportation, and to participate in community outreach, public education, and policy advocacy.

The **International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic** focuses on human rights, conflict resolution and the human rights and conflict resolution movements through engagement in practice and critical thinking about situations of rights abuse and conflict.

The **Juelsgaard Intellectual Property and Innovation Clinic** is dedicated to complex matters of IP law and students work in areas ranging from biotechnology to information technology, pharmaceuticals, clean technology, and the creation and distribution of information.

The **Organizations and Transactions Clinic** gives students the opportunity to provide governance advice and documents, draft contract and management materials, and analyze operating programs and contractual arrangements for established Northern California nonprofit organizations.

The **Religious Liberty Clinic** offers participating students a dynamic, real-world experience representing a diverse group of clients in disputes arising from religious beliefs, practices, and customs in a variety of circumstances.

The **Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project** is the law school’s only in-house pro bono project and gives students the opportunity to work directly with local homeless clients.

The **Supreme Court Litigation Clinic** enables students to help litigate cases before the Supreme Court of the United States by working on petitions for review, opposition to petitions, and merits briefs filed with the Justices.

The **Youth and Education Law Project** is dedicated to educational rights and reform work, and students represent both minors and families in special education and school discipline matters.

### Placement Facts

#### Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private sector (25th-75th percentile)</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector - Median</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public service - Median</td>
<td>$62,459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Employment Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category deemed employed</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates known to be employed at graduation</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Areas of Legal Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Firms</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Industry</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Interest Organizations | 6.3%
Judicial Clerkships | 32%
Academia | 0.6%
Unknown | 0%

Exterships/Internships

Exterships

At Stanford Law School, the externship program is a complement to the Clinical Program. Every quarter, students who wish to supplement their clinical training, or do legal work that is not available in a clinic, head out to work for non-profit agencies, government offices and public policy organizations. Students do legal research and writing, conduct client interviews and make supervised court appearances as part of these externships.

Stanford students participate in full-time externships at such organizations as the State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Special Court of Sierra Leone, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, among others.

After spending a quarter as an extern at the ACLU of Northern California, Jen Clark, Class of 2011, noted: “Any opportunity to get out in the real world and see what lawyers do is empowering for law students. I’m more confident in the choices I’ve already made thanks to my time at the ACLU, and the additional first-hand knowledge I’m now armed with will be a source of assurance as I make decisions in the future.”

Internships

Stanford Law students are encouraged to participate in a host of internship opportunities. Students participate in summer internships with dozens of governmental, intergovernmental, or nongovernmental organizations around the world, such as the World Trade Organization, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of International Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Transparency International, the Asia Foundation, the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia, the International Crisis Group, the Supreme Court of Israel, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the International Center for Transitional Justice, among others.

Student Organizations

- Acappellants
- Advanced Degree Student Association
- American Bar Association, Law Students Division
- American Constitution Society
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Asian and Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA)
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- China Law and Policy Association
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Society (CRCLS)
• Criminal Law Society
• Drama Society
• Environmental Law Society (ELS)
• Federalist Society
• First Person
• International Law Society (ILS)
• Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project
• J. Reuben Clark Law Society
• JD/MBA Club
• Jewish Law Students Association
• Joint Degree Student Association
• Law Students Building a Better Legal Profession
• League of Stanford Transfers (LOST)
• Marion Rice Kirkwood Moot Court Board
• National Lawyers Guild
• Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)
• Older Wiser Law Students (OWLS)
• OUTLAW
• Parents Attending Law School (PALS)
• Public Interest Coalition
• Real Estate and Land Use Association
• Shaking the Foundations
• SLS Academy
• SLS Christian Fellowship
• Stanford Association for Law in the Middle East (SALME)
• Stanford Association of Law Students for Disability Rights
• Stanford BioLaw and Health Policy Society
• Stanford Critical Law Society (SCritLS)
• Stanford Entertainment and Sports Law Association (SESLA)
• Stanford Intellectual Property Association (SIPA)
• Stanford International Human Rights Law Association (SIHRLA)
• Stanford Latino Law Students Association (SLLSA)
• Stanford Law and Business Association (SLBA)
• Stanford Law and Policy Society (SLAPS)
• Stanford Law and Technology Association (SLATA)
• Stanford Law and Wine Society
• Stanford Law Association
• Stanford Law Democrats
• Stanford Law Immigration Initiative
• Stanford Law School Energy Club
• Stanford Law School Mock Trial Program
• Stanford Law Students for Reproductive Justice
• Stanford Law Veterans Organization
• Stanford Muslim Law Students Association (SMLSA)
• Stanford National Security & the Law Society
• Stanford Program in Law and Society
• Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation (SPIFL)
• Stanford Students for the Abolition of the Death Penalty
• Stanford Tax Club
• Street Law
• The Voting Rights Project
• Women of Color Action Network
• Women of Stanford Law (WSL)
• Youth and Education Advocates at Stanford (YEAS)

References