

Whittier Law School

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■ Introduction

Whittier Law School was founded in 1966 as Beverly Law School. In 1975, the Law School became part of Whittier College, established by Quakers in 1887. The Law School is located in Costa Mesa, Orange County. Orange County, ranked among the top business centers in the United States, is home to over 10,000 lawyers, more lawyers than half the states in the nation. The Law School is 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, 100 miles north of San Diego, and minutes away from the local beach cities such as Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. Ideally situated, the Law School enjoys the vibrant economies produced within each area as well as within Orange County. The Whittier tradition stresses concern for individual student's intellectual and ethical development. This tradition is reflected in admission practices stressing diversity, a small student-to-faculty ratio, small elective classes, and individual student counseling and placement services.

■ Part-time Programs

In addition to the traditional three-year full-time program, the JD can also be completed in four years, including two summer sessions, in the flexible day or evening programs. First- and second-year part-time students generally attend classes three days a week. Standards for admission and retention are identical for all students, and the full-time faculty serves both programs.

■ Admission and Scholarships

In addition to the LSAT score and undergraduate GPA, subjective factors such as undergraduate school, major, graduate work, ethnic and economic background, work experience, and personal accomplishments are considered. Applicants are encouraged to discuss these factors in their written personal statements. The admission office automatically considers all applicants for merit-based scholarships.

■ Special Programs

Center for Children's Rights—The center enrolls up to 20 students yearly who receive fellowships and summer stipends to prepare for careers in children's rights advocacy. Fellows participate in special classes, symposia, and externships. The center also sponsors the National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition.

Center for Intellectual Property Law—The center provides students and practitioners with academic instruction in intellectual property law. The cornerstones of the center are the Certificate Program, the Summer Institute, and the Distinguished Speaker Series. The center also awards IP Fellowships.

Center for International and Comparative Law—The center allows students to participate in a specialized legal writing course, attend the International Law Symposium and Colloquia series, and receive a certificate by enrolling in courses offered through the center. The center also awards CICL Fellowships.

Clinics—Whittier Law School boasts four clinics: the Children's Advocacy Clinic, the Special Education Clinic, the Family Violence Clinic, and the "clientless" Legal Policy Clinic.

Exchange Programs in France and Spain—Students with some knowledge of French or Spanish can spend one semester at the University of Paris X in Nanterre, France; the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain; or the University of Seville, Spain.

Summer-abroad Programs—The Law School offers five summer study-abroad programs approved by the ABA. Students from around the country can choose to study at the prestigious Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel; the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain; the University of Toulouse in Toulouse, France; the University of Nanjing in China; or at the Universiteit van Amsterdam in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Institute of Student and Graduate Academic Support—The institute, administered by five full-time professors, allows students to participate in workshops, small seminars, and individual sessions, all designed to teach students the skills essential for law school success. The first-year program is mandatory and students may take part in a first-year summer program to enhance basic study skills and a 13-week Bar Exam Preparation Program.

Institute of Legal Writing and Professional Skills—The staff, composed of eight full-time professors and 12 part-time professors, teaches students how to write and conduct themselves well as lawyers. With this institute, our students have proven to be more prepared to perform at summer jobs, as well as to enter practice generally, than students from many schools throughout the state. The institute also offers three specialized writing courses in the first-year curriculum for the Center for Children's Rights, Center for Intellectual Property Law, and the Center for International and Comparative Law.

Concentrations in business and criminal law are offered.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

Whittier Law School is located in the city of Costa Mesa on a beautiful 15-acre campus with exceptional facilities, including one of the largest academic law research libraries in the region. The Law School is composed of four buildings that are completely accessible to people with disabilities, totaling 130,000 square feet, and offers plentiful on-site parking. With over 380,000 volumes, the library has a rapidly growing legal research collection and serves as a state and federal depository. Three student computer labs support a variety of software to aid students with computer-assisted instruction, online legal research, and Internet access. Numerous conference rooms are available for group study. The entire facility is equipped with Internet access for individual study.

■ Student Activities

The *Whittier Law Review* is open to students on the basis of grades and a writing competition and publishes the annual Health Law and International Law Symposia.

The *Whittier Journal of Child and Family Advocacy*, a student-run scholarly publication focusing on topics related to juvenile and family law, is one of the few journals of its kind in the nation.

Members of the Moot Court Honors Board and the Trial Advocacy Honors Board utilize written and oral advocacy skills to represent the Law School in regional and national trial and appellate advocacy competitions.

The Student Bar Association's activities include support of various social functions and participation in student-faculty committees for school governance. Numerous other student organizations represent various ethnic groups and legal specialties.

■ Externships and Career Services

Whittier Law School provides assistance to students and alumni in obtaining clerkships, externships, and attorney positions. The Law School offers a variety of externships with trial and appellate judges, governmental agencies, and public interest organizations. The Career Services Office assists in résumé building exercises, career goal identification, and career planning strategies. Additional services include on-campus interviews, a mentor program, panels and symposia on career-related topics, a comprehensive library of career resources, and a mock interview program.

Applicant Profile

Whittier Law School

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	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
165–169	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	
160–164	3	3	6	6	6	5	10	9	5	4	7	7	7	7	6	5	0	0	1	1	51	47		
155–159	10	8	17	16	20	13	36	31	42	35	17	16	15	11	4	4	1	1	3	1	165	136		
150–154	23	17	58	54	80	76	97	86	87	74	59	49	27	18	9	5	1	0	5	4	446	383		
145–149	14	7	42	32	74	47	93	62	58	34	67	32	43	18	11	3	2	0	9	5	413	240		
140–144	5	1	13	1	31	1	47	5	39	4	48	6	15	0	13	1	1	0	11	2	223	21		
135–139	0	0	6	0	5	0	19	0	23	0	22	0	12	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	93	1		
130–134	1	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	9	0	10	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	33	0		
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	5	0		
Total	56	36	142	109	220	143	309	193	266	154	231	110	122	54	51	19	8	1	33	13	1438	832		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.