University Park, PA

Legal Education For A Changing Society

University Park, PA
DEAN, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF LAW, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY HARI M. OSOFSKY

Penn State Law will provide you with a legal education to prepare you for success in a rapidly changing legal profession. Technology, globalization, and the need for crosscutting knowledge are transforming our society and the practice of law. COVID-19 has only accelerated that transition. We are innovating and offering individualized mentoring and career support to help you achieve your goals.

We are committed to Penn State Law being a welcoming and inclusive environment for every member of our community, and to actively combatting bias and inequality at the law school, Penn State, and our broader society. Over 500 alumni, students, faculty, and staff signed the Statement of the Penn State Law and School of International Affairs Community Against Racism, and we developed concrete action steps through active listening that we are implementing and will continue to build upon.

At Penn State Law, you will have all the resources of a world-class public research institution with small classes taught by a faculty of prominent legal scholars and leading practitioners. You can choose to focus your studies in one of our many areas of strength, including advocacy and litigation; antitrust and competition law; arbitration, mediation, and negotiation; corporate law and practice; energy and environmental law; health law; intellectual property; international, foreign, and comparative law; law, science, and technology; national security, military, and veterans; and more. We also prepare our students to lead by exposing them to cutting-edge technology through our Legal-Tech Virtual Lab.

We recognize the importance of learning by doing and treat the broader world as our classroom. Our nine clinics and practicum provide you with a wealth of opportunities to explore practice areas and help underserved communities. Our students have worked on cases considered by the U.S. Supreme Court and have honed their advocacy skills through national and international moot court and trial competitions, including winning the 2019 world championship in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna. Our home, the state-of-the-art Lewis Katz Building, allows you the freedom to explore the world virtually from our classrooms and interview rooms. Our innovative Externships Everywhere program lets you pursue career opportunities anywhere in the world while participating via our advanced distance-learning technology in classes in University Park.

From the moment you choose Penn State Law, you join the Penn State community and have the resources of one of the world’s leading research universities at your fingertips. You can take graduate-level courses, develop an individualized joint degree with one of Penn State’s many nationally ranked graduate programs, or participate in dozens of active law school organizations or hundreds of university-wide student groups. The School of International Affairs is co-located with us in the Katz Building, providing unparalleled opportunities for you to connect your legal education to a cutting-edge global community.

You will launch your career with the support of the world’s largest alumni network, more than 725,000 strong all over the globe. We will connect you to that network through our comprehensive mentoring program, which begins during the admissions process and continues through graduation, and the individualized support of our professional Career Services staff. Our aim is to help you shape a fulfilling career. And when you need a break from studying hard, you can unwind with NCAA Division I and intramural sports, convenient fitness facilities, outdoor activities, arts and cultural events, Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream, and a welcoming environment of more than 46,000 enthusiastic and friendly Penn State students from around the world. Our community truly deserves its name of “Happy Valley.” I invite you to explore our program further here on our website or in person through a visit. We look forward to welcoming you to Penn State Law in University Park.

Hari M. Osofsky
Dean, Distinguished Professor of Law, Professor of International Affairs, and Professor of Geography
THE LEWIS KATZ BUILDING
Penn State Law’s home on the University Park campus is the 114,000-square-foot, LEED-certified Lewis Katz Building.
Legal education for a changing society

Penn State Law is focused on providing students with a legal education that will prepare them for success in the legal jobs of tomorrow.

About Penn State Law

Penn State Law, located on Penn State’s largest campus — University Park — in State College, Pennsylvania, offers the resources of a world-class, public research institution together with challenging and innovative classroom study and ample opportunities for learning by doing. A Penn State Law legal education comprises:

- Traditional doctrinal law courses and innovative courses that reflect the changing legal landscape
- The ability to participate in one of the school’s nine innovative law clinics and practicum
- Interdisciplinary study opportunities, including up to 12 credits in graduate-level courses and joint degree programs with a custom joint degree option
- Comprehensive mentoring that begins before classes start
- Commitment to welcoming a diverse community from around the country and the world
- Personalized career support to help students find jobs in their geographically-chosen field of practice
- Exposure to emerging technologies in the legal field and the legal questions posed by new technology
- The opportunity to complete an externship in practically any location around the world
- Membership in a built-in professional network of more than 725,000 Penn State alumni worldwide
The Penn State Law J.D. Program

The J.D. program at Penn State Law is a three-year, six-semester course of study that provides a comprehensive foundation in law and reflects the broad research and practice expertise of its faculty.

First-Year Courses Include:
- Applied Legal Analysis and Writing
- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law

- Legal Research Tools and Strategies
- Criminal Procedure
- Property
- Torts

FACULTY INSIGHT

“Law school is an opportunity to unlock a treasure trove of interdisciplinary learning, while thinking deeply about our legal system’s macro and micro operations. As a Penn State graduate (BA ’90), I believe our law school offers the perfect space to engage in a uniquely loyal community with global reach. My students learn about social justice and power structures along with practical problem-solving approaches to help their clients meet their goals.”

Jill C. Engle
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Clinical Law, Penn State Law
The Penn State Law faculty is a group of diverse teachers and dedicated contributors to the legal profession and society. They are seasoned attorneys and judges, accomplished researchers, and authors—all experts in their fields, and all passionate about teaching the next generation of lawyers.

**Commitment to EXCELLENCE**

The Penn State Law faculty is a group of diverse teachers and dedicated contributors to the legal profession and society. They are seasoned attorneys and judges, accomplished researchers, and authors—all experts in their fields, and all passionate about teaching the next generation of lawyers.

**FACULTY INSIGHT**

“Diversity at Penn State Law is about making every student feel equally welcome and supported. Each unique perspective on a case helps a class better understand the law, and cultural competency is an incredibly important skill for practicing attorneys. And part of what makes our students such a close-knit community is that they appreciate their differences while working toward shared goals like studying for the bar exam or writing their first brief.”

Dara E. Purvis
Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships
Professor of Law

**PENN STATE LAW’S DEDICATED FACULTY INCLUDES:**

- the authors of more than 12 textbooks used in law school classrooms across the country;
- two sitting federal appeals court judges, including the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit;
- a former vice admiral and the 41st judge advocate general of the U.S. Navy;
- legal scholars with dual appointments at leading European law schools;
- a former general counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives;
- the general counsel of Penn State;
- former partners in top law firms; and
- consultants, advisers, and former attorneys for the U.N., the European Union, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Trade Commission.
LARA B. FOWLER  
**Senior Lecturer, Penn State Law**  
*Affiliate Faculty, School of International Affairs*

“In both my substantive classes like water law and energy law, as well as my experiential classes, like environmental mediation and negotiation/dispute resolution design, I help my students understand the real world dynamics of topics through a mix of readings, field trips, and role plays or other practical experiences. Past classes have participated in Penn State’s Sustainable Communities Collaborative, a process that matches class research with communities needing help.”

Professor Fowler is an attorney and mediator who focuses on environmental, energy, and natural resource law, with a specific focus on water related issues. She has a joint appointment between Penn State Law and the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment, and in 2019-20, she spent time at Uppsala University in Sweden as part of a U.S. Fulbright Scholar award.

SHOBA SIVAPRASAD WADHIA  
**Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar, Clinical Professor of Law, Director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

“In my classroom, students learn the immigration statute and how the immigration process works, but acquiring knowledge is not my only goal. I want students to understand the human dimension of immigration law and use the law as a tool to improve individual access to justice and for broader social change.”

Professor Wadhia is one of the nation’s leading scholars on the role of prosecutorial discretion in immigration law. She teaches courses in immigration and asylum and refugee law, and is the founding director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic. She frequently consults with the media and policymakers regarding immigration issues.

KIT KINPORTS  
**Polisher Family Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Professor of Law**

“I am committed to teaching and trying to use the law to make a difference in the lives of real people. When I come into the classroom each day, my goal is to engage my students and encourage them to participate in the discussion so that they can teach themselves and each other how to ‘think like lawyers.’”

Professor Kinports, a former clerk for Justice Harry Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Abner Mikva of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, is a leading scholar of feminist jurisprudence, criminal law, and federalism, and is an award-winning teacher.

SAMUEL THOMPSON JR.  
**Arthur Weiss Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Professor of Law**

“Most law students are surprised to learn that the study of federal tax law is not about accounting. It requires careful analysis of tax laws, regulations, and judicial opinions, guided by an understanding and evaluation of the policies behind the laws.”

Professor Thompson is working to shape our tax laws as the author of 16 books and more than 75 articles on corporate and international tax, corporate governance, and antitrust law. His teaching interests focus on the corporate, securities, tax, and antitrust aspects of mergers and acquisitions as well as international tax, investment banking, taxation of business entities, and economic growth policy.

MEGAN WRIGHT  
**Assistant Professor of Law, Medicine, and Sociology; Affiliate Faculty, Rock Ethics Institute, College of the Liberal Arts; Affiliate Faculty, Bioethics Program, College of the Liberal Arts**

“There is an urgent need for skilled health lawyers and policymakers. In my student-centered health law classes, we address the legal, policy, and ethical issues in the rapidly changing field of healthcare finance and delivery.”

Professor Wright joined Penn State from Weill Cornell Medical College, where she was a postdoctoral associate of medical ethics. Concurrently, she served as a research fellow and senior adviser to the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury Project at the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School.
Penn State Law's administrative law offerings allow students to explore the powers granted to regulatory agencies and put that knowledge to work in a variety of clinics and externships, including in Washington, D.C., positioning them for jobs in government agencies and in administrative law practice.

- Administrative Law
- Civil Rights Appellate Clinic
- Federal Courts
- Federal Regulatory & Legislative Practice Seminar
- Federal Securities Regulation
- Telecommunications Law & Regulation
- Veterans & Servicemembers Legal Clinic

Advocacy and Litigation

To prepare Penn State Law students to be compelling advocates and litigators, they learn basic legal communication skills in their first year then have the opportunity to continue with upper-level coursework and advocacy in law clinics.

- Class Actions
- Civil Pre-Trial Practice & Advocacy
- Federal Court Practice
- International Litigation & Arbitration
- Trial Advocacy
- Winning Written Advocacy

Antitrust and Competition Law

Through Penn State Law's antitrust curriculum, law students will explore how laws and policies in the United States and around the world set the rules for fair competition. The law school also offers research opportunities in the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions and externships through the Semester in Washington, D.C.

- Antitrust
- Business Planning for Mergers & Acquisitions
- Copyrights
- Federal Securities Regulation
- International Trade Law
- Legal & Business Issues in Sports Marketing Seminar

Arbitration, Mediation, and Negotiation

Penn State Law's curriculum in alternative dispute resolution prepares students to represent clients in a host of non-judicial resolution proceedings, from mediation to international commercial arbitration. Supplemental experiential opportunities abound in this area of study.

- Global Lawyering in the 21st Century
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Litigation & Arbitration
- The U.S. Law of Arbitration
- Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Design
- Mediation of Environmental & Public Conflicts

Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Law

In addition to arts, sports and entertainment law coursework, Penn State Law offers an Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Law Clinic and research opportunities with the Institute for Sports Law, Policy, and Research.

- Introduction to Intellectual Property
- Law of Artistic Persons & Properties Seminar
- Sports Law
- Representing the Professional Athlete
- Sports and Entertainment Law
- Trademarks

Banking and Financial Regulation

Penn State Law's banking and financial curriculum explores how laws, policies, and regulations are designed to balance healthy business growth with protecting the economy and consumers.

- Bankruptcy
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Federal Securities Regulation
- International Financial Law Seminar
- Law & Finance
- Regulation of Financial Institutions
Commercial Law
Penn State Law students learn about laws governing business transactions and how lawyers help their clients—whether they’re global corporations or fledgling startups—solve problems to increase the value of their businesses.

- Business & Financial Concepts
- Law Firm & Legal Careers
- Payment Systems & Financial Concepts
- Representing the Entrepreneur
- Sales
- Secured Transactions

Corporate Law and Practice
Penn State Law’s corporate law curriculum explores the creation and maintenance of various business entities, from the buying and selling of corporate shares and assets to tax consequences and ethical issues.

- Business Planning for Mergers & Acquisitions
- Corporate & Partnership Tax
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- The Modern In-House Counsel
- Policy Issues in Corporate Crime Seminar

Constitutional Law and Civil Rights
Few areas of the law are as pervasive as constitutional law, and Penn State Law students in this field of study explore some of the most important issues facing our nation today.

- Constitutional Interpretation Seminar
- Constitutional Law I & II
- Election Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Higher Education Law & Practice
- The Supreme Court Seminar

Criminal Law
An understanding of criminal law is crucial for any future attorney, but for aspiring prosecutors and defense attorneys, Penn State Law offers classroom and clinical work that opens doors to law firms and district attorney and public defender offices.

- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Cybercrime
- Indigent Criminal Justice Practicum
- International Criminal Law
- White-Collar Crime

Energy and Environmental Law
Penn State Law’s energy and environmental law policy courses include offerings that emphasize the interdisciplinary and international nature of the field.

- Energy Law & Policy
- Environmental Law
- Mediation of Environmental & Public Conflicts
- Oil and Gas Law
- Rural Economic Development Clinic
- Water Law & Policy
Families, Children, and the Law
Penn State Law provides a robust curriculum in family law, which has a strong commitment to addressing domestic violence.

- Children and the Law
- Children’s Law Externships
- Family Law
- Family Law Clinic
- Law & Sexuality
- Wills, Trusts, & Estates

Health Law
With several joint J.D./master’s degree programs, uniquely focused specialty coursework, and growing collaborations with the Penn State Colleges of Medicine and Nursing, Penn State Law is preparing students to fill the increased demand for professionals in compliance, legal policy, and regulatory positions in the health care field.

- Bioethics & Law
- Food & Drug Regulation
- Insurance Law
- Introduction to Health Law
- Law & Medicine
- Public Health Law

Immigration and Migration
The demand for immigration attorneys has never been greater as courts, law enforcement, policymakers, and citizens and noncitizens grapple with changing immigration laws. Penn State Law offers relevant coursework and a clinic dedicated to immigrants’ rights.

- Asylum & Refugee Law
- Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
- Immigration Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Human Rights

Intellectual Property
As technology and globalization rapidly alter how we communicate, do business, and live our lives, the need to protect intellectual property grows considerably. Penn State Law’s IP curriculum and Intellectual Property Clinic prepare students in this growing field.

- Advanced Topics in Global Patent Prosecution
- Copyrights
- Internet Law
- Licensing of Intellectual Property
- Representing the Entrepreneur
- Trademarks

International, Foreign, and Comparative Law
For law students who are interested in careers in international public policy or business, Penn State Law offers a curriculum that explores how the laws of global governing bodies and sovereign states interact and differ worldwide. The law school's close connection to the School of International Affairs (SIA) means law students can easily take SIA courses or pursue a joint J.D./Master of International Affairs.

- European Union Law
- Global Lawyering in the 21st Century
- International Development Clinic
- International Human Rights
- International Trade Law
- Multinational Corporations

Labor and Employment Law
Penn State Law offers a variety of coursework, programming, and experiential learning opportunities for students who want to pursue a career in labor and employment law, including a joint J.D./M.S. degree program in human resources and employment relations as well as an appellate legal clinic that deals primarily with labor issues before the federal courts.

- Civil Rights Appellate Clinic
- Employment Discrimination
- The Employment Relationship
- Labor Law
- Law & Sexuality
- Workers’ Compensation Law

Law, Science, and Technology
Innovation in science and technology is changing our society and changing the practice of law, and Penn State Law is on the leading edge of these advancements with a course of study that explores the interconnections of science, technology, and the law.

- Bioethics & Law
- Cybercrime
- Electronic Evidence
- Law & Medicine
- Information Security Law
- Telecommunications Law & Regulation
National Security, Military, and Veterans

Penn State is renowned for its work on behalf of the military and our veterans, and at Penn State Law that takes the form of a robust national security curriculum, deep connections to the Armed Forces JAG Corps, and a veterans law clinic that fights for the rights of those who serve our country.

- The Military, Law, & National Security Seminar
- National Security Law (Foundations)
- National Security Law (Simulation)
- Veterans & Servicemembers Legal Clinic
- Veterans Benefits Law

Public Interest Law

Penn State Law’s public interest curriculum provides students with training in the substance and skills necessary to advocate for the civil, political, and economic rights of individuals on a local, national, and international scale.

- Children and the Law
- Critical Race & Feminist Legal Theory
- Indigent Criminal Justice Practicum
- Law & Sexuality
- Rural Economic Development Clinic
- Street Law

Taxation

Penn State Law students examine an array of transactions for which the tax consequences are significant, including mergers and acquisitions, international business contracts, and internal corporate and partnership restructuring. In the Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions, students can dig deeper into how tax laws affect business transactions.

- Basic Federal Income Taxation
- Corporate & Partnership Tax
- Federal Taxation of Domestic & International Business Transactions
- International Tax
- Tax Policy Seminar

STUDENT INSIGHT

“Having taken both criminal law and criminal procedure during my 1L year, something that sets Penn State apart, gave me an incredible base knowledge which allowed me to hit the ground running when faced with the complicated criminal proceedings that take place at the federal level during my internship. More than anything, my first year of school at Penn State Law taught me how to think in a way that works for me. Even when faced with statutes and problems I had never seen before, I was able to break them down and use the tools I gained during my first year courses to find solutions piece by piece.”

Shane Kaliszewski ’22
Intern, Summer 2020
U.S. Dept. of Justice, U.S. Attorney’s Office (Honolulu, Hawaii)
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Clinics and Practicum

Penn State Law’s legal clinics allow students to work on real legal matters under the supervision of the clinics’ faculty direction. Several of the law school’s clinics leverage the interdisciplinary strengths of Penn State by partnering with other Penn State academic units to replicate the true multidisciplinary nature of legal practice.

Arts, Sports & Entertainment Law Clinic
Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
Civil Rights Appellate Clinic
Entrepreneur Assistance Clinic
Family Law Clinic
Indigent Criminal Justice Practicum

Intellectual Property Clinic
International Sustainable Development Projects Clinic
Rural Economic Development Clinic
Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic

Visit pennstatelaw.psu.edu/clinics for more information on the clinics and their most recent accomplishments.

ALUMNA INSIGHT

“In the fall semester of my 3L year, I had the opportunity to work as an extern for the leading international arbitration practice in the world, at White & Case, in their Paris office. While working full time at White & Case, I was also able to receive academic credit through the Externships Everywhere program. I didn’t know what arbitration was prior to coming to Penn State Law. However, in my 1L year, I participated in the minority mentorship program and Professor Catherine Rogers became my mentor. As one of the foremost academic experts in the field of international arbitration, she introduced me to arbitration and helped me carve out a career path that was energizing, cosmopolitan, challenging and needed to be penetrated by diverse attorneys, such as myself. She encouraged me to participate in the Vis Moot International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition – which Penn State Law went on to win – referred me to White & Case and wrote my letter of recommendation. I would not have been able to experience such a defining academic and professional opportunity without the guidance and support of mentors like Professor Rogers.”

Alice Gyamfi ’20
Associate
DLA Piper
New York, NY
Law Review and Journals

Law Review and Journal service provides students with invaluable experience and scholarly legal research, writing, and analysis. In addition to researching and writing their own articles, students work closely with leading academics on their scholarly articles. Penn State Law students edit and publish three scholarly publications:

- The Penn State Law Review
- The Arbitration Law Review
- The Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs

Moot Court & National Trial Competitions

Penn State Law students compete in a variety of moot court and trial competitions across the U.S. and internationally:

- National Black Law Students Association’s Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition
- John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition
- International Law Students Association’s Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
- Tulane University Law School’s Mardi Gras Sports Law Invitational
- Robert F. Wagner National Labor & Employment Law Moot Court Competition
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria
- American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- National Trial Competition, hosted by the American College of Trial Lawyers
- Trial Advocacy Competition, hosted by the American Association for Justice

Research Centers

Penn State Law’s research centers engage faculty, students, and practitioners in the study of law and policy, allowing students to gain advanced knowledge in specific areas of the law. The law school also plays a leadership role in collaborative university-wide centers in energy law, national security, artificial intelligence, and immersive experiences.

- The Center for Agricultural and Shale Law
- The Center for the Study of Mergers and Acquisitions
- The Institute of Arbitration Law and Practice
- The Institute for Sports Law, Policy, and Research

Penn State Law Wins Championship @ 2019 Willem C. Vis International Moot

The Penn State Law Vis Moot team, competing against 372 teams from 87 countries, took top prize in the international commercial law and arbitration moot court competition—the first time in 15 years a U.S. team was victorious.

Penn State Law Phi Alpha Delta Mock Trial Team Wins Competition in 2020

The 2020 mock trial team placed 3rd overall in the 28 team competition in March, 2020 -- and they are all 1Ls! Congrats to Jake Deleers, Haley Loquercio, Rachael Rousseau-Shander, and Haley Walker, as well as their 3L coaches, Sam Blakely and Amber Morris!
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Extern anywhere in the world for class credit!

Externships Everywhere

Through Penn State Law’s unique Externships Everywhere program, law students can spend a semester working in an approved externship anywhere in the world without interrupting their studies or delaying graduation.

The program provides second- and third-year law students the opportunity to spend a semester away from University Park, working in an approved externship with a state or federal judge, government agency, public interest/nonprofit organization, business, or law firm. Plus, participants may have the opportunity to earn up to three more credits through independent study or digital learning, with administrative approval.

Traditional Externships

Penn State Law also offers an array of local and regional externship programs that allow students to continue taking courses while gaining vital practical experience outside of the classroom. Externship opportunities include:

- Federal Government Placements
- Federal Judicial Placements
- Penn State Administration Placements
- Public Interest and Nonprofit Placements
- State Government Placements
Penn State Law students who participate in the Washington Program work approximately 35 hours per week at an approved externship and attend a weekly seminar on federal regulatory and legislative practice. Students are encouraged to identify externships related to their prior studies at the law school and their future career goals. The program is facilitated by Stanley Brand, Distinguished Fellow in Law and Government at Penn State Law and a prominent Washington attorney. Brand previously served as general counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives and, in private practice, he has had a succession of high-profile political and public corruption cases and clients. The weekly seminar course meets in Brand’s office building in downtown Washington.

Potential Externship Placements Include:

- AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly
- American Bar Association, Government Affairs Office
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of State
- Department of Treasury
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Federal Communications Commission
- House Committee on Means and Ways
- Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- National Labor Relations Board
- Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Office of Special Counsel
- U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia

**ALUMNUS INSIGHT**

“In both internships, the judge was not extremely explicit in what should go into an internal memo and how it should be formatted. Upon my first memo assignment, I immediately went back and looked at my Applied Legal Analysis & Writing internal memo assignment and used it as a starting point. It was extremely helpful and was critical to building my confidence in my externship.”

David Reimel ’20
Intern for the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender
Denver, Colorado
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY AT PENN STATE

Customize your legal education with courses or joint degrees from programs across campus.

Graduate Coursework
Penn State Law students can customize their legal education by applying up to 12 course credits from any graduate discipline toward their J.D. requirements.

Joint Degree Programs
Penn State Law offers several established joint degree programs, as well as the opportunity for students to design their own custom joint degree program, so that they may earn a J.D. and a master's or Ph.D. at Penn State at the same time.

Custom Joint Degree Programs
Penn State Law has partnered with the University’s Graduate School in a program that allows law students to craft an individualized joint degree that combines a J.D. with potentially any master’s or Ph.D. at Penn State.

Established Joint Degree Programs
These joint degree programs generally allow students to complete a J.D. and master's or Ph.D. on an accelerated timeframe. Opportunities include:

Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications  
J.D./Master of Arts in Media Studies

College of Education  
J.D./Master of Arts in Educational Theory and Policy  
J.D./Doctor of Educational Theory and Policy (Ph.D.)  
J.D./Master of Education in Higher Education  
J.D./Doctor of Higher Education (Ph.D./D.Ed.)  
J.D./Master of Educational Leadership  
J.D./Doctor of Educational Leadership (Ph.D./D.Ed.)

College of Health and Human Development  
J.D./Master of Health Administration

College of the Liberal Arts  
J.D./Master of Science, Human Resources & Employment Relations

Smeal College of Business  
J.D./Master of Business Administration

School of International Affairs  
J.D./Master of International Affairs

Further Interdisciplinary Opportunities
For more information about opportunities to study in a law-related area of interest to you, please contact the Penn State Law Admissions Office at: admissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu.

ALUMNUS INSIGHT

“...There are many benefits to a joint J.D./M.I.A. degree, but the biggest benefits are the intangible ones. I’m learning to think like both a lawyer and a diplomat. I’m learning the logic of law and how it relates to the complexity of international business and geopolitics. And when I graduate, I’ll walk away with two sets of skills: those of a lawyer, and those of a scholar and practitioner of international affairs.”

Chuck Deibel ‘20  
J.D./M.I.A.  
Army JAG Corps (Starting in 2021)
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations shape the Penn State Law experience by sponsoring social activities, volunteering with community organizations, bringing guest speakers to campus, and allowing students to reflect their diverse backgrounds and beliefs, explore shared interests, and advance common causes.

Penn State Law has student organizations for nearly every affinity and interest, and the Student Bar Association is flexible in launching new groups. A sampling of student organizations includes:

- Advocacy and Litigation Society
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Family Law Society
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Legal Society
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Minority Law Students Association
- Military Law Caucus
- Muslim Student Society
- OutLaw
- Penn State International Arbitration Group
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Phi Delta Phi
- Public Interest Law Fund
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Women’s Law Caucus

Many More Opportunities
For a complete list of Penn State Law student organizations, visit: pennstatelaw.psu.edu/studentorgs

ALUMNUS INSIGHT

“Penn State Law gave me the skills I needed to not only pass the Bar Exam, but also to effectively go directly into practice. In addition to individualized attention from professors renowned in their respective fields, Penn State Law’s Student and Career Services Departments are there for you every step of the way up to and even after graduation. Further, becoming a Penn State student means joining the ranks of the largest and most cohesive Alumni Association in the world.”

Fred Lokuta ’18
Associate
Burns White Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
INTERNATIONAL STUDY

Penn State Law offers a variety of courses and programs for students to gain a global perspective on law.

Penn State School of International Affairs
The Penn State School of International Affairs (SIA) is located in the same building as Penn State Law, so law students can conveniently take SIA courses or pursue a joint J.D./Master of International Affairs.

Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs
The Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs (JLIA) is a digital, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, jointly published by Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs.

Semester Study and Work Abroad
Penn State Law students may pursue Fulbright-funded study abroad or choose from several semester study or work abroad programs offered in collaboration with leading universities in China, Hungary, India, Italy, Norway, and more.

Foreign Language Study
Law students can master a foreign language through Penn State courses or free online language immersion courses in more than 20 languages. Spanish-proficient students can acquire the skills necessary for bilingual legal practice in the course in Spanish and Bilingual Communication for Lawyers.

A Global Community
Penn State Law’s LL.M. program attracts accomplished lawyers from all over the world, These students are fully integrated into the learning community and at Penn State Law and their presence enriches the global perspectives of all students.

STUDENT INSIGHT

“My experience in CIRC has inspired me to pursue a career committed to advocacy. Through my role in CIRC, I am learning about client-centered representation and “community lawyering,” as Dean Wadhia calls it. I never expected such a transformative professional experience while I was a student. Because of CIRC, I feel better prepared to tackle the real world after graduation as an immigration attorney!”

Bianca Gutierrez ’22
Penn State Law
LEGAL TECHNOLOGY

Penn State Law is at the forefront of the legal-tech movement, with an innovative lab that teaches law students how technology is changing legal practice, and advanced audiovisual telecommunications tools to allow for distance learning.

Legal-Tech Virtual Lab

Drawing on Penn State’s extensive strengths in cyber, information sciences, and technological advancement, Penn State Law’s Legal-Tech Virtual Lab trains law students in groundbreaking technologies being implemented in today’s legal practice, while exploring the legal questions surrounding emerging technologies in society.

Working with leading legal-tech companies, law firms, and other corporate partners, the lab offers Penn State Law students hands-on experience in emerging legal technology, such as AI-powered legal research and contract drafting tools. It also helps students assess and develop their basic technology skills and learn to use client management systems and eDiscovery tools. The lab prepares our law students to lead by providing them with practical experience that sets them apart in the eyes of employers while enhancing their ability to thrive in a rapidly changing practice environment.

State-of-the-Art Telecommunications

Every classroom, interview room, and nearly every meeting space in Penn State Law’s Lewis Katz Building is equipped with modern, high-definition teleconferencing technology, allowing Penn State Law students to access a world of information and connections from University Park. This technology allows law students to:

- beam into classes while completing externships away from campus;
- interact with guest speakers from around the world;
- interview remotely with employers; and
- reference lecture recordings to review what happened in class.
CAREER SERVICES

Partners in Your Success

Penn State Law’s Career Services Office offers a dynamic menu of programs and individual counseling sessions to assist students in identifying and achieving their career goals.

- Individualized career counseling
- On-campus interviews with top law firms
- Job fairs in major regional markets
- Interview prep
- Special events on campus for students/employers
- Résumé review
- More than 1,500 job postings annually

Comprehensive Mentoring

From the time they commit to Penn State Law, incoming students are matched with mentors in the legal field so they can immediately begin making professional connections and learning from successful practitioners before setting foot on campus. The Mentorship Program refines these mentorship matches throughout law school so that students launch their careers through connections with professionals working where they want to live and in their practice areas of interest. The Minority Mentor Program matches students from groups that are typically underrepresented in law school with Penn State Law faculty and administrators as well as practicing attorneys to help the students achieve academic success and emotional well-being during law school.

CAREERS IN THE LAW

Now entering its fifth year, the CSO’s flagship program, Careers in the Law, draws an average of 60 attorneys from around 30 different practice areas to the Katz Building for an information fair & networking reception in the spring. This event provides all Penn State Law in University Park students the opportunity to explore possible career paths, gaining knowledge & insight from experienced law professionals in their respective fields.

EMPLOYMENT DATA

Job Hotspots

The number of states where our graduates worked (2018-2020).

Number of foreign countries where our graduates were employed from 2017-2019, including: Canada, China, England, Guam, Sweden, and Taiwan.

Industry Profile

- Private Practice: 50%
- Government: 19%
- Judicial Clerkships: 17%
- Business/Industry: 7%
- Public Interest: 3%
- Academia: 3%

Full Time Employment

80.42% of the class of 2019 secured full-time, long-term employment that either requires a J.D. or in which a J.D. is preferred.
Where Our Grads Go

Penn State Law graduates pursue careers in a vast array of fields. Here is a snapshot of where some members of our class of 2018 and 2019 began working after graduation:

- International, national, and regional law firms like Crowell & Moring (Los Angeles, CA); Dechert (Philadelphia, PA); Dentons Cohen & Grigsby (Pittsburgh, PA); Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman (New York, NY); Reed Smith (Pittsburgh, PA); Sullivan and Cromwell (New York, NY); Cohen Seglias (Philadelphia, PA); Cozen O’Connor (Philadelphia, PA); Morris Nichols (Wilmington, DE); Potter Anderson (Wilmington, DE); Wilson Elser (White Plains, NY); and Van Ness Feldman (Washington, DC).

- Boutique and smaller firms in cities like Anchorage, AK; Anniston, AL; Calabasas, CA; Chesterfield, VA; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Erie, PA; Frederick, MD; Germantown, MD; Glendale, CA; Greenville, SC; Harrisburg, PA; Howell, MI; Garden City, NY; Kalispell, MT; Miami, FL; New York City, NY; Norcross, GA; Parkersburg, WV; Perkasie, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; Rockville, MD; Ronkonkoma, NY; and Tampa, FL.

- Federal government units like the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Internal Revenue Service.

- Judicial Clerkships in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nebraska Court of Appeals, Delaware Superior Court, PA Court of Common Pleas, and New Jersey Superior Court.

- Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

- Companies like Ernst & Young, Alliant Group, Phoenix Contact, Mobile Programming LLC, and Abundance Wealth Management.

- Prosecutors’ and defenders’ offices in Alapaha, GA; Bronx, NY; Brooklyn, NY; Lewistown, PA; Louisville, IL; Mercer, PA; New York City, NY; Twelfth Judicial District of New Mexico; and Williamsport, PA.

- Other opportunities like Agency Attorney for NYC Family Court Administration of Children’s Services; the George Mason University Title IX Office; and the New Hampshire Department of Justice.
DIVERSITY

Diversity enriches every aspect of life at Penn State, and Penn State Law supports initiatives that foster understanding and acceptance of differences—differences in thought, background, age, life experience, gender, race, abilities, religion, and culture. Students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds and experiences enrich the Penn State Law learning community by providing multiple perspectives and divergent views. We believe in facilitating open discussions, integrating diversity into coursework, and celebrating our differences.

Action Steps to Support Anti-Racism at Penn State Law

Penn State Law is committed to ongoing work to advance concrete action on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and anti-racism. The Penn State Law community is committed to moving these steps forward with collaborative work that includes:

- An academic concentration in Race, Law, and Equity
- Library resources on Understanding and Dismantling Racism
- New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion website featuring campus and educational resources
- Establishment of four new diversity scholarships: the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship, Congressman John Lewis Educational Equity Scholarship Fund, and Professor Emerita Beth Farmer Educational Equity Scholarship Fund
- Commitment to a welcoming and inclusive environment that treats all people equally and actively counters bias in all forms, and progress on 15 concrete action steps on diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Statement of the Penn State Law & School of International Affairs Community Against Racism signed by more than 500 faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- Student affinity groups that include: Black Law Student Association, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Latinx Law Student Association, Muslim Legal Society, South Asian Law Students Association, Outlaw, and more
- A successful Minority Mentor Program that pairs law students with faculty and alumni mentors to promote their success in law school and the legal profession

Minority Mentor Program

Penn State Law’s Minority Mentor Program offers law students who identify as members of groups that are typically underrepresented in law schools and in the legal profession the opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with both faculty members and legal professionals. The program complements our Comprehensive Mentoring Program and provides students with the support to achieve academic success and emotional well-being during law school and after entering the legal profession. Participating students are matched with two mentors—one alumnus and one member of the campus community—during their first year of law school.

Student Organizations

Reflecting their diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and passions, Penn State Law students explore shared interests and advance common causes through student affinity groups and organizations that include:

- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- International Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Legal Society
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Minority Law Students Association
- Muslim Student Society
- OutLaw
- Women’s Law Caucus
“I am honored to serve as Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Penn State Law. I come to this position as an immigration attorney, first-generation American, and first-generation lawyer, and deeply committed to equity in the law. The tragic deaths of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor — and countless other Black men and women have ignited a national conversation about systemic racism that has pervaded institutions for centuries, including the legal academy and the legal profession. Further, inequities faced by racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, veterans, and first-generation students endure. Finally, international students, those with DACA and without immigration status face new challenges in the wake of changing federal policies. How do we move forward? Penn State Law should be a place where inclusion, equity, and diversity are valued in our teaching, scholarship, and community beyond a piece of paper. I pledge to work towards this goal with diligence, integrity, and passion.”

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | Clinical Professor of Law
Director, Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic

Connect
For more information contact Professor Wadhia at ssw11@psu.edu.
ALUMNI INSIGHT

“I’ve always wanted to be a lawyer but when I arrived to law school I realized that I underestimated the work that goes into it. Luckily, the Penn State Law community felt like family. The faculty and my classmates at Penn State all contributed to my personal and professional development. Penn State Law gave me the opportunity to learn and thrive.”

Rachel-Rebekah Brown ’18
Attorney, Criminal Defense Practice, Bronx Defenders
New York, New York

“Penn State Law was instrumental in molding me into who I am today. There is always room here to explore what you want to do, and there are so many people that will help you get to where you want to be.”

Quandalasha Fambro ’17
Attorney, Criminal Defense Practice, Bronx Defenders
New York, New York

“I chose to attend Penn State Law because of its excellent joint-degree opportunities. Not only was I able to complete a J.D. and Ph.D. in five years, but I was able to gain meaningful experience in law and research, present my work at national conferences, and take classes with leading scholars. Under the brilliant mentorship of Professor LaWanda Ward, J.D., Ph.D. (College of Education) and Dean Dara Purvis, J.D. (Penn State Law), I successfully defended my dissertation on the U.S. Supreme Court’s use of social science data in race-based discrimination cases in graduate school admissions. My legal and doctoral education at Penn State prepared me to become both a successful member of the legal profession and an interdisciplinary researcher in the intersection of law and education.”

Vanessa Miller ’20
Associate, Fagen Friedman Fulfrrost LLP
Fresno, CA

“The reach of the alumni network at Penn State is incredible. Even once I accepted my offer, the Career Services Office was connecting me with even more people in the area to help in my transition.”

Jake Walsh ’18
Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP
Costa Mesa, California
VALUES

Integrity, Ethics, and Professionalism

All members of the Penn State Law community are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Faculty and students are governed by University conduct rules. Law students pledge to comply with the law school's Honor Code and participate as members of the Honor Code Committee. J.D. candidates complete a three-credit course that focuses on the ethical challenges faced by lawyers and teaches rules of professional conduct. Faculty and staff members who are attorneys are subject to the rules of professional responsibility that govern all lawyers and take seriously their responsibility to model professional conduct for students.
Penn State Law is located on Penn State’s 13-square-mile University Park campus in State College, Pa. University Park is the largest of Penn State’s campuses and is the academic home of a diverse population of about 46,000 graduate, undergraduate, and professional students, including approximately 7,500 international students. University Park houses Penn State’s central administration, its renowned graduate and undergraduate programs, and its NCAA Division I Athletics Department.
HAPPY VALLEY

Perhaps better known as Happy Valley, State College is a quintessential college town that offers students many of the amenities of a major metropolitan area in a clean, safe, and welcoming setting. State College is consistently ranked among the nation’s smartest, safest, and most livable cities by a variety of organizations and publications.
State College is within a few hours’ drive of New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. The University Park airport, located 10 minutes from the law school’s Lewis Katz Building, offers direct flights to Chicago, Detroit, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, and Washington, D.C., with convenient connections to other major cities. The State College bus terminal provides convenient access to Greyhound’s nationwide bus routes and Megabus offers direct or continuing service from State College to Harrisburg, New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. Several taxi companies and Lyft and Uber provide additional affordable transportation options.
THE H. LADDIE MONTAGUE JR. LAW LIBRARY
Located in the Lewis Katz Building, the library provides access to legal resources and a range of services that support the law school’s curriculum.
Penn State Law’s Financial Aid Office works with admitted students to identify resources and obtain the necessary funds to finance their legal education. Regardless of personal family income or year in school, students are welcome to apply for financial assistance at any point during their legal education at Penn State.

Penn State Law Scholarships

All applicants to Penn State Law are automatically considered for school-funded scholarships. These awards may range in amount up to full tuition. Scholarships are renewable in the second and third years, provided the student remains in good academic standing. Admitted applicants are notified whether they have been awarded any Penn State Law scholarships or grants upon admission.

Need-Based Grants

Through the generosity of alumni and other donors, need-based grant funds are awarded to incoming students primarily based on demonstrated financial need. Need-based grants are especially valuable to first-year students who are expected to devote more time and energy to academic efforts and are discouraged from working, when possible.

In order to be considered for need-based grants, all students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form can be completed online at fafsa.gov. Students wishing to be considered for Need-Based Grants must also complete the Penn State Law Financial Aid Application, available online at pennstatelaw.psu.edu/financial-aid.

The priority deadline for financial aid applications is March 1 for prospective students. While the law school will accept applications after the priority deadline, submitting applications by the priority deadline, regardless of your admission status at that point, will yield your best opportunity to be awarded a need-based grant. Please note that the federal school code for all Penn State locations is 003329.

Outside Scholarships

In addition to federal and institutional financial aid, incoming students should consider seeking scholarships from outside providers. The Penn State Law Office of Financial Aid maintains a list of outside scholarships available to Penn State Law students. Students may also wish to sign up for the Fastweb (fastweb.com) scholarship search service or review the options available on the College Resource Network (collegeresourcenetwork.com/scholarships/majors/law).

Connect

For more information on financial aid options at Penn State Law, please contact Director of Financial Aid Susan Bogart at sab36@psu.edu.
THE PENN STATE ALUMNI NETWORK

Penn State Grads are Everywhere

Graduates of Penn State Law instantly join a powerful network of more than 725,000 Penn State alumni around the world. With alumni working and living in all 50 states and more than 160 countries, you can find Penn Staters everywhere. Our alumni share cherished memories of their student experience, extraordinary loyalty to their alma mater and each other, and an unrivaled commitment to expanding opportunities for their fellow graduates.

ALUMNI INSIGHT

“The faculty at Penn State Law are the reason I am serving in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps today. The mentorship and opportunities provided to me by Vice Admiral Houck and Professors Foreman and Vollmer, in particular, helped me hone my legal skills and determine I could best utilize those skills by pursuing a career in public service. I will forever be grateful for their assistance and encouragement during my time at Penn State.”

Lt. SaraAnn Bennett ’14
JAGC, U.S. Navy
Bremerton, Washington

“Spending a semester externing full-time at the Smithsonian Office of the General Counsel was a dream come true. I saw the inner workings of the general counsel of a premiere institution and merged my legal studies with my passion for art, history, and archaeology. Career services and faculty helped me to pinpoint externship opportunities and also encouraged me to apply to positions that, before my studies at Penn State Law, would have seemed out of reach. I truly appreciated their guidance, as the experience of attending client meetings and depositions, participating in on-site visits to zoos, museums, and research facilities, and working with top attorneys on unique and timely projects, was invaluable.”

Catherine Scott ’20
Baker Botts
Palo Alto, California
THE LEWIS KATZ BUILDING

The 114,000-square-foot Lewis Katz Building is the home of Penn State Law. Completed in 2009, the structure features a glass-walled library, a modern “smart” courtroom, a Panera Bread café, comfortable classrooms, and indoor and outdoor student and study spaces.

Penn State Law classrooms are equipped with high-definition audio-visual equipment that allows real-time audio and video connection to programs and speakers around the globe as well as lecture recording so students can review later what happened in class. The Katz Building is accessible and LEED-certified with a number of green features, including a green roof, bike racks, abundant use of natural light, and locally sourced materials.

Contact Us

Email the Penn State Law Admissions Office at admissions@pennstatelaw.psu.edu or call 800-840-1122 or 814-867-1251.
This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Gender-based and sexual harassment, including sexual violence, are forms of gender discrimination in that they deny or limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from University programs or activities.

Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Erica Kresovich-Rockey, Human Resources Consultant, Penn State Law, Pennsylvania State University, Lewis Katz Building, University Park, PA 16802-1017; Tel (814) 863-0125.

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CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State's combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery. A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.