Law

WVU law students have a passion for justice, an interest in how our legal system contributes to society, and a desire to learn a discipline that is both structured and creative.

West Virginia University College of Law provides students a unique opportunity to attend a small public law school within a nationally recognized research university. Here you can join diverse students from around the globe who come together in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia to experience public legal education with the intimacy of a fine private law school. Small class sizes and an excellent faculty-student ratio tell part of the story but not all.

What makes the WVU law experience different is its culture of excellence. Our faculty, staff, and students are committed to creating a rigorous, inclusive, exciting, and supportive educational community in which individuals can pursue their personal vision of success in the legal profession.

Our faculty members are outstanding teachers, scholars, and leaders in legal education. What distinguishes our faculty from others, however, is the remarkable commitment they have in mentoring students to help them achieve individual goals. The faculty can be found supervising student articles for publication, assisting in obtaining prestigious federal judicial clerkships, or providing guidance for student-led symposia exploring cutting-edge and relevant topics. In addition, whether our faculty members teach corporate securities or civil disobedience, each one exemplifies the duty of a lawyer to serve the public interest.

To fulfill its commitment to individual student success and to improving the profession by producing the leaders of the future, the West Virginia University College of Law has a rapidly-developing curriculum that combines the best of traditional legal education with new courses and opportunities necessary to practice law in a global economy in the 21st-century.

About the College of Law

Mission Statement: Preparing 21st century lawyers and leaders to serve the public, government, and business—both locally and globally—while focusing on justice, ethics, professionalism, and service in a diverse, vibrant and respectful community.

Established: 1878

The West Virginia University College of Law was accredited by the AALS in 1914 and the ABA in 1923.

The West Virginia University College of Law is fully approved by the American Bar Association Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

Since 1952, the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education as the recognized national agency for the accreditation of professional schools of law.

Further information as to the Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools by the American Bar Association may be obtained from the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, 750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611, Phone: (312) 988-6738, Fax: (312) 988-5681, and website: http://www.abanet.org/legaled.

Administration

Dean

• Joyce E. McConnell - LL.M. (Georgetown University Law Center)
  William J. Maier, Jr. Dean and Thomas R. Goodwin Professor of Law

Associate Deans

• Gregory W. Bowman - J.D. (Northwestern University)
  Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor of Law
• Gregory Elkins - Ed.D. (Texas Tech)
  Associate Dean for Administration and Finance
• Anne M. Lofaso - D.Phil. (University of Oxford)
  Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development, Professor of Law

Faculty

Professors of Law

• Gerald G. Ashdown - J.D. (University of Iowa)
  James H. "Buck" and June M. Harless Professor of Law
• Robert M. Bastress - LL.M. (Temple University)
  John W. Fisher, II Professor of Law
• Thomas C. Cady - LL.M. (Georgetown University)
• Vincent P. Cardi - LL.M. (Harvard University)
  Bowles, Rice, McDavid, Graff, and Love Professor of Law
• Charles R. DiSalvo - J.D. (University of Southern California)
  Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law
• James R. Elkins - LL.M. (Yale University)
• John Fisher - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  William J. Maeier, Jr. Dean Emeritus; Robert M. Steptoe and James D. Steptoe Professor of Law
• James J. Friedberg - J.D. (Harvard University)
  Hale J. and Roscoe P. Posten Professor of Law
• Majorie A. McDiarmid - LL.M. (Harvard University)
  Steptoe and Johnson Professor of Law and Technology
• Patrick C. McGinley - J.D. (Duke University)
  Charles H. Haden II Professor of Law
• James A. McLaughlin - J.D. (Ohio State University)
  Robert L. Shuman Professor of Law
• Dale P. Olson - LL.M. (Yale University)
• John E. Taylor - J.D. (University of North Carolina School of Law)
• Grace J. Wigal - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Director of Academic Excellence Program

Associate Professors of Law
• Valena Beety - J.D. (University of Chicago)
• Atiba R. Ellis - J.D. (Duke University)
• Joshua Fershee - J.D. (Tulane University)
• Kendra Fershee - J.D. (Tulane University)
• David L. Krech - J.D. (Cornell University)
  Director of Appellate Advocacy
• Jena Martin - LL.M. (University of Texas)
• Thomas O. Patrick - J.D. (West Virginia University)
• Alison Peck - LL.M. (University of Arkansas)
• William Rhee - J.D. (Northwestern University)
• Camille M. Riley - J.D. (St. Louis University)
• Arthur Rizer - LL.M. (Georgetown University)
• Hollee S. Temple - J.D. (Duke University)
  Director of Legal Research and Writing
• Matthew Titolo - J.D. (University of California)
• Shine (Sean) Tu - J.D. (University of Chicago)
• James Van Nostrand - LL.M. (Pace University)
  Director of the Center for Energy and Sustainable Development
• Elaine W. Wilson - J.D. (Boston University)

Visiting Faculty
• Kelly Behre - J.D. (Washington and Lee University)
• Michael Blumenthal - J.D. (Cornell University)
  Co-Director of the Immigration Law Clinical Practice Group
• Barton Z. Cowan - J.D. (Harvard University)
• Jessica A. Haught - J.D. (West Virginia University)
• Patricia H. Lee - J.D. (Northwestern University)
  Director of the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic
• Bradley A. Smith - J.D. (Harvard University)
Copenhaver Chair

- Larry V. Starcher - J.D. (West Virginia University)
- Suzanne M. Weise - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Director of the Child and Family Law Clinical Practice Group
- Joshua Weishart - J.D. (University of California)

Professors Emeriti

- Forest J. Bowman - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Jackson and Kelly Professor of Law Emeritus
- Franklin D. Cleckley - LL.M. (Harvard University)
- Robert Lathrop
- William O. Morris - J.D. (University of Illinois)