

Chapman University School of Law

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■ Introduction

Chapman University School of Law is located in the historic Old Towne district of Orange, California. We are part of the university that is 144 years old. The law school, established in 1995, received full approval by the ABA in 2002 and AALS accreditation in January 2006.

The law school has gained a national reputation for its high-quality faculty, students, and facilities. The law school has focus areas in entertainment law, international law, taxation, environmental/real estate/land use, and advocacy and dispute resolution; joint JD/MBA degrees and joint JD/MFA degrees in film producing; and LLM degrees in taxation and prosecutorial science. We also offer clinical opportunities in the areas of family violence, immigration law, elder law, constitutional law, and appellate practice. Our students have obtained rewarding externship and internship opportunities. The law school's successes have been aided by its location in vibrant and dynamic Orange County.

Affiliation with a well-established university allows for cross-disciplinary engagement, joint degrees, and a lively and engaging intellectual environment beyond the classroom. Chapman University offers an impressive selection of artistic and cultural opportunities for its students.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

Chapman Law has committed itself to building a small, talented, and diverse student body. Total student enrollment in 2008–2009 was approximately 550 law students.

The 2008 entering class consisted of 198 law students. The students were divided into three first-year sections. The Legal Research and Writing course has a maximum of 20 students in each of 9 sections. Currently, about 13 percent of the entering class comes from outside California; that number is expected to increase over the next few years as Chapman's reputation reaches a more national audience. The minority enrollment is 23 percent.

Competition for seats is keen. Approximately 26 percent of applicants in the 2008 applicant pool were admitted.

■ Faculty

Chapman has assembled an impressive law faculty (including five former US Supreme Court clerks) who are excellent teachers, accomplished scholars, and outstanding mentors. Chapman Law's environment is conducive to learning. Students have access to the faculty and frequent opportunities to engage them in both formal and informal settings. Our student-to-faculty ratio remains 10.2 to 1.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The beautiful Donald P. Kennedy Hall opened in 1999, with state-of-the-art learning facilities in its classrooms, law library, and trial and appellate courtrooms.

Library holdings now exceed 348,000 volumes and volume equivalents. The collection is fully accessible to students both in hard copy and through the computer network.

Library carrels and desktops are generous in number, and many are wired for Internet access. Several group study rooms are available for student use and extended research.

Two state-of-the-art courtrooms provide computers, cameras, and electronic blackboards for trial advocacy exercises, competitions, and formal hearings by visiting courts.

■ Special Programs/Clinics/Externships

The law school offers the JD/MBA and JD/MFA programs, affording students the opportunity to earn the equivalent of two accredited professional degrees in four years instead of the typical five. Chapman's George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics is AACSB accredited. Our Dodge College of Film and Media Arts is housed in a new building with the latest digital technology.

About 10 percent of the students choose to focus their electives in one of five certificate areas: entertainment law, international law, tax law, environmental/real estate/land use, or advocacy and dispute resolution. The Tax Program affords students the opportunity to represent claimants against the IRS in the US Tax Court Clinic. The Center for Land Resources allows students to network with practicing professionals. In the Externship Program, students receive placements in the offices of appellate judges, trial judges, district attorneys, and public defenders, where they gain hands-on experience and academic credit.

Clinic offerings include family violence/immigration law, elder law, constitutional litigation, tax law, and appellate practice. Nearly all clinics allow students additional opportunities to represent actual clients in an array of legal settings.

The law school's Academic Achievement Program assists students in the mastery of the skills necessary to become successful law students and productive attorneys. The program includes individualized counseling and instruction, as well as group workshops and peer tutoring.

■ Admission

The School of Law seeks to admit stellar students who are passionately interested in a legal education that will challenge them to grow intellectually, ethically, and professionally. The law school seeks a diverse student body that will make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession. Many variables enter into the decision-making process. The applicant's entire file is considered, and each application is individually reviewed. The Admission Committee reviews the traditional numbers—your academic record and LSAT—but also considers additional indicators of potential success in law school. Such indicators include the nature and rigor of the undergraduate discipline, an upward trend in academic performance, coursework, writing ability, employment history, graduate-level courses taken and degrees earned, scholarly achievement, community and volunteer service, research projects, demonstrated leadership ability, fluency in foreign languages, personal background (including a history of overcoming adversity), and unusual contributions or other maturing experiences.

Electronic applications are required. Two letters of recommendation are required; these should be submitted directly to LSAC. A personal statement and résumé are also required, and they should be submitted with your application.

Applying early is encouraged as the entering class is filled on a rolling basis, and scholarship funds (merit and need) may be exhausted early in the admission cycle. Please follow the application instructions closely. Transfer and Visitor applicants should visit our website.

There is a priority consideration deadline of April 1, 2009, for merit-based scholarships. The application deadline for the fall 2009 entering class is April 15, 2009.

■ Student Curricular and Cocurricular Activities

The law school offers many activities that enrich the academic program and provide important training in leadership. Three journals offer valuable experience in research, writing, and editing. The Student Bar Association administers a full range of programs. Other organizations include, but are not limited to, the Minority Law Students Association, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the Public Interest Law Foundation, the Federalist Society, and the student-run Honor Council.

Externships allow students to earn academic credit while working in a variety of government agencies, judges' chambers, and public interest organizations, developing the practical skills and confidence they will need after graduation.

Chapman offers a range of advocacy experiences, including participation in mock trial, moot court, client counseling, international law, and negotiation competitions. Chapman teams have won regional competitions and have performed competitively in national and international tournaments. The Moot Court Board and the Mock Trial Board administer their programs and provide excellent practical training.

■ Scholarships and Financial Aid

Chapman Law offers a generous merit- and need-based scholarship program. For the 2008 entering class, more than 76 percent of new students received scholarships. After the first

year, law students are eligible to renew their merit scholarships provided they maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above in their classes after the first-year grades are posted. For 2008, over \$4.5 million in scholarship funds were distributed among a student body of approximately 600. This included merit- and need-based scholarships.

Chapman also offers a full range of loan programs to complement students' financial needs, including Stafford loans, Graduate PLUS loans, Perkins loans, and private loans. All students receiving scholarship funds and/or loans should plan to file the FAFSA. International students are eligible for merit scholarships.

■ Career Services

Chapman Law provides students and alumni with comprehensive career services and resources that aid law students in selecting their career direction and reaching their goals. The office is comprised of a Director, two Assistant Directors, and a Recruitment Coordinator. The Career Services office staff facilitates interviews for our students with legal employers during our On-Campus Interviewing Program in both the fall and spring. The office also provides students the opportunity to meet with prominent members of the legal community through frequent panels, a highly successful Attorney Mentor Program, and an extensive Mock Interview Program.

Career Services helps to match students' educational and experiential skills with both traditional and nontraditional employment opportunities. In keeping with the Chapman mission of personalized education, the Career Services Office staff meets with individual students to review résumés and cover letters; to aid in self-assessment and goal orientation; to discuss specific opportunities unique to the student's needs; and to provide training, support, and feedback in all aspects of exploring career options. The office receives regular input from the Career Services Student Advisory Board.

Applicant Profile

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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	2.25-2.49	2.00-2.24	Below 2.00
175-180	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
170-174	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
165-169	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
160-164	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
155-159	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
150-154	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
145-149	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
140-144	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
135-139	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
130-134	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
125-129	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					
120-124	Very Likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely					

Very Likely Likely Possible Unlikely