

## University of Maryland School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

The University of Maryland School of Law was established in 1816, making it one of the oldest law schools in the nation. Currently, its innovative programs, renowned faculty, and superb student body make it one of the liveliest, most vibrant, and diverse law schools today.

Maryland School of Law offers a wide range of course offerings, which incorporates cutting-edge legal issues into a well-established and nationally recognized legal curriculum. The law school offers a variety of highly regarded programs and initiatives including Environmental, Healthcare, Business, and International Law. Additionally, Maryland has an institutional commitment to preparing students for career success, and a welcoming community dedicated to developing each student's talents fully. The law school is also committed to instilling a spirit of public service in all its students and provides unparalleled opportunities for experiential learning in pursuit of the public interest. The law school's new, state-of-the-art facility is ideally located in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, presenting a broad range of educational and career opportunities.

Our students are recruited by many of the nation's most respected law firms. And they assume positions of leadership as lawyers and judges; business executives and community advocates; legislators and policymakers; and other agents of social, political, and economic progress.

Maryland School of Law is fully accredited by the ABA, is a member of the AALS, and has a chapter of the Order of the Coif.

### ■ Community of Students, Faculty, and Alumni

At Maryland School of Law, entering students quickly become part of a supportive community. We are diverse in age, gender, race, academic background, and prior employment, and this diversity is reflected in our students and in our faculty and deans. Our faculty are national leaders in a wide range of subject areas, and they are readily available to support and advise students. Smaller classes and a 11:1 student/faculty ratio enable close working relationships to develop in a professional and intellectually vibrant setting.

Many resources are available to students to ease their transition to law school, including upper-class peer advisers, skill-enhancement sessions, a legal writing center, and one-on-one academic counseling. Students also directly benefit from a wide network of engaged alumni who occupy positions of professional leadership throughout the state, region, and nation. By acting as mentors, volunteer judges, and adjunct faculty, alumni help connect each student's law school experience with the professional life of the surrounding legal community.

### ■ Location

Maryland School of Law's location in the Baltimore-Washington corridor is among our greatest assets. Our state-of-the-art facility sits just a few blocks from Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor and Camden Yards, and—along with the rest of the burgeoning University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus—is playing a vital role in the city's downtown renaissance.

The law school is also a short commute from Capitol Hill and Maryland's capital in Annapolis, providing our students

unique access to all levels of the federal and state government and judiciary. Students take full advantage of our proximity to Washington, the center of the nation's legal institutions and the second largest legal market in the country, pursuing externships and careers with leading national law firms, public interest groups, government agencies, and other organizations of prominence.

Our proximity to the other professional schools on the UMB campus allows us to offer an array of interdisciplinary course and joint-degree programs. These offerings, taught in collaboration with the schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and business, produce sophisticated graduates who are prepared to practice in an environment of increasing complexity.

### ■ Law School Complex and Library

The School of Law and the Thurgood Marshall Law Library occupy a state-of-the-art complex that supports the school's programs integrating classroom and experiential learning. Opened in 2002, the facility boasts three courtrooms, including the Ceremonial Moot Courtroom, where state and federal trial and appellate courts regularly sit in session to hear cases. Our classrooms and courtrooms are equipped with the latest in educational technology, as well as wired and wireless Internet access for student use. In addition to their own notebook computers, students can use public computers located throughout the facility for writing and research.

The Thurgood Marshall Law Library houses a collection of more than 495,000 volumes and equivalents accessible through the online catalog. A staff of 23, including 11 librarians, provides customized reference and consulting services to faculty and students. In addition to LexisNexis and Westlaw, the library offers an extensive array of legal and nonlegal web-based electronic databases. Seating in the library includes carrels, tables in attractive reading rooms, and comfortable lounge areas, all located in spaces full of natural light.

### ■ Curriculum and Specialty Programs

The rigorous core curriculum at Maryland forms the basis for more specialized study through more than 190 elective courses, seminars, independent studies, simulations, clinics, and externships. Also, each student must satisfy an advanced writing requirement by producing a substantial paper based on extensive research. Full-time day students generally complete the Juris Doctor curriculum in three years; part-time day and evening students typically complete the program in four years.

Maryland School of Law is home to several nationally recognized specialty programs. These programs are a magnet for leading faculty from across the country as they provide opportunities for in-depth scholarship and teaching. Three of our specialty programs—Law and Health Care, Environmental Law, and Clinical Law—have established national reputations for excellence. Each of these programs draws on the academic resources of our sister professional schools to provide a rich and interdisciplinary learning experience. Our other specialty areas are no less rigorous and include Advocacy; Business Law; Intellectual Property Law; International and Comparative Law; Legislation and Public Policy; and Women, Leadership, and Equality. Students can focus their studies in other areas as well.

Regardless of what course of study they pursue, students can expect a challenging law school experience that will cultivate depth of understanding and clarity of thought, the hallmarks of the most successful lawyers.

## ■ Clinical Law Program

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Through the Cardin Requirement, named after our alumnus, US Senator Benjamin Cardin, each full-time day student gains hands-on legal experience by representing actual clients who would otherwise lack access to justice. Our legal clinic is among the best and largest teaching law firms in the nation. Student attorneys often represent defendants in misdemeanor cases in Maryland's district courts, as well as work in our community justice efforts. In addition to in-house clinical work, students may gain experience in public and private nonprofit externships in the Baltimore-Washington region.

## ■ Dual Degrees and Interdisciplinary Study

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Today's lawyer must practice in an environment of increasing sophistication. Maryland Law offers several dual-degree programs in partnership with other leading academic institutions in the region. Dual-degree programs include Business Administration, Community Planning, Criminal Justice, Liberal Arts, Pharmacy, Public Policy, Public Health, Public Management, Nursing, Risk and Environmental Assessment, and Social Work.

## ■ Admission

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Maryland School of Law's faculty believe that the quality of legal education is directly affected by the diversity of our students. The admission committee selects applicants who have the greatest potential for succeeding in law school studies and whose background, character, and experience will contribute to the diversity that we believe is important to the law school learning experience and to the future benefit of the community.

The factors we consider in the admissions file evaluation process include geographic origin; cultural and language background; racial, social, disability, or economic barriers overcome; and interpersonal skills as demonstrated by extracurricular pursuits, work, leadership activities, and service or social experiences. The personal statement and letters of recommendation are the primary means for candidates to convey this information.

First-year students are admitted only in the fall. The School of Law uses a rolling admission process, reviewing applications in

the order in which files are completed. Applications should be filed as early as possible after September 1 of the year preceding enrollment and before March 1. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application early; applications completed later may be at a competitive disadvantage. Residency may be a factor in close cases. Applicants are encouraged to visit the school, but interviews are not part of the admission process.

## ■ Student Activities

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Maryland law students participate in a variety of activities. The law school is home to over 30 active and diverse student-run organizations. More than half of our students participate in inter- and intrascholastic advocacy competitions. Students also have the opportunity to gain in-depth writing and editing experience by participating in one of four student-edited scholarly journals.

## ■ Scholarships and Need-based Financial Assistance

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The School of Law offers a number of scholarships as well as a traditional need-based financial aid program. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of grades, test score(s), and evidence of potential for unique contributions to the academic, cocurricular, and student affairs programs. Such potential should be clearly described in the personal statement included with the application for admission. All admitted applicants are automatically considered for law school scholarship awards. Applications for financial aid (FAFSA) should be submitted as soon after January 1 as possible.

## ■ Career Development

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Students at Maryland benefit from extensive connections to the bar, judiciary, business and industry, government, and community organizations in Maryland, Washington, and beyond. Our Career Development Office offers a multitude of expert services and professional resources to help students and alumni launch their legal careers.

Career Development helps law students and graduates develop effective job-search strategies to secure legal employment and experience. In the most recent survey, 98 percent of our 2006 graduates were employed, pursuing advanced degrees, or not seeking immediate employment. Graduates chose a variety of professional positions: 40 percent were in private practice, 25 percent in judicial clerkships, 15 percent in government and other public service, 10 percent in business and industry, 5 percent in public interest organizations, and 5 percent in academia.

## Applicant Profile

The University of Maryland School of Law's admission policy focuses on the academic potential of applicants coupled with a flexible assessment of applicants' talents, experiences, and potential to contribute to the learning of those around them.

Each applicant is evaluated on the basis of all the information available in their file, including a personal statement, letters of recommendation, résumé, advanced degrees, professional accomplishments, and other related information.