

## University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—William S. Richardson School of Law

2515 Dole Street

Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 808.956.7966; Fax: 808.956.3813

E-mail: lawadm@hawaii.edu; Website: www.law.hawaii.edu

### ■ Introduction

The William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i is located at the foot of beautiful Mānoa Valley; minutes from sandy beaches and lush rain forests, as well as from the economic and legal center of urban Honolulu. The law school offers an excellent academic program with professors committed to scholarship and research who have a national reputation for teaching excellence. The school is noted for its friendly and collegial student body, its accessible faculty, and its rich cultural and ethnic diversity.

Placement after graduation is consistently very high. The school's distinguished alumni serve as leaders in Hawai'i, as well as in national and international arenas. The University of Hawai'i is recognized as a center for environmental law study and international law with an Asian and Pacific focus. The William S. Richardson School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the American Association of Law Schools.

### ■ Programs of Study

The William S. Richardson School of Law offers a three-year, full-time JD program, as well as an evening, part-time JD program. JD students may earn a certificate in Environmental Law, Pacific-Asian Legal Studies, or Pacific-Asian Legal Studies with a specialization in Native Hawaiian Law. Summer courses are available as well as specialized short courses in January (J Term). Visiting law students are particularly welcome in the summer. Richardson also offers a one-year LLM program for foreign lawyers studying American law.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

The library assigns study carrels with wired and wireless Internet access to most students. Seminar/discussion rooms are available for study groups. The air-conditioned classroom building features a moot courtroom for support of clinical education programs and an open courtyard for informal conversations and activities. Law students have full access to all facilities of the university, including the health, counseling, and computing centers, and extensive athletic facilities. The classroom building has wireless Internet access for students, faculty, and staff.

### ■ Pacific-Asian Legal Studies

Enhanced by Hawai'i's location, population, culture, and economic relationships, the law school offers a program in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies (PALS). The program has the twofold purpose of conducting new research and enriching the JD curriculum. A number of faculty have expertise in Pacific/Asian research, teaching, and law reform. Recent course offerings in PALS have included Chinese Business Law, Chinese Law and Society, Pacific Island Legal Systems, Korean Law, Philippine Law, Japanese Law and Society, and US-Japan Business Transactions. The certificate in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies allows students to focus their coursework and to earn the certificate in addition to the JD.

Selected students may do a full semester externship for academic credit with the court systems in certain Pacific Island nations or, with approval, in agencies or entities in Asia or elsewhere. Students may also arrange a semester of study with law faculties in Asia with prior approval.

The Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law was established at the William S. Richardson School of Law under a federal grant administered by the US Department of Education. The center focuses on education, research, community outreach, and the preservation of invaluable historical, legal, and traditional and customary materials. It also offers new courses and supports Native Hawaiian law students as they pursue legal careers and leadership roles. The center also provides opportunities for students to earn a Certificate in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies with a specialization in Native Hawaiian Law.

### ■ Environmental Law Program

Students may focus their elective courses in the area of environmental law and can earn a certificate in Environmental Law along with the JD degree. Emphasis is on freshwater resources, oceans, coastal waters, climate control, and land use—all areas of special interest to Hawai'i and the Pacific.

The University of Hawai'i also has extensive programs in different types of marine research, and the law faculty is particularly interested in ocean law and policy. Law students may elect to combine their JD studies with a university certificate program in Ocean Policy. The university also offers a certificate in Resource Management.

### ■ Clinical Opportunities

All students are required to take at least one clinical course during their law studies, and many students will take more than one. The Clinical Program offers courses that teach and model excellent professional skills and stress a reflective method of looking at lawyering behavior. These courses are taught by full-time faculty, as well as by some of Hawai'i's finest judges and lawyers—who also critique student performances in delivering oral arguments, handling depositions, and negotiating for their clients in simulated sessions and with real clients. Skills taught in the various clinical courses include interviewing, counseling, drafting, fact investigation, negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, motion practice, trial practice, appellate practice, and legal writing.

Current clinical course offerings include Child Welfare Clinic, Defense Clinic, Elder Law Clinic, Environmental Law Clinic, Estate Planning Workshop, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Clinic, Family Law Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Innocence Project, Lawyering Skills Workshop, Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, Mediation Workshop, Native Hawaiian Rights Clinic, Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Pretrial Litigation Clinic, Prosecution Clinic, and Trial Practice Clinic.

## ■ Community Service and Pro Bono

The Pro Bono Program introduces students to pro bono service and allows them to respond directly to unmet needs in the community. Students must volunteer for at least 60 hours of law-related work in one or more agencies or projects approved by the law school pro bono advisor. In the past, students have worked for such public service groups as the Hawai'i Office of Disciplinary Counsel, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Volunteer Legal Services, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Na-Loio, and Earthjustice.

## ■ Admission

Admission is determined by an applicant's academic achievement, aptitude for the study of law, and professional promise. Preference is given to residents of Hawai'i and to nonresidents with strong ties to, or special interest in, Hawai'i, the Asia/Pacific region, environmental law, or other programs in the law school. Approximately 15 to 30 percent of the student body are nonresidents.

Besides LSAT and undergraduate GPA and major, other factors considered include academic work beyond the bachelor's degree, work experience, writing ability, community service, diversity, overcoming hardship, and unusual accomplishments.

Applications from students wishing to transfer, or from those wishing to visit for a semester or two, are considered for both August and January admission.

## ■ Student Activities

Student editorial boards publish the *University of Hawai'i Law Review* and the online *Asian and Pacific Law and Policy Journal*. Students also regularly organize and participate in the moot

court program, including national moot court competitions in international and environmental law. Student teams have performed very well, bringing home national and international titles and awards in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, the National Native American Law Students Moot Court Competition, and the Client Counseling Competition.

Many students are active in a variety of organizations within the school and the Honolulu community, including, for example, Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL); student divisions of the American Bar Association, National Lawyers Guild, and American Trial Lawyers Association; American Inns of Court; Student Bar Association; Phi Delta Phi and Delta Theta Phi International Legal Fraternities; the Pacific Islands and Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Organizations; Association of Women Law Students; and Environmental Law Society. Student affinity groups include the Filipino Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Association, and the 'Ahahui O Hawai'i, an organization of Native Hawaiian law students.

## ■ Career Services

Career counseling and services assist students and alumni in obtaining part-time, summer clerk, or associate positions in both the public and private sectors. Placement emphasis is on Hawai'i and the Asia/Pacific region, and about 85 percent of our graduates remain here immediately upon graduation. On-campus facilities are available for interviews. All large firms in Honolulu and many medium and small firms participate in the fall on-campus interview season for second- and third-year students. Our students are highly successful in obtaining much sought after judicial clerkships upon graduation. Most recent graduating classes have had a greater than 90 percent employment rate six months after graduation.

## Applicant Profile

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—William S. Richardson School of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																				Totals		
	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	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	11
165–169	2	2	10	10	7	6	8	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	33	23	
160–164	22	20	28	26	28	17	32	16	12	4	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	129	84	
155–159	40	28	47	29	76	33	38	12	26	2	20	2	8	1	4	0	0	0	2	1	261	108	
150–154	18	7	44	9	65	13	62	13	37	1	18	4	8	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	257	47	
145–149	17	3	20	3	36	6	36	6	15	1	20	2	8	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	158	21	
140–144	6	0	12	1	11	3	24	1	18	2	12	0	8	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	97	7	
135–139	1	0	4	0	4	0	12	0	7	0	6	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	43	0	
130–134	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	17	0	
125–129	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	109	62	169	81	231	81	218	53	121	11	87	9	39	1	14	0	2	0	19	3	1009	301	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.