

The University of Michigan Law School

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■ Introduction

The University of Michigan Law School, founded in 1859, is one of the nation's finest institutions of legal education. The school is home to a distinguished and diverse faculty, many of its scholars preeminent in their fields. Our students come from around the globe to contribute their remarkable talents and accomplishments to make the Law School a community that exudes a sense of serious purpose, high academic achievement, and social commitment. Our graduates serve with distinction in all sectors of law, business, government, and the judiciary. Michigan was never restricted to the privileged. In 1870, Michigan—then the largest law school in the country—became only the second American university to confer a law degree on an African American. That same year, Michigan became the first major law school to admit a woman, and in 1871, its graduate, Sarah Killgore, became the first woman with a law degree in the nation to be admitted to the bar.

■ Faculty

Michigan has over 75 full-time faculty members; many distinguished visiting scholars and practitioners further enhance course offerings. While maintaining a long tradition of eminence in constitutional, criminal, international, and comparative law, the breadth of the faculty is reflected in an extraordinary range of expertise, including classics, economics, English, feminist theory, history, life sciences, philosophy, political theory, psychology, public policy, and sociology. The depth is reflected in a critical and distinct fact: while many law schools have faculty members with interdisciplinary training and/or courtesy appointments, Michigan is unique in the number of law professors who are also governing faculty members of a world-class department in another discipline. Further, 20 professors (about one third of our tenure-track faculty) hold PhDs in cognate disciplines and 8 are Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Michigan Law faculty's contributions to public policy and academic debates are well recognized.

■ Physical Facilities and Library

The location of residential and academic buildings within the strikingly beautiful Gothic architecture of the William W. Cook Law Quadrangle fosters the integration of activities for both students and faculty.

With over 965,000 volumes, the law library has one of the world's premier collections. Law students also have access to other university libraries. Wireless access technology allows law students network access throughout the Quadrangle and beyond.

■ Curriculum

Recognized as preeminent in interdisciplinary legal studies, the insights and methods of other fields are apparent throughout Michigan's broad curriculum. Formal joint programs are available in 13 disciplines, and students may count nine credits of other graduate-level work toward their JD.

A key component of the first year is the Legal Practice Program. A leader among top law schools, Michigan's program provides individualized instruction in legal writing, research, and oral advocacy taught by full-time faculty to first-year students, as well as upper-level corporate drafting instruction.

Renowned for international scholarship, Michigan requires all students to complete Transnational Law. Externships, such as the South African Program, provide students with advanced training in their areas of interest. Internships are also available through such initiatives as the Program for Cambodian Law and Development.

■ Clinical Opportunities

For over 30 years, the Law School has provided a clinical practice program. Students represent clients selected from a rich pool of cases, and the nature of local court dockets allows students to handle many cases from beginning to end. Offerings include a general clinic, in which students may be involved in civil and/or criminal trial work; a Child Advocacy Law Clinic; a Criminal Appellate Defense Clinic; the transactional Urban Communities Clinic; a mediation clinic; and the medicolegal Pediatric Advocacy Clinic. Students can also enroll in a practicum in environmental law or asylum and refugee law, or participate in the Family Law Project, a student-run advocacy program for victims of domestic violence.

■ Admission and Student Body

The quality of the applicant's educational experience and LSAT scores are important in the admission process, but extracurricular and work experience, the personal statement, and letters of recommendation are also relied on heavily. Refer to Applicant Profile for more information.

■ Student Activities

Approximately 400 students participate in six journals: the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Journal of Law Reform*, the *Michigan Journal of International Law*, the *Michigan Journal of Gender and Law*, the *Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review*, and the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*. Students interested in honing oral advocacy and legal writing skills may choose to enter numerous moot court competitions. The Law School Student Senate funds more than 50 student organizations, and students also participate in groups throughout the larger university community.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Program is substantial; approximately 80 percent of first-year students received a grant of \$5,000 or more, with an average grant amount of \$8,600. While the Law School emphasizes financial need in dispensing grants and loans, merit aid is also awarded annually to outstanding candidates who are remarkable for their anticipated contribution to the Law School and the profession.

Michigan's Debt Management Program is the most progressive of its kind. It provides graduates with the flexibility to choose jobs from a wide range of law-related

opportunities, including lower-paying public interest positions, while still maintaining a reasonable lifestyle and remaining current on outstanding loan obligations.

■ Career Services/Public Service

Michigan consistently places in the top echelon of law schools for career prospects. Graduates enjoy a 99 percent employment rate, and every student is assigned an attorney-counselor. Our On-Campus Interview Program regularly brings in more than 750 employers from the most prestigious firms nationally and abroad; students choose interviews by lottery (employers are not permitted to prescreen), and 2Ls had an average of more than 20 interviews. An additional 1,300 employers contact the Law School to solicit applications from students. The largest number of our graduates go to New York City and Chicago, followed closely by California; Washington, DC; and Detroit.

Reflecting our long-standing commitment, the Office of Public Service is dedicated to providing career counseling and connecting students with mentors, pro bono opportunities, and inspiring jobs. The staff acts as a link between our students and

the hundreds of our graduates doing public service work throughout the world.

Career counselors and Law School faculty advise and support students seeking judicial clerkships. In recent years, an average of 18 percent of the graduating class has accepted prestigious clerkships with federal, state, and international courts. Michigan graduates are leaders in obtaining other prestigious legal positions as well. About 400 of our graduates teach, making Michigan one of a handful of feeder schools for this profession. Likewise, Michigan has graduated the third highest number of state and federal judges in the country.

■ Housing

Ann Arbor combines ease of living with superb cultural, athletic, and entertainment offerings. High-quality off-campus housing is available in a wide variety of choices and neighborhoods. Economical family housing is available to married students, domestic partners, and single parents with custody of their children. Approximately half of first-year students reside in the Lawyers Club, enjoying the easy access and camaraderie of life in the Quadrangle.

Applicant Profile

We choose not to provide an applicant profile, because we do not believe a grid based on undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores can accurately reflect our comprehensive admission process, which focuses on many elements in an application in order to determine an applicant's particular intellectual strengths, nonacademic achievements, and unique personal circumstances. We view our student body as one of our greatest assets, and our goal is to admit a group of students who, individually and collectively, are among the best applying to American law schools in a given year. We seek a mix of

students with varying backgrounds and experiences who will respect and learn from each other. Our most general measures are an applicant's LSAT score and undergraduate GPA. As measured by those statistics, Michigan is among the handful of the most selective law schools in the country. However, each of these measures is far from perfect. Even the highest possible scores will not guarantee admission, and low scores will, likewise, not automatically result in a denial, as both circumstances may have significant offsetting considerations.