

California Western School of Law

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■ Introduction

Chartered in 1924, California Western School of Law is an independent, not-for-profit institution accredited by the ABA (1962) and is a member of the AALS (1967). The downtown San Diego law school complements the traditional curriculum with innovative programs that advance a student's educational experience and capacity to enter the legal profession with superior training.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The new, award winning, four-story, 50,000-square-foot law library was dedicated September 11, 2000. The law library is wired with high-speed digital lines for fast network communications. There are 250 data ports for laptop computers in the building. Recently completed extensive renovation of the historic classroom building provides a 74-seat lecture hall, office space for 30 on-campus student organizations, a 1,840-square-foot student lounge, individual study rooms, and a computer lab. Students enjoy additional access to the student network and Internet via campus-wide wireless technology.

■ Curriculum

The trimester academic calendar allows students to study law year-round to complete their legal education in two years. California Western offers a part-time day program. The curriculum offers a broad and diverse selection that includes such contemporary fields as entertainment and sports law, alternative dispute resolution, and environmental law.

Areas of concentration, with curriculum requirements for upper-level students, provide an overview of international law; labor and employment law; child, family, and elder law; criminal prosecution and defense; creative problem-solving; and intellectual property, telecommunications, technology-regulations law, and health law.

■ Dual-degree Program

Students interested in business, social work, history, or political science can apply to the dual-degree program, which permits students to study two disciplines concurrently at California Western and San Diego State University (JD/MBA and JD/MSW) or the University of California, San Diego (JD/PhD in political science or history).

■ University of California, San Diego Affiliation

California Western and the University of California, San Diego, have an Agreement of Association that will provide broad interdisciplinary opportunities for the faculty and students of both institutions. Plans include provisions for new academic programs, joint research efforts, sharing of facilities and involvement of faculty and board members in each other's academic bodies, and community outreach programs. Planned programs in law and medicine draw on the expertise of both institutions.

■ Study Abroad

Students have the opportunity to study abroad and intern at British legal offices. Law in London is a summer program that provides students with a chance to study English and European Union Law and Practice. The program is offered in conjunction with The College of Law of England and Wales—Europe's largest provider of legal training. Students may also participate in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) program for four weeks during the summer. This program offers an experience in the laws concerning NAFTA and future hemispheric trade. Participants will spend three weeks in San Diego, Tijuana, and the other parts of Baja California, Mexico. The program then moves to Toronto/Montreal, Canada, where classes will take place at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Students may also spend a summer abroad studying international law in Galway, Ireland; in Prague, Czech Republic; or at the University of Malta. Semester abroad opportunities are available at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, the University of Aarhus in Denmark, and at Leiden University School of Law in the Netherlands.

■ Special Programs

The McGill Center for Creative Problem Solving is a training institute at California Western that provides the community with collaborative approaches to communication, conflict resolution, and problem solving.

Through the California Innocence Project, which is part of the Institute for Criminal Defense Advocacy, law students work alongside practicing criminal defense lawyers to seek the release of wrongfully convicted prisoners. Law students assist in the investigation, write briefs, and advocate for the release of clients. The school also offers an LLM program for foreign law graduates and an LLM in trial advocacy.

■ Clinical Internship Program

California Western's Clinical Internship Program provides opportunities for students to gain practical lawyering experience in law offices, agencies, and courts. Nearly 80 percent of California Western students participate in this popular program. Students have the opportunity to intern in almost any area of law. Some out-of-town internships are available for situations where a similar experience is not available in San Diego. Students have arranged internships at the United Nations, Paramount Studios, the Federal Communications Commission, and abroad, such as in Brazil, Poland, Singapore, Jamaica, and Liechtenstein.

■ Student Activities

The *Law Review* and the *International Law Journal* publish articles by experts in particular fields of work and study as well as by California Western students. Students edit and manage the publications under supervision from faculty advisors. Nearly 30 student organizations reflect a broad range of interests and diversity. Students also participate in advocacy and trial competitions.

■ Career Services

Career Services offers individualized, professional advice to students about their personal career goals and tailors strategies to assist students in reaching those goals. The department coordinates the On-campus Recruitment program, practice area panel discussions, a national alumni mentor network, the Pro Bono Honors program, and access to technological resources for career development.

■ Alumni

More than 6,000 California Western alumni work in large firms, domestic and foreign governments, large corporations, private practice, the judiciary, and academia. The law school's Alumni Admissions Recruiter program matches alumni with prospective students in the areas in which they reside. The Admissions Office can provide prospective students with a list of alumni in their area who are available to talk with them.

■ Diversity

California Western's belief is that a richly diversified student body enhances the academic and interpersonal experiences of the law school. Half of the student body is female and approximately one-third is of an ethnic minority. California Western does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

■ Admission

Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Applicants are admitted based on an evaluation of the LSAT score, undergraduate academic record, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and other criteria, including work experience, campus and community activities, life/personal experiences, and evidence of leadership promise. Students are admitted to California Western both in August and January. Bachelor's degree and registration with LSDAS are required. Application deadlines: Fall—April 1; Spring—November 1.

■ Financial Aid and Scholarships

More than 85 percent of California Western's students are assisted with their legal education by financial aid programs. Need-based financial aid includes loans and work study. Numerous scholarships are awarded based on academic criteria and LSAT scores. Scholarships include the prestigious Kennedy Scholarship, which, among other benefits, provides full tuition for three years. Other merit-based full and partial scholarships are awarded to incoming students, including diversity, career transition, and creative problem-solving scholarships. Academic achievement scholarships are available to continuing students. Scholarships are awarded by the Admissions Office using your admission application.

Applicant Profile

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LSAT Score	GPA																	
	3.75 +		3.50 - 3.74		3.25 - 3.49		3.00 - 3.24		2.75 - 2.99		2.50 - 2.74		Below 2.50		No GPA		Total	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
170-180	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	5
165-169	3	1	5	5	3	3	6	6	3	3	3	3	4	3	0	0	27	24
160-164	11	10	27	27	38	35	26	26	28	27	25	20	16	13	1	1	172	159
155-159	38	36	82	80	102	99	133	122	110	91	59	35	39	17	4	2	567	482
150-154	59	54	192	165	223	145	251	89	221	39	119	13	63	3	15	3	1143	511
145-149	55	25	122	23	206	28	223	13	180	6	106	1	54	0	7	0	953	96
140-144	12	0	46	1	68	0	95	0	87	0	67	0	46	0	12	0	433	1
Below 140	3	0	8	0	26	0	36	0	40	0	33	0	42	0	6	0	194	0
Total	183	128	482	301	666	310	771	257	670	167	412	72	265	37	45	6	3494	1278

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Applicants with 120-180 LSAT scores earned under standard administrations

Miscellaneous applicants with no LSAT (i.e., MCL/LLM program) and nonstandard administration (not in grid)