

Franklin Pierce Law Center

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■ Introduction

Franklin Pierce Law Center is known throughout the world as an innovative leader in legal education, providing its students with the skills to lead and serve, and to meet the emerging needs of a global society. Pierce Law emphasizes individually tailored legal programs and a broad range of learning settings, including lectures and seminars, real-client clinics, independent study, and externships in law firms, in courts, and in private and public agencies. In addition, we promote a community spirit of caring and compassion, with a close working relationship between students and faculty. Self-reliant students who know their own strengths and objectives thrive at Pierce Law and find the focus on personal pride and responsibility more motivating than fear or competition.

Pierce Law is one of the smallest private law schools in the United States. Each entering class numbers approximately 150 students, allowing for a 13.6:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Classes are small, especially after the first year. Seventy-five of the 109 elective courses enroll 35 or fewer students.

Located in New Hampshire's capital city of Concord (45,000 population), Pierce Law is ideally situated one hour from Boston, the Atlantic seacoast, the state's Lakes Region, and the White Mountains.

■ Special Programs

- Intellectual Property—The internationally recognized intellectual and industrial property specialization (patents, licensing, technology transfer, trade secrets, trademarks, cyberlaw, and copyrights) is supported by 12 full-time faculty members, all intellectual property lawyers. Training includes learning to advise clients regarding intellectual property protection, infringement, and technology transfer. Students with technical backgrounds may focus on patent law, many passing the patent bar prior to graduation. Other intellectual property areas do not require a technical background.
- Commerce and Technology Law—The business curriculum prepares students for traditional types of practice and brings new opportunities for students choosing to confront the legal issues involving electronic commerce. The business and e-commerce curriculum also integrates well with the intellectual property curriculum, particularly for students interested in business and legal innovations associated with the Internet.
- Social Justice Institute—This hands-on professional training program prepares students for public interest law in private practice, governmental service, social policy advocacy, and criminal practice. Clinic students represent clients in cases involving misdemeanor and felony defense; predatory lending; bankruptcy and consumer fraud; unemployment compensation; as well as trademark, copyright, and small business transactions. In addition, students have the opportunity to assist in projects with the Institute for Health, Law, and Ethics.
- Criminal Law—Our criminal law curriculum offers courses, individual mentoring, clinics, and externships to prepare students for careers in prosecution or defense. Criminal Practice Clinic students represent clients charged with

misdemeanor and juvenile offenses at the district court level. In the Appellate Defender Program, students prepare briefs for the New Hampshire Supreme Court in criminal cases. Externship opportunities are available in prosecutorial positions at the local, state, and federal level, and in defense positions with law firms and governmental agencies.

- International Criminal Law and Justice—This program is designed to prepare the next generation of lawyers, peacekeepers, policy makers, and law enforcement professionals who will be confronting global issues of criminal law and justice. The program includes a one-week seminar in Washington, DC; explores legal responses to terrorism, counterfeiting, intellectual property crimes, human trafficking; and more.

■ International Summer Institutes in China and Ireland

- The Intellectual Property Summer Institute at Tsinghua University in Beijing offers an overview of China's patent, copyright, and trademark laws, as well as an introduction to some of the major international instruments and institutions regulating international trade and intellectual property.
- The eLaw Summer Institute at University College Cork, Ireland, focuses on law and emerging policy of the information age.

■ Academic Opportunities

The *Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program* is a comprehensive, practice-based program focused on making law students client-ready. Admission to the program is competitive; application is made at the end of the 1L year. Second- and third-year students complete a range of courses, demonstrate their developing professional skills and judgment, and compile a portfolio of work. Students who successfully complete the program will be certified as having passed the New Hampshire bar examination, subject to passing character and fitness requirements.

The Pierce Law *Externship Program* exchanges a full-credit semester in the classroom for a real-life experience working in an active legal position. Externs work with experienced attorneys and judges while under the close supervision of a faculty member.

■ Joint-degree Programs and LLM

Pierce Law offers three dual-degree programs: JD/Master of Laws (LLM) in Intellectual Property, JD/LLM in Commerce and Technology, and JD/LLM in International Criminal Law and Justice. Summer programs enable students to earn additional credits needed to complete joint-degree programs in three years. The three LLM degrees are designed for law graduates who wish to examine the legally sophisticated intellectual property issues that often arise in policymaking and teaching.

■ Student Activities

Students prepare notes and comments for *IDEA: The Intellectual Property Law Review* and *Pierce Law Review*. Students organize and participate in a wide variety of formal

organizations and informal activities and events throughout the year.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office works with students and alumni to find the best match to meet their skills and interests in changing legal markets. The office provides extensive individual counseling and guidance; brings attorneys to campus to provide firsthand information about the practice of law; advises students of all resources through weekly publications and job boards; coordinates the efforts of faculty, staff, and student groups to provide information about opportunities to gain experience; and conducts outreach to employers. More than 75 percent of our graduates secure positions outside New Hampshire. Over 95 percent of our graduates are employed within six months after graduation.

■ Clinics

- Intellectual Property and Business Transaction Clinic
- Administrative Law and Advocacy Clinic
- Pierce Law Innocence Project
- Consumer and Commercial Law Clinic
- Criminal Practice Clinic
- Appellate Defender Program
- Street Law Project
- Intellectual Property Amicus Clinic
- International Technology Transfer Institute

■ Admission

While LSAT scores and grade-point average are factors that must be considered in the decision-making process, neither alone determines admission. Every application receives a thorough and thoughtful review. The candidate's personal statement, letters of recommendation, and résumé are evaluated along with the numbers. Community service, employment during college, and other nonacademic accomplishments are given weight to the extent that they reflect initiative, social responsibility, focus, and maturity.

Applicant Profile

Pierce Law seeks to admit students who will make a contribution to the law school community, to the legal profession, and to society. Admission is based on a whole-person review of each application, including academic ability and aptitude, demonstration of academic success, relevant experience that addresses the school's mission or

areas of excellence, leadership, diversity, moral character, community service, and other qualitative personal attributes. Pierce Law values diverse opinions, backgrounds, and perspectives; this enrichment within the classroom and community is core to the educational experience.