

Western State University—College of Law

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■ Introduction

Western State University (WSU) College of Law, founded in 1966, is the oldest law school in Orange County, Southern California. Our 10,000 graduates have distinguished themselves as jurists, lawmakers, district attorneys, public defenders, and civil practitioners; they constitute a strong alumni network that mentors and enables an enviable job placement record for WSU graduates.

Located in the college town of Fullerton, in the heart of the vibrant economy and healthy legal market of Orange County, the WSU campus is about 30 miles south of Los Angeles and 100 miles north of San Diego, commuting distance from the metropolitan area, the fast-growing Inland Empire, and the Southland's beach cities and high technology, finance, and business centers.

A private law school fewer than 500 students, WSU offers small class sizes, personal interaction with faculty, and an extraordinary supportive learning environment. Repeatedly cited as one of the most ethnically diverse law school student bodies in the country, WSU is also known for giving students practical hands-on lawyering experience as well as a strong academic foundation.

■ Faculty

WSU prides itself on a faculty of excellent professors whose first priority is teaching and student success. Most bring extensive real-world legal experience to the classroom in addition to their strong academic and teaching credentials. The full-time faculty is supplemented by an outstanding adjunct faculty of practicing attorneys and judges. With a student faculty ratio of 22 to 1, and a highly accessible faculty, students benefit from individualized attention and mentoring.

■ Curriculum and Special Programs

WSU offers a full-time program that is normally completed in three years and part-time day or evening programs that take four years. Students may start in any of the programs in the fall. WSU also offers a January-start part-time evening program; students in good standing may transition to full time in the fall.

The Business Law Center and Criminal Law Practice Center programs give students the option to focus their electives to earn a Certificate in Business Law or Criminal Law and notation on their transcript indicating their special study emphasis. About one-third of students choose to earn a certificate in Business Law or Criminal Law. In addition to required and elective coursework, the centers also bring distinguished speakers to campus, arrange student visits to criminal justice facilities or business venues, and provide connections to practitioners, including internship and externship opportunities and career networking.

The On-site Legal Clinic functions as a small family and civil law practice, where student attorneys under supervision of the clinic director represent clients in the community, managing the cases from start to finish, including all court proceedings.

In the externship program, students receive placements in the courts, offices of district attorneys, public defenders,

practicing attorneys and corporate legal departments, and public interest organizations where they gain hands-on experience and academic credit.

■ Student Body and Organizations

WSU's total student body is around 500 students, with the entering class about 150 students. Minority enrollment constitutes over a third of the total, with approximately even enrollment of men and women. The fall 2006 class entered from over 80 different undergraduate institutions; 25 percent came from 15 different states outside California.

More than 15 active student-led organizations enrich and complement the academic program with their cocurricular educational, networking, philanthropic, and social activities for students. These include the Student Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Student Association, Latino Student Bar, Christian Legal Society, Business Law Association, Entertainment Sports Law Society, Animal Rights Association, and Phi Alpha Delta. Students who qualify for the law review and moot court team gain high visibility legal writing and advocacy experience.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The library has over 200,000 volumes housed on three levels as well as access to electronic resources on campus and remotely. Students may use the library's 50 computers, including 25 located in a large computer classroom, or the wireless network. The library has 17 study rooms that may be used by students for group or individual study. The library maintains long hours to service the needs of our students. Our librarians provide extensive reference services and training in legal research, online research, and software.

WSU's campus is located in the heart of Fullerton's university district and consists of a main building and the library, with on-site parking. Most areas of both buildings are covered by wireless Wi-Fi. The main building contains 11 classrooms, the state-of-the-art Frank and Marleen Darras Moot Courtroom, an administrative suite, faculty offices, and a student lounge and café.

■ Admission

All applicants are assigned to an admission advisor who assists in the admission process, may conduct a personal or telephone informational interview, and arranges for visits to the campus and contact with professors, students, or alumni. Each applicant's entire file is reviewed; admission decisions are made by a faculty committee. A bachelor's degree or senior standing from an accredited college or university is required. A personal statement and two letters of recommendation are required, and a résumé is encouraged. Details of the applicant's undergraduate record and LSAT score, writing ability, and maturing life and work experiences are key indicators of potential for success in law school. When there are multiple LSAT scores, the highest, most recent score may be accorded significant weight. Admission is on a rolling basis, but application by April 1 for fall and October 1 for spring is highly encouraged.

■ Scholarships and Financial Aid

WSU offers generous merit-based scholarships; in the 2006 entering class about 50 percent of new students received scholarships. No separate application is required; admitted students are automatically considered for merit scholarships based on academic predictors. After the first year, law students are eligible to compete for merit scholarships provided they rank within the top 30 percent. A full range of loan programs is available to complement students' financial needs, including Stafford loans, Perkins loans, and private loans. All students receiving scholarship funds and or loans should plan to file the FAFSA and a preliminary financial aid application.

■ Career Services and Placement

With a 40-year history in Southern California and a strong alumni network of over 10,000 graduates, WSU has an enviable placement track record and the connections to assist students in their job search. Consistently in recent years, better than 90 percent of our graduates have been employed within six months of graduation. The most recent class found employment as follows: 66 percent private practice, 10 percent business and industry, 13 percent government, 4 percent public service, 4 percent academia, and 3 percent judicial clerkships.

The active Career Services Offices arranges on-campus

interviews, career-related workshops, speaker panels, networking events, and individual counseling to help educate students about the many possible areas of practice and how to secure employment. The office serves as a liaison with legal employers, both public and private; it solicits job listings from alumni and local practitioners and assists students with permanent and summer employment.

The Career Resource Center provides students with hard-bound and electronic reference materials on résumé writing, job-search techniques, and study-abroad programs. Online job and résumé posting is provided by WSU to facilitate employment searches by students and alumni from the convenience of their home or office.

The Alumni Association sponsors a robust mentoring program for students and recent graduates. In addition, the Alumni Association assists with on-campus career fairs and networking events.

■ Contact Us

We encourage you to visit our website, speak to an admission advisor, and arrange to visit WSU in person, so you can sit in on a class and meet with students, alumni, and professors. Experience first hand the personal attention, supportive environment, and dedication to student success which set WSU apart.

Applicant Profile

Western State University—College of Law

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	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
160–164	1	1	3	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	6	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	23
155–159	6	6	10	10	16	14	20	19	31	28	25	21	4	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	115	101	
150–154	13	12	42	38	68	63	74	72	63	55	56	34	31	7	8	2	2	0	4	4	361	287	
145–149	20	16	65	39	115	74	144	62	111	18	64	3	37	1	10	0	2	0	7	0	575	213	
140–144	7	0	36	0	60	0	73	1	65	1	51	0	20	0	13	0	1	0	6	0	332	2	
135–139	3	0	5	0	10	0	30	0	22	0	18	0	15	0	3	0	4	0	2	0	112	0	
130–134	3	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	6	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	27	0	
125–129	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	13	0	
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	53	35	164	89	276	156	351	158	303	106	229	64	111	12	40	2	11	0	23	4	1561	626	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.