

Chapman University School of Law

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■ Introduction

Chapman University School of Law is located in the historic Old Towne district of Orange, California, and shares the campus with the university, a 144-year-old institution. The law school, established in 1995, received full approval by the ABA in 2002. AALS accreditation was received in January 2006.

In 10 short years, the law school has rapidly gained a national reputation for its high quality of faculty, students, and facilities. Offering a curriculum strong in business and corporate law, the law school also has focus areas in taxation, environmental/real estate/land use, and advocacy and dispute resolution; a joint JD/MBA degree; and an LLM degree in taxation. The law school's successes have been aided by its location in vibrant and dynamic Orange County.

Affiliation with a well-established university allows for cross-disciplinary engagement, joint degrees, and a lively and engaging intellectual environment beyond the classroom. Chapman University offers an impressive selection of artistic and cultural opportunities for its students.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

Chapman Law has committed itself to building a small, talented, and diverse student body. Total student enrollment in 2005–2006 was 550 law students.

The 2005 entering class consisted of 187 law students. The students were divided into three small first-year sections. The Legal Research and Writing course has approximately 12 to 15 students in each of the 15 sections. Currently, about 22 percent of the entering class comes from outside California; that number is expected to increase over the next few years as Chapman's reputation reaches a more national audience. The minority enrollment has been 33 to 34 percent for the past three consecutive years.

Competition for seats is keen. Only 30 percent of applicants in the 2005 entering class were admitted.

■ Faculty

Chapman has assembled an impressive law faculty (including three former US Supreme Court clerks) who are excellent teachers, accomplished scholars, and outstanding mentors. Chapman Law's environment is conducive to learning. Students have access to the faculty and frequent opportunities to engage them in both formal and informal settings.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The stately and beautiful Donald P. Kennedy Hall opened in 1999, with state-of-the-art learning facilities in its classrooms, law library, and trial and appellate courtrooms.

Library holdings now exceed 282,000 volumes and volume equivalents, and the collection is expected to continue its rapid growth. The collection is fully accessible to students both in hard copy and through the computer network.

Library carrels and desktops are generous in number, and many are wired for Internet access. Several private study rooms are available for student use and extended research.

Two state-of-the-art courtrooms provide computers, cameras, and electronic blackboards for trial advocacy exercises, competitions, and formal hearings by visiting courts.

Student relaxation lounges, locker areas, and office spaces are located throughout the building.

■ Special Programs/Clinics/Externships

The law school offers the JD/MBA program, affording students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of two accredited professional degrees in four instead of the typical five years. Chapman's George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics is AACSB accredited.

About 10 percent of the students choose to focus their electives in one of three certificate areas: taxation, environmental/real estate/land use, or advocacy and dispute resolution. The Tax Program affords students the opportunity to represent claimants against the IRS in the US Tax Court Clinic. The Center for Land Resources allows students to network with practicing professionals. In the Externship Program, students receive placements in the offices of appellate justices, trial judges, district attorneys, and public defenders, where they gain hands-on experience and academic credit.

Clinic offerings include those in elder law, constitutional litigation, tax law, and appellate practice. Nearly all clinics allow students additional opportunities to represent actual clients in an array of legal settings.

■ Admission

The School of Law seeks to admit stellar students who are passionately interested in a legal education that will challenge them to grow intellectually, ethically, and professionally. The law school seeks a diverse student body that will make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession. Many variables enter into the decision-making process. The applicant's entire file is considered, and each application is individually reviewed. The Admission Committee reviews the traditional numbers—your academic record and LSAT—but also considers additional indicators of potential success in law school. Such indicators include the nature and rigor of the undergraduate discipline, an upward trend in academic performance, coursework, writing ability, employment history, graduate-level courses taken and degrees earned, scholarly achievement, community and volunteer service, research projects, demonstrated leadership ability, fluency in foreign languages, and personal background, including a history of overcoming adversity, and unusual contributions or other maturing experiences. Electronic applications are preferred. Two letters of recommendation are required; these should be submitted directly to the LSAC. A personal statement and résumé are also required, and they should be submitted with your application. Applying early is encouraged as the entering class is filled on a rolling basis, and scholarship funds may be exhausted early in the admission cycle. There is a priority consideration deadline of April 1, 2005, for merit-based scholarships.

■ Student Curricular and Cocurricular Activities

The law school offers many activities that enrich the academic program and provide important training in leadership. Two journals offer valuable experience in research, writing, and editing. The Student Bar Association administers a full range of programs. Other organizations include, but are not limited to, the Minority Law Students Association, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, the Public Interest Law Foundation, the Federalist Society, and the student-run Honor Council.

Chapman offers a range of advocacy experiences, including participation in mock trial, moot court, client counseling, international law, and negotiation competitions. Chapman teams have won regional competitions and have performed competitively in national and international tournaments. The Moot Court Board and the Mock Trial Board administer their programs and provide excellent practical training.

■ Scholarships and Financial Aid

Chapman Law offers a generous merit- and need-based scholarship program. For the 2005 entering class, more than 50 percent of new students received scholarships. After the first

year, law students are eligible to compete for merit scholarships provided they rank within the top 30 percent of their class. For 2005, over \$2.8 million in scholarship funds were distributed among a student body of approximately 550.

Chapman also offers a full range of loan programs to complement students' financial needs, including Stafford loans, Perkins loans, and private loans. All students receiving scholarship funds and/or loans should plan to file the FAFSA and a preliminary financial aid application. International students are eligible for merit scholarships.

■ Career Services

Chapman Law has established an enviable network of relationships in Orange County to assist students in their job-search efforts. A student/attorney mentor program places students in a direct mentoring relationship with many of the area's outstanding practitioners.

An active Career Services Office provides on-campus interviews, workshops, panels, and guest speakers to help educate students about the many possible areas of practice and how to secure employment.

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	2.25 - 2.49	2.00 - 2.24	Below 2.00
175-180	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
170-174	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
165-169	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
160-164	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
155-159	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
150-154	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
145-149	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
140-144	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
135-139	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
130-134	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
125-129	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
120-124	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely

Very Likely
 Likely
 Possible
 Unlikely