University of Pittsburgh School of Law

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■ Introduction

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Pitt), founded in 1895, is a leader in the world of legal education. It features a broad and varied curriculum, an internationally accomplished faculty, state-of-the-art physical facilities, and a talented and diverse student body hailing from all over the globe. The School of Law is located in its own modern six-story building on campus in Oakland, the cultural and educational center of Pittsburgh. State and federal courts, major corporate headquarters, and hundreds of law firms are located nearby in downtown Pittsburgh, only minutes from campus. The dynamic Oakland area is home to four colleges and universities, the world-renowned, multi-hospital University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, numerous scientific and high-tech offices and research centers, museums, art galleries, coffee houses, and libraries. The Pitt campus abuts a beautiful 429-acre city park. Desirable and affordable residential areas are situated nearby. Quality housing is readily available, and all mass transit in the city is free to Pitt students with ID cards.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The newly renovated Barco Law Library is an attractive, 440,000-volume, open-stack research facility, housed on three floors of the School of Law building. Full of natural light, it contains two computer labs and ample carrel and seating space. The Fawcett Student Commons in the library is a comfortable gathering spot for students, faculty, and staff, and contains the Sidebar Café, featuring Starbucks coffee products. Faculty offices ring the perimeter of the first and third floors of the library, encouraging ease of interaction between students and faculty. Classrooms with state-of-the-art technology are located on the first and ground floors of the School of Law building. A spacious and comfortable student lounge and the elegant Teplitz Memorial Courtroom are located on the ground floor. Student computing is supported through a wireless network and wired carrels and seating.

■ Special Programs

- *Clinical Programs*—Academics and reality meet head-on in our legal clinics. Pitt law students have the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience in several different clinical programs, which include a Tax Clinic; an Environmental Law Clinic; a Civil Practice Clinic that selects a focus on either Health Law, Elder Law, or Family Law and Related Matters; and a Community Economic Development Clinic. With a supervising attorney, students do it all: pretrial preparation, negotiation, litigation, and counseling real-life clients about real-life legal concerns.
- *Certificate Programs*—One way to practice proficiently in an interdependent world is to develop specialized expertise. Pitt law students may seize that advantage through participation in our certificate programs, a collection of sharply focused courses that culminate in certification to specialize in a high-demand area of practice. Certificate programs currently exist in the areas of civil litigation; environmental law, science, and policy; health law; international and comparative law; and intellectual property and technology law. These certificate programs can be completed within the regular 88 credits.
- *Joint-degree Programs*—Motivated by the growing management and social science needs of attorneys and the increasingly intricate legal needs of society, we offer several joint-degree programs that provide rigorous, integrated training, effectively merging law and a number of allied fields. They include the JD/MBA with both Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University; the JD/MPH with our Graduate School of Public Health; the JD/MPA, JD/MPIA, and JD/MID with our Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; the JD/MA(Bioethics); and the JD/MS with the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University.
- *Mellon Legal Writing Program*—The Mellon Program provides academic support to students at the law school who wish to improve their writing, exam-taking, and study skills. Exam preparation sessions include general discussion regarding the form and substance of law school exams as well as more specific guidance relating to particular topics and classes. All workshops are led by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

■ Center for International Legal Education (CILE)

In today's world, legal transactions inevitably involve many nations and many sets of laws. The successful lawyer—today's global lawyer—understands the political, cultural, and social influences on the legal systems of other countries and uses that knowledge for the benefit of his or her clients. CILE faculty prepare Pitt law students for successful futures in this modern world. Students study the workings of foreign legal systems and explore the wide array of issues facing practicing attorneys in the global marketplace. The center also coordinates international programs at Pitt with the University Center for International Studies and affiliated area studies programs, and it supervises a number of specialized language classes, for example, French for Lawyers, Spanish for Lawyers, German for Lawyers, Chinese for Lawyers, and Japanese for Lawyers.

■ Admission

Pitt Law is highly competitive, and decisions are based upon several factors, with the GPA and LSAT being the most important. A required personal statement gives the committee a view into the nonacademic world of the applicant. This is critical in our ability to enroll a diverse class. Letters of recommendation play an equally important role in this process, as they can reveal the strengths of the academic achievements of the applicant.

■ Scholarships

If you are accepted to Pitt Law, we make every effort to assist you in securing the financial resources you will need in order to cover the cost of your legal education. Approximately 43 percent of the student body receives merit- and/or need-based scholarship funds. The University of Pittsburgh School of Law also offers a Public Interest Scholarship and has several firm-sponsored scholarships available.

■ Student Activities

The *Law Review*, the *Journal of Law and Commerce*, and the *Journal of Law and Technology* are legal periodicals published by upper-class law students. In addition, more than 30 law student organizations exist under the auspices of the Student Bar Association, reflecting the diverse social and intellectual interests and experiences of our students. They include the Asian Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association, the Environmental Law Council, the Federalist Society, the Hispanic Law Society, the Jewish Law Students Association, the Lesbian-Gay Rights Organization (OUTLAW), the Pitt Law Women's Association, and the Pitt Legal Income Sharing Foundation, to name a few.

■ Career Services

The Career Service's Office provides year-round assistance to Pitt students and graduates. The office serves as a clearinghouse for information on summer, part-time, and permanent work with law firms, corporations, accounting firms, government agencies, judges, and other legal employers. It also helps students develop practical job search strategies, helps demystify the dynamics of the legal job market, offers strategies for finding the perfect job in that market, and offers information and counseling regarding nontraditional careers utilizing professional skills gained in law school. The placement rate for the class of 2004 was 97 percent.

Applicant Profile

University of Pittsburgh School of Law
This grid includes only applicants who earned 120-180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

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
165-180	25	22	40	33	26	21	23	17	20	12	9	4	6	0	2	0	151	109
160-164	70	62	112	84	104	70	83	50	52	26	26	6	11	2	4	1	462	301
155-159	94	36	181	69	185	55	156	38	83	18	30	1	16	1	6	0	751	218
150-154	65	4	122	8	137	9	119	10	63	2	35	1	12	0	8	0	561	34
145-149	18	0	42	3	50	0	53	2	43	1	23	0	12	0	6	0	247	6
Below 145	9	1	16	0	37	0	32	0	23	1	29	1	27	0	7	0	180	3
Total	281	125	513	197	539	155	466	117	284	60	152	13	84	3	33	1	2352	671

Apps = Number of Applicants
Adm = Number Admitted
Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.