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Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School



MAILING ADDRESS¹⁻⁴
240 JRCB,
Provo, Utah 84602

MAIN PHONE
801-422-4274

WEBSITE
www.law2.byu.edu

REGISTRAR'S PHONE
801-422-4275

ADMISSIONS PHONE
801-422-7871

CAREER SERVICES PHONE
801-422-3685

Overview^{5,6}

Founded in 1971, BYU Law School receives support from and is affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Students learn in an intellectually and spiritually invigorating community where they look forward to using their legal skills in service throughout the world. The development of moral character and enlightened devotion to the rule of law are hallmarks of a BYU Law School education.

The mission of the BYU Law School is to teach the laws of men in the light of the laws of God. The Law School strives to be worthy in all respects of the name it bears, and to provide an education that is spiritually strengthening, intellectually enlarging, and character building, thus leading to lifelong learning and service.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁷

13.1:1

Admission Criteria⁸

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	158-164	3.45-3.88
Median*	161	3.77

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 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 Statistics⁹

Approximate number of applications	610
Number accepted	217
Percentage accepted	35.6%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades¹⁰

Class ranking and cumulative grade point average records maintained by the law school are available to students. The law school compiles, and students may request, individual Student Progress Reports that disclose ranking to the middle of the class in 10% increments with additional disclosures at the top 25% and the top 33%. The remainder of the class is listed as bottom 50%. The law school also compiles an individual class rank for students in the top 15% of the class.

Grading Rules

All courses and seminars shall be evaluated by numerical grades unless departure from that general policy is approved by the Curriculum Committee. Individual faculty members may determine whether to grade Directed Research on a numerical or pass/fail basis. There will be a minimum grade of 1.6 for complete non - performance and a maximum grade of 4.0.

In a pass/fail graded offering, a student may receive a grade of pass, low pass, or fail. Low pass will appear on the transcript at a grade of 2.7 per credit hour. A fail will be recorded as a 1.6.

Law school grades are on a 4.0 scale using intervals of 0.1. The presumptive top grade in each class shall be 4.0; the average required for graduation is 2.7; and the minimum grade for which credit will be given is 2.2.

The J. Reuben Clark Law School uses the following grading scale:

A	4.0	Superior
	3.9	
	3.8	
	3.7	
B	3.6	Excellent
	3.5	
	3.4	
	3.3	
	3.2	High Pass
	3.1	
	3.0	

	2.9	Pass
	2.8	
	2.7	
C	2.6	Low Pass
	2.5	
	2.4	
	2.3	
	2.2	
No credit	2.1	Failing
	2.0	
	1.9	
	1.8	
	1.7	
	1.6	

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹¹

Median and Mean Grades

In all first-year courses, the median grade will be 3.3.

In most second- and third-year courses, the median grade will be 3.3.

If the median GPA of the students enrolled in the course is between 3.4 and 3.499, the instructor may use a median of 3.4; if the median GPA is between 3.5 and 3.599, the instructor may use a median of 3.5; and if the median GPA of students enrolled in the course is 3.6 or above, the instructor may use a median of 3.6.

A cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.7 is required for graduation.

Honors¹²

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	top 10% of graduating class
<i>summa cum laude</i>	top 2% of graduating class
<i>magna cum laude</i>	next 10% of graduating class
<i>cum laude</i>	next 10% of graduating class
Dean's List	top 30% of class in any semester

Awards¹³

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
John S. Welch Award	Co-curricular writing competition
A.H. Christensen Award	Oral Advocacy selected by committee
Hugh B. Brown Barristers Award	Class presentation and performance
Nat'l Assoc. of Women Lawyers	Advancement of women in society
J. Reuben Clark Award	Academic excellence, integrity and service
Foundation Press Award	Excellence in constitutional law
Margaret Rose Nielson Award	Best oralist in Moot Court Competition
International Center for Law and Religious Studies Award	Service in international religious freedom
Distinguished Clinical Practice Award	Exceptional commitment to clinical practice
Linda Anderson Trial Ad Competition	Champion, runner-up and finalists
Exceptional Service Award - SBA	Exceptional service to the Student Bar Association
High Grade Awards	Excellence in a particular class
American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence	Professional project in bankruptcy area
ABA-BNA Award for Excellence	Excellence in IP Law
Humor in the Law Award	Student who has kept their sense of humor
ABA State & Local Govt. Award	Top grade in municipal law and land use courses
CALI Excellence in the Future Award	Top grade in American Law - LLM student
Schooley Outstanding Mediator Award	Excellence in mediation
Faculty Awards	Meritorious contribution & distinguished service
ALI/ABA Scholarship/Leadership Award	Combination of scholarship and leadership

Journals

The **Brigham Young University Law Review** is made up of second- and third-year students at the J. Reuben Clark Law School. The Law Review's goal is to produce a legal periodical for use by scholars, practitioners and judges. Members of the Law Review contribute to this goal by editing and writing articles and by performing other tasks associated with the publication of the Law Review that are assigned periodically throughout the year. The Law Review publishes six issues each year. Each issue typically contains four to five articles and a combination of two to four notes and comments. The Law Review also publishes the proceedings of the annual International Law & Religion Symposium, sponsored by the BYU International Center for Law & Religious Studies. Once a year, the Law Review hosts other symposia concentrating on timely and significant topics and publishes the articles that result.¹⁴

The **BYU Journal of Public Law** is dedicated to publishing 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.¹⁵

The **BYU Education and Law Journal** is one of only three education law journals in the United States and is the only student-run journal committed solely to the field of education law. The J. Reuben Clark Law School and BYU's Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations jointly sponsor this journal. ELJ is published bi-annually and addresses educational and legal issues affecting elementary, secondary, and higher education.¹⁶

The **BYU International Law & Management Review** is a student-edited journal that solicits, edits, and publishes articles dealing with current issues in the fields of international law and management.¹⁷

Moot Court¹⁸

Moot Court is a program designed to give law students experience in appellate advocacy. Its benefit lies in the invaluable practical experience its members receive. All First Year students learn Moot Court skills by writing an appellate brief and giving an oral argument for their second semester advocacy class.

During the first semester of their second year, Moot Court members participate in an intraschool competition - the Rex E. Lee competition - to determine BYU's National Moot Court team. The four finalists in this competition and the two best brief writers go on to represent the school in regional and national ABA competitions during their third year. Others who progress in the competition may apply to compete in other competitions around the country. In years past the Law School has sent teams to ten different competitions around the country. These competitions often focus on specific topics, such as securities law, civil rights, or religious liberty.

Clinical Programs^{19, 20}

The BYU law School sponsors four clinics to provide students with hands-on, real-world experience while serving the community:

- Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Clinic
- Government and Legislation Clinical Alliance
- Community and Economic Development Clinical Alliance

LAWHELP

Of increasing importance in legal education is the role of practical, on-the-job training. The Law School provides opportunities for students to develop practical skills in three main programs: externships, LAWHELP seminars, and simulation courses. LAWHELP seminars include a one-credit course on the topic, together with a one-credit practical experience externship. The LAWHELP seminars include Elder Law, Domestic Violence Intervention, Domestic Relations, Mediation, Immigration, Child Advocacy, Public Lands & Natural Resources, Advanced Mediation, Advanced Community Lawyering, Judicial Tribal Courts and Appellate Courts.

Placement Facts²¹

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$72,000 - \$120,000
Private sector - Median	\$100,000
Public service - Median	\$46,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	57.8%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	78.2%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	40.6%
Business and Industry	19.5%
Government	12.8%
Public Interest Organizations	4.5%
Judicial Clerkships	18%
Academia	4.5%
Unknown	0%

Externships/Internships

Externships^{22, 23}

BYU Law School has one of the strongest externship programs in the country. In addition to having one of the largest student participation rates (81%), BYU Law School also has one of the largest international externship programs available with placements in more than 25 countries. The program is designed to provide a real-life, capstone experience for students following the completion of their first year of law school. Students are eligible to extern in a variety of experiences during the summer, including: government offices, judicial chambers, public interest offices, in-house legal offices and private law firms. Students are able to set up their own externship experience or work with Career Services' established programs.

Internships²⁴

The J. Reuben Clark Law Society Internship Program provides a living stipend to one student each year that has distinguished him or herself in law school and is not engaged in paid employment for the summer. The program provides a stipend of \$3000 and the recipient is expected to work approximately six weeks at a public service agency, private non-profit organization, or on a self-initiated, independent service project.

Student Organizations²⁵

- 5th Grade Mentoring
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- American Constitution Society
- Ancient Law Foundations Association
- Asian Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Association
- Environment, Energy, and Resources Society
- Family Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Government & Politics Legal Society
- Health Law Club
- Immigration Law Forum
- International Law Students Association
- Iron Justice Golf
- Jail Outreach
- Joint Degree Student Association
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society, BYU Student Chapter
- Latino/a Law Student Association
- Law & Economics
- Law Spouse Association
- Law School Choir
- Military and National Security
- Minority Law Students Association
- National Lawyers' Guild
- Native American Law Students Association
- Pacific Island Law Student Association
- Phi Delta Phi
- Public Interest Law Foundation
- Real Estate Law Society
- Spirit in the Law
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Student Bar Association
- Student Intellectual Property Law Association
- Tax and Estate Planning Society
- Weekly Wall Squat
- Women in the Law
- Writers' League

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