University of Pennsylvania Law School

Overview

Philadelphia is the birthplace of the U.S. Constitution. Millions around the globe are inspired by the decisions made here, which laid the bedrock foundation for the American legal system.

In 1790, James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, framer of the Constitution and member of the first U.S. Supreme Court, delivered the University of Pennsylvania’s first lectures in law to President George Washington and all the members of his Cabinet.

Following this auspicious beginning, Penn began offering a full-time program in law in 1850. Since that time, Penn Law has been at the forefront of legal education in our country.

Student-Faculty Ratio

10.4:1

Admission Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LSAT</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th-75th Percentile</td>
<td>165-171</td>
<td>3.55-3.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median*</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>3.89</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 Statistics

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate number of applications</td>
<td>5283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number accepted</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance rate</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades

The Law School’s grading system consists of A, A-, B+, B-, C and F grades, with a rare A+ awarded for distinguished performance. The 1L Legal Practice Skills course is graded on an honors/pass/fail basis.

University of Pennsylvania Law School students are not ranked in class.

Honors

Students with high academic standing may be awarded the Latin honors of cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude, as well as other honors and/or awards.

Journals

The Law Review has both a professional and an educational mission. It serves the legal profession, the bench, the bar, and the academy by providing a forum for the publication of original legal research of the highest quality. The Law Review accepts and scrutinizes approximately 2,000 written submissions annually to select approximately twelve articles in each volume.

The Journal of Business Law publishes articles and comments on a broad range of business law topics including corporate governance, securities regulation, capital market regulation, employment law and the law of mergers and acquisitions.

The East Asia Law Review provides a forum for scholars and students to discuss cutting-edge legal developments in East Asia.

The Journal of Constitutional Law provides a forum for the interdisciplinary study of and rigorous analysis of constitutional law. To that end, The Journal cultivates innovative scholarship, promotes critical perspectives, and reinvents the traditional study of constitutional law.

The Journal of International Law, formerly the Journal of International Economic Law, has broadened its focus to explore all issues at the forefront of general international law. It retains its strength as a leading journal of international business and economic law. In addition, expanding JIL’s focus allowed the members of the former Journal of International Law and Policy, an unofficial journal at Penn Law, to join the staff of the Journal of International Law in 2007.

The Journal of Law and Social Change is a student-run journal and seminar that espouses an interdisciplinary scholarly approach to challenge social injustice. JLASC is unique among Penn Law Journals both in that all journal members participate in decision-making by collectively reviewing, selecting and editing each piece of scholarship. Unlike other journals, JLASC members read article
submissions as part of a weekly, student-run seminar. Through debate and discussion, JLASC decides democratically which articles to publish.

**Moot Court**

The Law School’s in-house Moot Court program, The Keedy Preliminaries, is open to all 2Ls. The winners of that competition become the Keedy Cup teams, the next highest placing group become members of the National Moot Court Competition team, and the next group are asked to join the Moot Court Board.

In addition to the in-house Moot Court program, Penn Law students participate in a number of external Moot Court Competitions that are held around the country each year.

**Clinical Programs**

Penn Law Clinics are specially designed to help students develop core lawyering competencies – drawn from challenging experiential learning opportunities in litigation, business transactions, child advocacy, mediation, legislation, interdisciplinary practice, international lawyering, appellate lawyering, and IP and technology law.

The **Civil Practice Clinic** is where students represent indigent clients in state and federal courts and have an opportunity to develop their litigation skills under faculty supervision.

The **Criminal Defense Clinic**, in partnership with the Defender Association of Philadelphia, combines hands on trial experience with an educational seminar component tailored to developing litigation skills. Students try cases in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and the Philadelphia Municipal Court under the close supervision of a senior trial attorney from the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Students first receive an intensive introduction into trial techniques, Pennsylvania criminal law, procedure and evidence. During this period students are also assigned mock cases to help prepare them before their first court appearance, in addition to observing actual preliminary arraignments, preliminary hearings, and trials.

The **Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic** was founded in connection with the Wharton School of Business to provide pro bono transactional legal services to Philadelphia area entrepreneurs and businesses.

The **Detkin Intellectual Property and Technology Legal Clinic** provides pro bono transactional patent, copyright, trademark and trade secret services to individuals, non-profit and for-profit clients in technology and the arts. The Clinic is groundbreaking in establishing a unique relationship with The Penn Center for Innovation and tapping into the resources of Penn’s strong network of professional schools including the Schools of Engineering, Medicine, Business, and Arts and Sciences.

The **Child Advocacy Clinic** brings together law, social work, medicine and mental health to advocate across disciplines for vulnerable adolescents while teaching students fundamental lawyering skills. Students represent their clients across a range of venues, including state courts, administrative agencies, schools and social service organizations. In past years, students litigated as Child Advocates in Family Court and Domestic Relations Court and represented undocumented children facing deportation in Immigration Court. They advocated for clients to secure essential services including mental health treatment, financial aid, childcare benefits, and appropriate educational plans. In one of the first cases in Pennsylvania, clinic students successfully argued for two teen parents to re-enter foster care after they turned.
The **Legislative Clinic** is one of only a handful of law school clinical programs in the nation devoted exclusively to legislative lawyering and the formation of public policy. The Clinic combines federal legislative fieldwork in Congress with a classroom seminar involving academic readings, simulations, guest speakers, and legislative drafting exercises.

The **Mediation Clinic** was one of the first real case programs of its kind in the nation. With its cutting-edge technology-based instruction and breadth of sophisticated faculty-supervised fieldwork, it has maintained its preeminent place as a national model for mediation courses.

The **Supreme Court Clinic** allows top Ivy League students to assist on real Supreme Court cases, including recruiting, strategizing, researching, writing briefs, participating in moot court rehearsals, and attending oral arguments at the Court itself.

The **Transnational Legal Clinic** is Penn Law’s international human rights and immigration clinic. Students represent clients and organizations in international human rights and immigration proceedings.

**Lawyering in the Public Interest** is an innovative upper-class seminar designed to enrich the Law School curriculum by integrating theory and academic analysis with practice themes emerging from students’ public interest work experiences during law school.

### Placement Facts

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private sector (25th-75th percentile)</td>
<td>$145,000-$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector - Median</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public service - Median</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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</tbody>
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**Employment Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates known to be employed at graduation</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation</td>
<td>97%</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>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Industry</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest Organizations</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Clerkships</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Externships

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The goal of Penn Law’s Externship Program is to supplement traditional classroom study and experiential study obtained through clinical courses by providing external opportunities for students to observe and participate meaningfully in lawyering at government agencies and non-profit, public interest settings. Externships are intended to offer students in-depth study in substantive areas, supplement experiential study provided in clinical courses, and explore experiential study of subjects or activities not currently offered experientially in the curriculum.

Students have participated in these externships over recent years:

- ACLU of Pennsylvania
- Aids Law Project of PA
- Community Legal Services
- Death Penalty Litigation at the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Defenders Office
- Delaware River Keeper
- Federal Appellate Litigation (in partnership with the Dechert Law Firm)
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Federal Public Defender (Camden, NJ)
- IRS Office of Chief Counsel (Philadelphia Office)
- Maryland Office of the Attorney General (Economic Crimes Division)
- Mazzoni Center (Legal Services Department)
- Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office
- National Labor Relations Board
- New York City Law Department
- NY Attorney General’s Office
- Office of the General Counsel (University of Pennsylvania & Temple University)
- Open Society Justice Initiative (New York)
- PA Human Relations Commission
- Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office
- Philadelphia Law Department (Labor & Employment Unit)
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- The Pennsylvania Innocence Project
- U.S. Attorney’s Office
- U.S. Attorney’s Office (Delaware)
- U.S. Attorney’s Office (ED NY)
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (Philadelphia Office)
- U.S. State Department – Office of Legal Adviser
- Women’s Law Project

Internships

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The International Summer Human Rights Fellowship Program enables Penn Law students to work in non-governmental organizations, organs of the United Nations, regional inter-governmental bodies, and government offices involved directly in the provision of human rights services. The ISHRF program puts students in direct content with the people and organizations that are at the forefront of cutting
edge advocacy and litigation on behalf of victims of human rights abuses. Through the International Summer Human Rights Fellows program, students have worked around the world on issues ranging from women’s rights to rule of law development to criminal law reform and international prosecution of human rights violations. Recent fellowship sites include Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Namibia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Tanzania, The Hague, Uganda, and Venezuela.

The **Penn Law International Internship Program** places students in internship positions at local law firms around the world, giving students cross-cultural experience and a better understanding of foreign legal practice. PLIIP emphasizes internships in foreign firms, rather than the foreign offices of American or multinational firms.

**Student Organizations**

- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- Animal Law Clinic (Public Service)
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Assoc. (APALSA)
- Beyond a Reasonable Stout
- Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
- Christian Legal Society
- Civil Rights Law Project
- Council of Student Representatives (CSR)
- Criminal Record Expungement Program
- Custody and Support Assistance Clinic (CASAC)
- Eastern European Law Student Association (EELSA)
- Employment Advocacy Project
- Entertainment and Sports Law Society
- Environmental Law Project (ELP)
- Equal Justice Foundation (EJF)
- Federalist Society
- Graduate and Professional Student Association
- Guild Food Stamp Clinic
- Health Law and Policy Project (HeLPP)
- International Law Organization (ILO)
- Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- James Wilson Project
- Jessup International Moot Court Team
- Jewish Law Students Association (J.L.S.A.)
- L.E.A.R.N.
- Lambda Law
- Latin American Law Students Assoc. (LALSA)
- Law School Light Opera Company (LSLO)
- Law and Entrepreneurship Organization (LEO)
- Legal Education Partnership
- Louis D. Brandeis Society
- Maimonides Penn Law
- MinchaMinyan
- Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA)
- National Lawyers Guild
- Pardon Me Project
• Penn Advocates for the Homeless
• Penn Association of Law and Business
• Penn Fashion Law Club
• Penn Financial Literacy Group
• Penn Health Law Group
• Penn Housing Rights Project
• Penn Intellectual Property Group (PIPG)
• Penn Law Association for Law in the Arts
• Penn Law Basketball League
• Penn Law Bioethics Society
• Penn Law Board Gaming Students
• Penn Law Bowling League
• Penn Law Boxing Club
• Penn Law Feminists
• Penn Law Fiber Arts Club (PLFA)
• Penn Law Firearms Association
• Penn Law Flag Football
• Penn Law Golf Club
• Penn Law Ice Hockey Club
• Penn Law Immigrant Rights Project
• Penn Law International Arbitration Association
• Penn Law International Human Rights Advocates (IHRA)
• Penn Law Mock Trial Team
• Penn Law National Security Society
• Penn Law Public Speaking Society
• Penn Law Real Estate Club
• Penn Law Running Club (With All Deliberate Speed)
• Penn Law Sailing Club
• Penn Law Soccer Club
• Penn Law Softball
• Penn Law Squash Club
• Penn Law Students for Reproductive Justice
• Penn Law Tennis Club
• Penn Law Veterans
• Penn Law Women’s Association (PLWA)
• Penn Technology, Intellectual Property & Privacy Report
• Prisoners’ Education and Advocacy Project (PEAP)
• Public Interest Mentoring Initiative (PIMI)
• Purpose.Passion. Principles
• RegBlog
• Servicemembers and Veterans Legal Assistance Project
• South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)
• Sparer Public Interest Law Conference
• Street Law
• Students Against Gender-Based Exploitation (SAGE)
• United Law Students of Color Council (ULSCC)
• University of Pennsylvania East Asia Law Review
• University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law
• University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law (JCL)
• University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law (JIL)
• University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Social Change (JLAS)
• University of Pennsylvania Law Review
• Urban Ventures Project
• Women's Legal Assistance Project
• Y'allsa

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