West Virginia University College of 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.

The 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 College of Law experience exceptional 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 supervise student articles for publication, assist in obtaining prestigious federal judicial clerkships, and provide guidance for student-led symposia exploring cutting-edge 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 commitments to individual student success and to improving the profession by producing the leaders of the future, the 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 the global society in the 21st century.

Mission Statement of the College of Law

The College of Law’s mission statement is, “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.”

ADMINISTRATION

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  William J. Maier, Jr. Dean and Professor of Law

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  Interim Associate Dean for Administration, Teaching Professor of Law

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  Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development, Professor of Law

• Elaine Waterhouse Wilson - J.D. (Boston University)
  Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor of Law

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  Student Life

• Stenja McVicker - M.P. Acy (West Virginia University)
  Budget, Finance and Operations

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  Admissions and Student Financial Support

• Heather Spielmaker - J.D. (Western Michigan University Cooley Law School)
  Career Services

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  Interim Director, Continuing Legal Education

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  Law Library
• Jennifer Powell - J.D. (West Virginia University); M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Center for Law and Public Service
• Melanie Stimeling - M.A. (West Virginia University); B.A. (West Virginia Wesleyan College)
  Writing Center
• Keith Walton - B.S. (West Virginia University)
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  Development
• Elissa Momen - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  Enrollment Management and Scholarships

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  Enrollment Management
• Rosalind Lister - M.S.Ed. (Purdue University)
  Career Services

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FINANCIAL AID
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  Associate Director for Enrollment Management and Scholarships

FACULTY

PROFESSORS OF LAW
• Robert M. Bairstress - J.D. (Vanderbilt University); LL.M. (Temple University)
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  Bowles Rice Professor of Law
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  Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law
• James R. Elkins - J.D. (University of Kentucky); LL.M. (Yale University)
• Joshua Fershee - J.D. (Tulane University)
• Kendra Fershee - J.D. (Tulane University)
• James J. Friedberg - J.D. (Harvard University)
  Hale J. and Roscoe P. Posten Professor of Law
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• Jena Martin - J.D. (Howard University); LL. M. (University of Texas)
• Majorie A. McDiarmid - J.D. (Columbia University); LL.M. (Harvard University)
  Steptoe and Johnson Professor of Law and Technology; Director of the Clinical Law Program
• Patrick C. McGinley - J.D. (Duke University)
  Charles H. Haden II Professor of Law
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• Alison Peck - J.D. (Yale Law School); LL.M. (University of Arkansas)
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  Jackson Kelly Professor of Law
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• James Van Nostrand - J.D. (University of Iowa); LL.M. (Pace University)
• Joshua Weishart - J.D. (University of California, Berkeley School of Law)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Priya Baskaran - J.D. (University of Michigan), LL. M. (Georgetown University)
• Valarie Blake - J.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
• Kirsha Trychta - J.D. (Duquesne University School of Law)

LAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CLINICIANS
• Jared Anderson - J.D. (Catholic University of America)
  Supporting Land Use Attorney
• Christy Burnside DeMuth - M.S. (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
  Land Use Planner
• Nathan Fetty - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Managing Attorney
• Katherine Garvey - J.D. (University of Missouri-Kansas City); LL.M. (Vermont Law School)
  Director of the Land Use and Sustainable Development Clinic
• Jason Walls - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Land Conservation Attorney

VISITING FACULTY
• Barton Z. Cowan - J.D. (Harvard University)
• Amy Cyphert - J.D. (Harvard University)
• Larry Starcher - J.D. (West Virginia University)
• Suzanne M. Weise - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Associate Professor, Director of the Child and Family Law Clinic

PROFESSORS EMERITI
• David Hardesty, Jr. - J.D (Harvard University)
  President Emeritus, West Virginia University (1995-2007)
• Gerald G. Ashdown - J.D. (University of Iowa)
  James. H. Buck and June M. Harless Emeritus
• Forest J. Bowman - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Jackson and Kelly Professor of Law Emeritus
• John Fisher - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  William J. Maier, Jr. Dean Emeritus; Robert M. Steptoe and James D. Steptoe Professor of Law Emeritus
• Robert Lathrop - LL.M. (New York University)
  Professor Emeritus
• Thomas O. Patrick - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Professor Emeritus
• Camille M. Riley - J.D. (St. Louis University)
• Grace Wigal - M.A. Marshall University; J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Professor Emeritus

Degree Designation

DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE (J.D.)

The J.D. program forms students’ professional identities as lawyers and provides students with the core legal knowledge and practical skills to pass the bar exam and to serve their clients competently and ethically.
In developing professional identity and values, the College of Law seeks to produce students committed to professional excellence, justice, leadership, public service, global engagement, and lifelong learning. College of Law graduates are trained to be legal problem solvers who possess a solid grasp of the substantive and procedural law of their chosen fields, understand their professional responsibilities and ethical obligations, and have the varied skills needed for successful practice, including: legal analysis, legal writing, legal research, factual investigation, client counseling, negotiation, drafting, and advocacy.

**MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.)**

Our LL.M. programs offer post-J.D. students an opportunity to deepen their subject-matter expertise and skills in particular areas of the law.

**ENGLISH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW**

The LL.M. in Energy & Sustainable Development Law provides lawyers with a deep and broad knowledge of law and policy in the critical areas of energy, environmental protection, and sustainable development. Students will master these areas through course work, writing projects, and a variety of experiential learning opportunities. LL.M. graduates will have the skills necessary to work as lawyers serving energy companies, investors, utilities, manufacturing companies, lawmakers, policymakers, regulators, land use professionals, and environmental organizations.

**FORENSIC JUSTICE**

The LL.M. in Forensic Justice provides working lawyers with a solid grounding in the theory and practice of the forensic sciences and their application in the courts. LL.M. students will gain an understanding of scientific method and of critical areas of forensic science including biological and chemical evidence, impression and trace evidence, and statistics and probability. In addition, students will gain practical experience in working with this evidence in a courtroom setting. The degree will be especially valuable for prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys, enabling those on both sides of the criminal process to ensure that forensic science serves the ultimate goal of justice.

**WHITE-COLLAR FORENSIC JUSTICE**

The White-Collar Forensic Justice LL.M. provides attorneys with foundational expertise and transferable skills in forensic fraud, accounting, and the law. Courses include fraud investigation and examination, data analysis, expert evidence, health care fraud, and analytical methods. The degree is particularly helpful for any attorney who wishes to specialize in white-collar crime or corporate compliance issues.

**Admissions - Doctor of Jurisprudence**

**FIRST-TIME ADMISSIONS**

The following are the essential requirements to apply to law school:

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution,
- Completion of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), and
- Application for admission / Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report.

For additional information, please visit the College of Law Admissions (http://www.law.wvu.edu/admissions/) homepage.

**TRANSFER ADMISSIONS**

A transfer student is a student who has taken some or all of his or her first-year curriculum at another law school and is admitted to earn a J.D. degree at the College of Law. As described more fully below, the College of Law accepts transfer students only from other law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. The College will not accept transfer applicants from law schools that do not award letter grades (or their numerical equivalent) during the first academic year or its equivalent. All candidates who transfer to the College of Law from another ABA-accredited law school must satisfactorily complete courses aggregating at least forty-five credit hours at the College of Law. In addition, a transfer student must earn the last thirty credit hours at the College of Law.

The College of Law will accept transfer credits only for courses where the student earned a grade of C or better. In exceptional circumstances, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may approve the transfer of a small number of pass/fail credits. The Associate Dean will determine the total number of credit hours that will transfer; however, only in exceptional cases will the Associate Dean give credit for more than thirty-two credit hours. The Associate Dean will also determine whether particular courses taken at another law school satisfy specific course requirements at the College of Law. Graded credits at other law schools that transfer to the College of Law will be entered on the student’s College of Law record as pass/fail credits, and hence will not affect the student’s College of Law grade point average.

In order to graduate, all transfer students must obtain a cumulative grade point average of 2.30 or better on courses taken at the College of Law. Transfer students are not eligible for election to Order of the Coif at the College of Law.

The deadline for transfer applications is **July 1**. The College of Law has established the following guidelines for the Enrollment Management Committee to use in reviewing transfer applications:
• In reviewing applications for advanced standing, the Enrollment Management Committee will give preference to West Virginia residents.
• Applicants must have completed at least one academic year of study or its equivalent at the institution from which transfer is being sought. For admission purposes, one year of study or its equivalent is equal to a minimum of twenty-eight credit hours of coursework. The twenty-eight credit hours should ideally include the following coursework, but the College of Law will consider transfer applicants who have a substantial number of the listed courses:
  1. Civil Procedure I & II
  2. Contracts I
  3. Torts I
  4. Constitutional Law
  5. Criminal Law
  6. Property I
  7. Legislation and Regulation
  8. Legal Writing/Research/Analysis courses
• Applications from students seeking to transfer from schools that are not accredited by the ABA will not be accepted under any circumstances. (The applicant may apply as a first-year student.)
• Applications for transfer to the College of Law for the second year will be considered by the Committee on the basis of the following:
  1. The size of the returning second-year class.
  2. The applicant’s grades and/or class rank at her/his law school. Applicants from law schools who do not provide either a GPA or class rank for 1L students will not be considered for transfer.
  3. Whether the applicant would have been admitted to the College of Law in the first year had the applicant applied.
  4. The academic strength of the law school attended by the applying student, including whether it is accredited by the AALS. (ABA accreditation is required.)
  5. Recommendation(s) from a law professor in whose class the applicant was enrolled. (At least one is required.)
  6. Residency of the applicant.
  7. All of those facts, performance records, recommendations, and other matters that the Committee normally considers for applicants to the first-year class, including everything that might implicate the student’s fitness for the practice of law.
  8. Any other activities and experiences of the applicant occurring since the student began law school.
  9. Any other information regarding the applicant that may be considered relevant to success in law school.
• In addition to the aforementioned criteria, applicants must meet the requirements set forth below.
  1. Applicants must conform to all other relevant criteria relating to first-year entering students as found in the admission policy of the West Virginia University College of Law.
  2. Applicants must submit a certified official transcript of their first-year law school grades and class ranking. If class ranking from the law school is unavailable, the applicant must submit sufficient information about grades from the law school attended to make a reasonable estimation of class ranking. No one will be admitted for transfer without class rank (or its reasonable equivalent) based on a full year of law school attendance, as defined above.
  3. Applicants must provide a letter of good standing from the Dean of the law school (or his or her designee) from which the student is transferring.
  4. Applicants must submit a copy of their most recent LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report including a certified transcript of undergraduate school grades and the LSAT writing sample.
  5. Applicants must fully explain any ethical or other problems with admission that may appear in the file.
  6. Applicants must submit the completed file to the Admission Office by July 1 in order to be considered for transfer.
• In considering applications for admission from individuals with credits or degrees from foreign institutions, the Enrollment Management Committee shall have the authority to make any of the below stated decisions with regard to the applicant:
  1. The Committee may admit the applicant as a first-year entering student.
  2. The Committee may admit the applicant with advanced standing by granting credit for specific course work completed at another institution. (AALS Executive Committee Regulations 2.8 and 2.9 prescribe limitations on the award of advanced standing.)
  3. The Committee may admit the applicant as a special student for the purposes of auditing courses or transferring course work to another institution.
  4. The Committee may deny admission to the applicant.
**TRANSIENT ADMISSIONS**

The West Virginia University College of Law accepts transient students only from other law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. A transient student is one who has taken or will take most of his or her work toward a J.D. at another ABA-approved law school and will earn a degree from that institution. Transient students are permitted to earn some credits toward that J.D. while in temporary residence at the West Virginia University College of Law, provided that they obtain permission from their school and from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

**Admissions - LL.M. (Master of Laws)**

**ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The College of Law's LL.M. in Energy & Sustainable Development Law is a source for a high-quality professional legal education and a home for thought leaders in the areas of energy and sustainable development.

Minimum admission requirements for the program are as follows:

- A J.D. from an ABA (American Bar Association) accredited school.
- A J.D. grade point average of at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or other demonstrated indicia of likelihood of success.
- A demonstrated interest in or commitment to the fields of energy and/or sustainable development.

For additional information, please visit the LL.M. in Energy & Sustainable Development Law (http://law.wvu.edu/energy-llm/) homepage.

The College of Law also offers students an opportunity for a dual J.D./LL.M in Energy and Sustainable Development Law. For more information about participating as a dual degree student, please visit the J.D./LL.M homepage. (http://www.law.wvu.edu/academics/academic-programs/dual-degree-programs/jd-llm/)

**FORENSIC JUSTICE**

Minimum admission requirements for the LL.M. in Forensic Justice are as follows:

- A J.D. from an ABA (American Bar Association) accredited school or equivalent.
- A grade point average of at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or other demonstrated indicia of likelihood of success.
- A demonstrated interest or commitment to the fields of science, forensic evidence, and law.

Applicants may include newly graduated J.D. students, professionals (prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges) returning for study after years of practice, or qualified international students.

For additional information, please visit the LL.M. in Forensic Justice (http://law.wvu.edu/forensic-llm/) homepage.

**WHITE COLLAR FORENSIC JUSTICE**

Minimum admission requirements for the LL.M. in White Collar Forensic Justice are as follows:

- A J.D. from an ABA (American Bar Association) accredited school or equivalent.
- A grade point average of at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or other demonstrated indicia of likelihood of success.
- A demonstrated interest or commitment to the fields of white collar crime, business law and/or forensic accounting
- Some familiarity with accounting, as demonstrated by previous accounting courses or practical experience in the field. If neither is present, students agree to matriculate in a non-credit course in accounting that exposes them to working vocabulary and foundations in accounting.

Applicants may include newly graduated J.D. students, professionals (prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges) returning for study after years of practice, or qualified international students.

**Accreditation**

The JD program within the College of Law has specialized accreditation through the Section of Legal Education of the American Bar Association.

The College of Law was established in 1878, accredited by the AALS in 1914, and approved by the ABA in 1923. The 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, 321 N. Clark Street, 21st Floor, Chicago, IL 60654. Phone: (312) 988-6738, Fax: (312) 988-5681. Email: legaled@americanbar.org. Website: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education.html