

## Howard University School of Law

Office of Admissions, 2900 Van Ness Street, NW

Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 202.806.8008/8009; Fax: 202.806.8162

E-mail: admissions@law.howard.edu; Website: www.law.howard.edu

### ■ Introduction

Howard University, a coeducational, private institution in Washington, DC, was chartered by the US Congress in 1867. Howard is a historically black institution that offers an educational experience of exceptional quality and value to students with high academic potential. Particular emphasis is placed on providing educational opportunities for promising African Americans and other persons of color who have been underrepresented in the legal profession, and nonminority persons with a strong interest in civil and human rights, as well as public service. The main campus of Howard is located in northwest Washington.

The School of Law opened its doors in 1869. There was a great need to train lawyers with a strong commitment to helping black Americans secure and protect their newly established rights. In those days, the law school did not have classrooms, at least not the way we know them today. The students (there were six in the first class) met at night in the homes and offices of the faculty, all of whom were part-time.

In time, the law school grew. The law school has a diverse student body and faculty. The law school is located on a separate 22-acre campus, also in northwest Washington, approximately three miles from the main campus. Howard University School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, and certifies its graduates for bar examination in all jurisdictions of the United States.

### ■ Degree Programs

The School of Law offers programs leading to the Juris Doctor (JD); Master of Laws (LLM) for foreign law graduates; and Juris Doctor/Master in Business Administration (JD/MBA) degrees.

An applicant applying to the JD program must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university before enrolling in the Howard University School of Law. Competitive numerical predictors for admission to Howard University include a Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score of 153 and above and an undergraduate grade-point average of 3.4. In addition to the LSAT score and UGPA, we consider the rigor of an applicant's undergraduate course of study, letters of recommendation (particularly from faculty members who have taught the applicant), any graduate study, employment, extracurricular activities, and other indicators of potential for success in law school and excellence in the profession.

Applicants applying to the JD/MBA program must apply and meet the independent admission requirements of both schools, including completion of the GMAT.

The LLM program offers foreign law graduates an opportunity to further their legal studies through advanced study and research. To be admitted as a candidate for the Master of Laws degree, applicants must be in high academic standing and must have a degree in law from an accredited foreign university or its equivalent (as determined by the faculty of law) and some experience in the judiciary, administrative establishment, bar, or law faculty.

### ■ Special Programs

The School of Law has a strong commitment to public service and to human and civil rights. Many programs and activities of the school reflect that fact. The school also provides an opportunity for clinical experience in civil and criminal litigation. Howard law school also offers a summer study-abroad program in comparative and international law at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. The six-week program is approved by the ABA and offers constitutional, business, and trade law courses for credit. A student-exchange program has been established with Vermont Law School and Brigham Young University. Through the exchange program, a limited number of third-year JD students may spend a semester at one of these law schools to take advantage of curricular offerings that may be of specific interest to students.

### ■ Curriculum

The curriculum leading to the first degree in law covers three academic years of two semesters each. During the first two years, emphasis is on the fundamental analytical concepts and skills of the law and the system by which it is administered—the functions required of a lawyer within a legal system based upon the common law. The curriculum in the third year provides diversified experience and a solid foundation of whatever specialization is desired.

### ■ Research Facilities

In May 2001, Howard University School of Law moved into a new, state-of-the-art law library. This four-story, 76,000-square-foot building provides for a book collection of up to 215,000 volumes; seating for over 295 students (more than 70 percent of the student population), including 90 open carrels, with all locations wired for computer use; enlarged microfilm and audiovisual facilities; and distinctive rooms of wood and brick for special collections, newspaper and periodical reading, and the rare book collection.

The Law Library is both a working collection for law students and lawyers and a research institution for legal scholars. The civil rights archive contains briefs, working papers, and materials of the NAACP and other civil rights organizations. The library has a collection that emphasizes civil and political rights and literature to support study of the legal problems of the poor. Its collection has been expanded to also include considerable CD-ROM resources. The Law Library has an online catalogue system, e-mail capabilities, and Internet access.

### ■ Student Activities

The *Howard Law Journal* publishes legal materials for scholarly and professional interest. The national and international moot court teams, which sponsor intramural competition and participate in competitions nationwide, have won numerous honors. The Student Bar Association is the general student government organization. The *Barrister*, the student newspaper, publishes several issues a year. Other organizations represent students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including African

Americans, Latinos, Africans, Caribbean Islanders, and Asian Pacific Islanders.

## ■ Career Services

The Career Services Office is an integral part of the law school. To assist students, the office offers workshops on job-search techniques and résumé writing and seminars on career development and practice specialties. The office also maintains an extensive resource library with online employer research systems, newsletters, and updated listings of career

opportunities. Each year, the Career Services Office sponsors two on-campus interview programs, and more than 300 recruiters from law firms, government agencies, and corporations visit the law school with offers of employment for promising students and graduates. Approximately 3,100 interviews are scheduled annually. Graduates receive highly competitive and prestigious judicial clerkships and work for large and small private firms; federal, state, and local government agencies; public interest organizations; and public and private corporations throughout the United States.

## Applicant Profile

### Howard University School of Law

LSAT Score	GPA																				Totals		
	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		No GPA		Apps	Adm	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175-180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165-169	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	8
160-164	7	6	10	8	12	12	9	6	13	10	8	8	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	64	51	
155-159	13	12	31	27	43	31	46	29	42	22	24	11	16	9	5	0	2	0	1	0	223	141	
150-154	34	26	71	49	109	63	96	49	84	35	64	14	24	1	8	0	4	0	1	0	495	237	
145-149	31	21	82	31	124	21	148	25	138	7	71	1	56	1	17	0	5	0	5	1	677	108	
140-144	21	6	69	5	83	2	141	1	114	0	102	1	64	0	25	0	3	0	9	0	631	15	
135-139	8	2	22	0	42	1	74	0	72	1	58	0	41	0	17	0	12	0	7	0	353	4	
130-134	3	0	3	0	11	0	12	0	22	0	28	0	15	0	8	0	3	0	7	0	112	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	18	0	
120-124	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Total	119	75	290	121	428	132	533	112	490	76	359	35	222	11	83	1	30	0	33	1	2587	564	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.