

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

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■ Introduction

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law offers students a stimulating and supportive educational experience. Its curriculum combines practical training in basic skills and legal doctrine, sophisticated study of recent developments in legal theory, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of law. Courses provide depth and breadth in all the standard subjects of legal study, as well as many more specialized ones, including intellectual property law and alternative dispute resolution. Extensive clinical and externship opportunities allow students to gain practical lawyering experience while performing important community service. A Cardozo education emphasizes ethics and the pursuit of intellectual excellence.

■ Faculty

Professors at Cardozo are vibrant, intellectually curious, accessible to students, and committed to the twin goals of teaching and scholarship. They are an interdisciplinary faculty, curious and serious about how the law relates to other expressions of the human spirit such as philosophy, literature, economics, politics, and history. More than half hold advanced degrees in addition to a law degree; about a dozen hold PhDs as well. The faculty is prolific, writing on both visionary and practical subjects; many of their publications are required reading in law schools across the nation.

■ A Campus in New York City

Cardozo is in an elegant residential neighborhood in the heart of Greenwich Village. It is easily accessible to all points in New York City, including the courts, Wall Street, Midtown, and the art and music centers on the East and West Sides of Manhattan. The law school recently completed a \$50 million renovation and expansion of its facilities, including a new moot courtroom, additional library space, the center for student life, a new lobby, student offices, faculty offices, and state-of-the-art classrooms and seminar rooms.

The Cardozo residence hall is located on a residential, tree-lined street just one block south of the main building. A limited number of studio and one-bedroom apartments—all of which are air-conditioned, fully furnished, and equipped with kitchens—are available for incoming students.

■ Career Services

Cardozo students benefit from a career services office staffed by professional counselors, all of whom have JD degrees, that offers individual assistance with interviewing techniques, résumé writing, and job search strategies as well as panels and other opportunities for learning about a variety of legal careers. An impressive 98.3 percent of those reporting from the class of 2005 were employed within several months of graduation. Sixty percent of these graduates went into private practice at an average starting salary of \$94,142; the average overall starting salary was \$82,334.

■ Curriculum

Cardozo offers a rich curriculum that has been especially recognized for its offerings in Intellectual Property Law (students may receive both the JD and Master of Laws (LLM) degrees in seven semesters), Alternative Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, Corporate Law, and International Law. Upper-level courses are elective except for a course in Professional Responsibility, completion of Advanced Legal Research, an upper-level writing requirement, and fulfillment of minimal distribution requirements.

Cardozo offers LLM degrees in Intellectual Property Law, Comparative Legal Thought, and in General Studies. A joint-degree program between Cardozo and the Wurzeiler School of Social Work allows students to earn the JD and MSW in four years of study.

■ Students/Student Activities

The student body at Cardozo is a diverse and impressive group. A typical entering class includes graduates from well more than 130 colleges, and from over 35 states and several foreign countries. Roughly 20 percent of the class are members of minority groups and 15–20 percent are returning to school after spending at least five years in the working world.

More than half of the second- and third-year students participate on one of six student-edited journals or in the Moot Court Honor Society. Scholarly journals include the *Cardozo Law Review*, *Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal*, *Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law*, *Cardozo Journal of Law and Gender*, *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *Cardozo Public Law, Policy, and Ethics Journal*.

■ Clinical Opportunities/Special Programs

Cardozo has a commitment to a particular style of education that seeks to blend theory and practice; to expose students to the abstractions, intellectual and ethical conundrums, and overarching theories of the American legal system and to the concrete skills and values they need to be first-rate attorneys. A wealth of clinical programs combine professional work experience with academic supervision, yielding students uniquely qualified to apply what they have studied. Nearly 400 students each year take advantage of one of these opportunities to represent real clients, under the supervision of expert attorneys, gaining invaluable skills while performing important community service representing the poor, the elderly, and the indigent.

In the **Holocaust Claims Restitution Practicum**, students pursue claims made by Holocaust survivors and their heirs; students in the **Criminal Defense Clinic** represent defendants in the Manhattan Criminal Court; in the **Innocence Project**, students represent prisoners whose innocence may be proved through DNA testing; in the **Prosecutor Practicum**, students work in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office; the **Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic** provides legal assistance to the elderly and disabled; the **Mediation Clinic** provides training in alternative dispute resolution; the **Human Rights and Genocide Clinic** provides students with the opportunity to design and implement creative solutions to improve the lives of victims of human rights abuses throughout the world; and

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Cardozo's simulation-based **Intensive Trial Advocacy Program** sharpens students' trial skills. Other clinics include the **Family Court Clinic, Tax Clinic, Criminal Appeals Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, and Securities Arbitration Clinic.**

Externships offer students the opportunity to work in a legal position, thereby developing important skills and gaining significant real-world experience. Through externships and internships, students can obtain credit for substantive legal work under the direct supervision of an attorney or judge at the work site. The **Intellectual Property Law Program** combines a specialized curriculum with related externships in this burgeoning area of practice; the **Alexander Judicial Fellows Program** places outstanding third-year students in clerkships with prominent federal judges; the **Labor and Employment Law Externship** places students in law firms, government agencies, and unions; and the **New York City Law Department Externship** places students in the Appeals Division of the New York City Law Department (Corporation Counsel).

Cardozo's **Center for Public Service** emphasizes the law school's commitment to serving the greater public good and helping students find meaningful ways to engage in public service. In 2006, through the **Public Service Summer Stipend Program**, 114 students received \$3,500 stipends while working in government agencies, judicial chambers, and with such underrepresented groups as the elderly, the homeless, recent

immigrants, and juveniles. A **Public Service Scholars Program** awards scholarships to students who demonstrate an interest in public service through their application for admission. The **Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)** benefits graduates who choose to pursue careers in public interest/public service law by assisting with some of the burden of large educational debts.

Intellectual life at Cardozo extends beyond the classroom. The school sponsors numerous conferences, panels, and symposia that provoke dialogue and critical thought on wide-ranging topics such as constitutional law, communications law and policy, human rights, corporate governance, and legal ethics.

■ Admission/Alternative Entry/Financial Aid

Students may enter Cardozo in September, January, or May. Those entering in January and May complete six semesters of law school in two and one-half years. This can be particularly appealing to midyear graduates, juniors in college who wish to jumpstart their graduate education, and returning students.

Both need- and merit-based scholarships are available. Approximately 60 percent of the students receive scholarship aid. Instructions on applying for aid can be found at www.cardozo.yu.edu/admissions/tuition.asp.

Applicant Profile

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This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																						Total	
	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	3	3	5	3	4	3	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	12	
170–174	32	32	21	20	24	19	14	12	15	11	6	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	101	
165–169	107	101	144	132	107	91	96	79	39	24	20	6	3	2	0	0	1	0	3	2	520	437		
160–164	199	156	280	169	241	78	160	38	60	11	23	7	11	0	3	1	1	0	10	4	988	464		
155–159	149	40	262	33	254	16	155	14	79	7	25	2	14	0	3	1	1	0	9	2	951	115		
150–154	57	4	123	13	146	8	111	8	69	2	41	1	12	0	6	0	2	0	6	0	573	36		
145–149	22	0	56	3	84	1	75	0	53	0	18	0	17	0	5	0	0	0	13	0	343	4		
140–144	15	0	20	0	35	0	47	0	32	0	23	0	15	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	201	0		
135–139	1	0	5	0	12	0	11	0	13	0	11	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	62	0		
130–134	1	0	3	0	4	0	9	0	6	0	9	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	40	0		
125–129	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Total	586	336	920	373	911	216	681	153	370	55	182	22	82	4	24	2	14	0	52	8	3822	1169		

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