

## University of Pittsburgh School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Pitt Law), 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. Pitt Law is located in its own 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, 450,000-volume, open-stack research facility, housed on three floors of the School of Law building. Full of natural light, it contains several study rooms, a computer lab, and ample seating space. The Fawcett Student Commons in the library is a comfortable gathering spot for students, faculty, and staff. 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); the JD/MSW (Social Work); 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

Applicants are reviewed on a rolling notification basis. Pitt Law is highly competitive, and decisions are based upon several factors, with the GPA and LSAT serving as the most important academic factors. When evaluating an undergraduate degree, the committee pays careful attention to the strength of the major field of study, as evidenced by the courses listed on the undergraduate transcript. The school is looking for applicants who have demonstrated the discipline and ability to handle a rigorous and demanding program. The same assessment is made of graduate and professional work. 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—students with various backgrounds and a variety of experiences. Letters of recommendation play an equally important role in this process, as they can reveal the strengths of the academic achievements of the applicant. Résumés are also recommended, to give the admission committee a broader view of the applicant's accomplishments.

■ 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 half of the student body receives merit- or need-based scholarships. Pitt Law also offers a Public Interest Scholarship and has several firm-sponsored scholarships available. Once a student is accepted to Pitt Law, the file goes automatically to our scholarship committee. If you are eligible for a scholarship you will be notified, usually within three weeks of your acceptance. Please visit our website for a complete list and description of all our scholarships.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office provides year-round assistance to Pitt Law 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 2007 was 96 percent.

■ Student Activities

The *Law Review*, the *Journal of Law and Commerce*, and the *Journal of Law and Technology* are among the 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.

■ The City of Pittsburgh

Today Pittsburgh is spectacular—a thriving business center and a high-tech hotbed rated America’s most livable city in 2007! Our campus is at the center of it all. We are a stroll away from wonderfully diverse neighborhoods, acres of parks, scores of restaurants and shops, three major league sports arenas, movies, museums, galleries, dance clubs, coffee houses, riverside cafes, and that’s just the short list. A quick commute on your bike takes you to the nucleus of the law and business community in downtown Pittsburgh. You’ll also find the heart of the cultural district downtown, offering world-class theater, opera, symphony, ballet, and dance. For a law student, Pittsburgh is a lot more than a livable city—it’s a context for building a strong career. There is no finer preparation for law than learning in a setting that gives you a wealth of opportunity to put theory into practice. Pittsburgh is the global headquarters for numerous Fortune 500 corporations, home to one of the nation’s largest medical centers, a hub of public policy interest, and host to more than 2,500 high technology companies—all served by vigorous and highly sophisticated legal counsel. Because Pitt Law is located in the center of this robust society of legal expertise, these same practitioners are accessible to you as mentors in the classroom and models in the field.

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	32	27	25	23	28	19	15	8	12	9	2	1	1	0	2	1	117	88
160–164	101	82	109	82	120	95	65	40	46	23	18	11	5	0	3	0	467	333
155–159	118	58	173	77	175	79	108	43	41	17	19	3	17	2	16	4	667	283
150–154	74	9	119	20	114	23	86	16	27	5	10	3	11	0	9	0	450	76
145–149	24	1	48	4	57	2	38	3	26	3	11	0	12	0	3	1	219	14
Below 145	11	0	32	1	31	2	36	2	35	1	19	0	20	0	8	0	192	6
Total	360	177	506	207	525	220	348	112	187	58	79	18	66	2	41	6	2112	800

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