

## University of Maryland School of Law

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### ■ Community of Students, Faculty, and Alumni

Entering students quickly become part of our supportive community. We are a diverse group (age, gender, race, academic background, and prior employment), and this diversity is reflected in our students and in our faculty and deans. The faculty/student ratio of 1:11.9 provides opportunity for close working relationships in a professional yet collegial setting. Many resources are available to students to ease the transition to law school, including upper-class peer advisors, skills enhancement sessions, and one-on-one academic counseling. Students also directly benefit from a wide network of involved alumni who occupy positions of professional leadership throughout the state, region, and nation.

### ■ Introduction

The University of Maryland School of Law provides students with the knowledge, experience, and expertise to prepare them for professional leadership as lawyers, business executives, legislators, public policymakers, community advocates, and other agents of social, political, and economic progress. Its favorable tuition structure makes it a superb value in American legal education.

The law school is an integral part of the Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis legal-business community. Located in downtown Baltimore, just a few blocks from the Inner Harbor's tourist attractions, the school's location affords opportunities for extensive interaction with local, state, and national governments, as well as many law firms, public-interest institutions, agencies, and other organizations of prominence.

Founded in 1816, the School of Law is fully accredited by the ABA and is a member of the AALS. The Juris Doctor curriculum is available in a three-year day or four-year evening program.

### ■ Law School Complex and Library

The School of Law and the Thurgood Marshall Law Library occupy a state-of-the-art complex supportive of the school's programs integrating classroom and experiential learning.

The Thurgood Marshall Law Library houses a collection of approximately 456,529 volumes and equivalents accessible through the online catalog. A staff of 23, including 10 librarians, provides customized reference and consulting services to faculty and students.

### ■ Curriculum

The required curriculum includes civil, constitutional, criminal, contract, property, and tort law, as well as a three-semester course focusing on legal skills of analysis, research, writing, and oral argument. More than 150 electives include a wide range of courses, seminars, independent studies, simulations, clinics, and externships. Each student must produce at least one substantial paper based on extensive research.

Maryland's strong academic programs in business/corporation/commercial law; criminal law; environmental law; family law/child advocacy; general practice; health law; intellectual property and technology

transfer; international/comparative law; jurisprudence/legal history; labor/employment/administrative law; litigation/advocacy; legislation/politics/public policy; property/real estate/decedent's estates law; public interest law/community development; and tax law enable students to develop expertise and experience in fields of critical importance to the future.

### ■ Clinical Law Program

The clinical training program, among the best in the country, offers students real-life court appearances on behalf of a wide range of clients. In addition to this variety of in-house clinical student practice settings, students may gain hands-on experience in public and private nonprofit externships in the Baltimore/Washington region.

### ■ Dual Degrees and Interdisciplinary Study

Maryland's interdisciplinary programs, including environment, healthcare, and technology-transfer law offer students the opportunity to work with lawyers and other professionals toward the resolution of problems that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. Dual-degree programs include Business Administration, Community Planning, Criminal Justice, Liberal Education, Pharmacy, Policy Sciences, Public Health, Public Management, Risk and Environmental Assessment, and Social Work. Students are encouraged to enroll in as many as nine credits in related graduate-level programs.

### ■ Admission

Maryland's law faculty believe the quality of legal education is directly affected by the diversity of our students. The admission committee selects applicants with the greatest potential for law school studies and whose background, character, and experience contribute to the diversity we believe is important to the law school learning experience and to the future benefit of the community. Factors considered in this selection process include geographic origin; cultural and language background; racial, social, disability, or economic barriers overcome; interpersonal skills as demonstrated by extracurricular pursuits, work or service experience, leadership activities, and social experience; potential for intellectual and social growth, as demonstrated by talents, skills, maturity, and compassion; and other special circumstances and characteristics that, when combined with academic skills needed for sound legal education, hold promise as qualities that will be valuable to the school community. The personal statement and letters of recommendation are the primary means for candidates to convey this information and these characteristics to the admission and scholarship committees.

First-year students are admitted only in the fall. The School of Law uses a rolling admission process, reviewing applications in the order in which files are completed. Applicants should file applications as early as possible after September 1 of the year preceding enrollment and prior to March 1. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application early; applications completed later may be at a

competitive disadvantage. Multiple LSAT scores normally are averaged. Residency may be a factor in close cases. Applicants are encouraged to visit the school, but interviews are not part of the admission process.

## ■ Student Activities

Maryland law students participate in a variety of activities. The law school is home to over 30 active and diverse student-run organizations.

More than half of our students participate in inter- and intrascholastic advocacy competitions. Students also have the opportunity to participate in four student-edited publications.

## ■ Scholarships and Need-based Financial Assistance

The School of Law offers a number of scholarships as well as a traditional need-based financial aid program. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of grades, test score(s), and other evidence of potential for unusual contributions to the academic, cocurricular, and student affairs programs. Such

potential should be clearly described in the personal statement included with the application for admission. All admitted applicants are automatically considered for law school scholarship awards. Applications for financial aid (FAFSA) should be submitted as soon after January 1 as possible.

## ■ Career Development

Maryland law students benefit from extensive connections to the bar, judiciary, business and industry, government, and community organizations within the state of Maryland; Washington, DC; and beyond.

The Career Development Office assists law students and graduates in developing effective job-search strategies to secure legal employment and experience. In the class of 2004, 97 percent of the 343 graduates reported employment in the following categories: 32 percent in private practice, 19 percent in judicial clerkships, 22 percent in government and other public service, 14 percent in business and industry, 5.48 percent in public interest organizations, and 7 percent in academia.

## Applicant Profile

### University of Maryland School of Law

GPA	LSAT Score									
	149 & Below		150 - 154		155 - 159		160 - 164		165 & Above	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
3.75-4.00	51	1	115	9	196	47	121	66	47	38
3.50-3.74	141	9	202	18	302	51	195	91	51	27
3.25-3.49	188	11	244	22	305	40	201	68	63	34
3.00-3.24	200	6	184	11	220	15	109	31	49	18
2.99 & Below	398	0	215	3	189	8	140	12	43	2
Total	978	27	960	63	1212	161	766	268	253	119

Apps = Number of Applicants  
Adm = Number Admitted