Dean’s Message

Alabama Law has long been an excellent place to study law, and the nation has taken notice. The reasons are obvious. We have a splendid faculty, who take seriously both teaching and scholarship. We offer a broad, deep, and stimulating curriculum. We’re home to a rich and vigorous intellectual environment that draws scholars from around the globe.

We have kept the cost of legal education within reach – which is why Alabama remains, year after year, one of the best values in the entire country for a quality legal education. We’ve maintained an enviable student-to-faculty ratio. We’re housed in a state-of-the-art facility. The loyalty of our alumni is second to none. And our record of placing our graduates is exceptional.

But the heart of what makes Alabama a superb place to study is our students. Here you’ll find an impressive, motivated, and diverse community of colleagues. You can see and hear their contributions, not only in classrooms and hallways but in other venues, too, across the nation.

I invite you to visit our campus, talk with an admissions representative, meet our students, observe a class. See for yourself how Alabama Law prepares its graduates not only to practice law, but to be leaders in law and policy – locally, nationally, and around the world.

Mark E. Brandon
Dean and Thomas E. McMillan Professor of Law
Curriculum
Our Law School environment is the perfect size to provide close working relationships between faculty and students. In the classroom, you will answer professors’ questions and engage in discussions. Your professors will encourage you to meet with them outside of class and at student-sponsored activities. With approximately 10 students to every professor at Alabama Law, personal attention from your instructor is the rule—not the exception.

During your first year, you will enroll in a set core curriculum. As a second- and third-year student, you will choose your classes. You may take courses covering a broad range of topics or focus your studies more narrowly by concentrating on courses in a particular field of law. With about 150 upper-level classes and only a few required classes after your first year, the decisions are yours.

First-Year Courses
Fall Curriculum
- Introduction to the Study of Law
- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Law
- Torts
- Legal Writing/Research

Spring Curriculum
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Property
- Legislation and Regulation
- Legal Writing/Research Moot Court

Interdisciplinary Offerings
The Law School offers joint degree and dual enrollment programs leading to an MBA, a PhD in Economics, a Master’s or PhD in Political Science, a Master’s in Public Administration, a Master’s in Social Work, or a Master’s in Civil Engineering. Apart from these programs, students may be dually enrolled in the Law School and most graduate programs on campus. Law students may count up to 6 hours of graduate academic work from other departments toward the law degree so long as the classes are taken after the student matriculates at the Law School, are pre-approved by the Law School, and relate to the student’s Law School curriculum.

International LLM and JSD Programs
Graduates who have already earned law degrees from law schools outside the U.S. may apply to the Law School’s International Graduate Program to earn the Master of Laws (LLM) degree. It is a one-year program in which students may elect to take courses aimed at developing knowledge in specific areas of the law - such as international business law, environmental law, or comparative law - or may tailor a custom course of study to suit individual interests or career goals.

Alabama Law also offers the Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) degree to the very best of lawyers already holding the LLM degree and seeking to earn the terminal degree, usually in preparation for an academic career in law teaching.

LLM in Taxation and LLM Concentration in Business Transactions
The Law School also offers tax and business courses through interactive, online LLM programs. JD students may apply up to 15 credits of online tax or business courses to the JD degree and may earn an LLM degree at the same time through a dual enrollment program.
Law Journals
Students may participate in one of four student-edited law journals published at The University of Alabama School of Law. These journals — Alabama Law Review, The Journal of the Legal Profession, Law and Psychology Review, and Alabama Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law Review — provide students with opportunities in legal research, writing, and editing. Each year, students edit and publish articles on important legal topics written by scholars and practitioners from across the country. Generally, students are selected for the journals before the fall semester of their second year. Leadership positions are filled by third-year students who supervise the work of second-year students. In addition to editing articles written by scholars, students are expected to write at least one publishable article for their journal.

Moot Court
Alabama Law students travel to and compete in national and international moot court programs on a wide range of topics, including bankruptcy law, constitutional law, criminal law, employment law, environmental law, intellectual property law, labor law, public international law, and tax law. In moot court, students take on the role of lawyers in a simulated appellate court, often the United States Supreme Court. Most of the moot court team members are selected through an intra-school competition known as the Campbell Moot Court Competition. The competition takes place in the spring semester of the second year and finalists argue before a distinguished panel of judges from across the nation.
International Programs

After the first year of study, students may enroll in an international academic program. There are two semester-long international exchange programs—one with Tel Aviv University-Buchmann Faculty of Law and another with India’s National Law University of New Delhi. Our summer study abroad program takes students to the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. Coursework for the summer includes a survey of Australian law and a team-taught course focusing on comparative law. Additionally, law students from Australia come to Tuscaloosa to study each year.

Governmental Affairs Certificate

Students interested in public service and public policy have the opportunity to obtain a Certificate in Governmental Affairs. Participants must complete the Federal Externship in Washington D.C. or an approved state government externship. In these externships, students devote a significant portion of their responsibilities to the process of policy development. Additionally, students will take courses that relate to the functioning of governmental institutions, acquaint students with tools that are useful in performing policy analysis, and provide an important policy background to matters that are frequently the subject of legislation and administrative regulation.

Public Interest

The Public Interest Institute of The University of Alabama School of Law is dedicated to the idea that the privilege of being an attorney calls for service to one’s community. The Public Interest Institute provides learning experiences, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and career counseling, while highlighting the need for legal assistance and fostering a lifelong commitment to pro bono legal service.

Certificate in Public Interest Law

Through classroom, clinical, and extracurricular experiences, the Certificate in Public Interest Law prepares students for work in public interest. To receive the certificate, students are required to complete specified coursework, including participation in a clinical course through one of Alabama Law’s clinic opportunities. In addition, students receiving the certificate are required to participate in at least 50 hours of law-related community service activities.

Externships

The Law School’s Externship Program offers second- and third-year students experience in client advocacy, litigation, and the judicial process in a structured, supervised learning environment. Through the Externship Program, students obtain course credit as they work under the direct supervision of attorneys and judges in the offices to which they are assigned. Summer and academic year externships are available in offices specializing in criminal and civil law, in non-profit and public interest organizations, and in the chambers of state and federal judges and magistrates.

The Federal Externship provides our students with opportunities to work full-time in Washington, D.C. in Congressional or federal executive branch placements during the spring semester of the second or third year of study.
Student Body

Our student body is talented, diverse, and academically strong. Alabama Law students come from many different undergraduate institutions. Some have work experience in a wide range of fields, several have graduate degrees, and others are newly graduated.

About 415 students are enrolled in The University of Alabama School of Law. We think this size is ideal — translating to about a 10-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio — and gives students a diverse environment with lots of personal attention.

Our students have a variety of professional goals. Although all are pursuing a Juris Doctor, some begin law school with the intent to practice in a particular field of law. Many intend to join law firms. Others want to pursue a career in public interest or to enter the profession as a solo practitioner. Some begin law school without having a firm idea of what they will do. You will find that students’ interests may change over the course of their legal studies. Many narrow their interests while participating in clinics and externships or taking classes that spark intellectual curiosity.

Join An Engaging Community

The University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa is best known as the home of The University of Alabama. The University has grown in recent years and now enrolls more than 37,000 students. The Law School sits on the eastern edge of campus. Being a part of a major university allows law students to participate in classes outside the Law School, including being dually enrolled in other graduate programs; participating in interest groups formed by graduate and undergraduate students from other areas of campus; and enjoying cultural activities offered by the theatre, music, dance, and art departments. The campus boasts exceptional student recreation centers.

Of course, The University is well known for its football team. Law students sit together at games and enjoy tailgating. Students also enjoy following the 17 NCAA-sanctioned athletic teams sponsored by The University. The women’s gymnastics and softball teams, the football team, as well as the men’s and women’s golf teams have been ranked among the top in the country over the past few years.

Tuscaloosa

The city of Tuscaloosa has a lot to offer incoming law students. Tuscaloosa is a dynamic city of about 100,000 residents with a county population around 200,000. It is a growing community and the center of industry, commerce, healthcare, and education for the region commonly known as West Alabama. Located along the Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa is the fifth-largest metropolitan area in the state of Alabama. Conveniently situated along the Interstate 20/59 corridor, Tuscaloosa is a short drive from Southern business and cultural centers such as Birmingham, Atlanta, Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans. And don’t forget—the sunny beaches of Alabama and Florida are close enough to enjoy on the weekends.

Downtown Tuscaloosa remains a hub of commerce, dining, and entertainment. And with the riverfront nearby, the opportunities for outdoor recreation are endless. In fact, it is not uncommon to see Tuscaloosa in lists of best university communities and best places to live. So whether you want to participate in a triathlon competition, eat some of the world’s best bar-b-que, watch a movie in a historic art-deco theatre, or see some of the best college football in the nation, Tuscaloosa is the place to be.
Faculty

Our faculty members recognize that their most important role is shaping the next generation of leaders, and they make time to do so. In fact, seven of our faculty members have received The University’s highest award for teaching. Many spend hours working with students outside of the classroom, on course work, on Law School programs, and on career opportunities. Beyond their roles as professors, faculty members advise students, organizations, and journals, and work alongside students on a variety of community service projects.

Alabama Law faculty members excel in teaching, research, and service. Our professors are highly regarded and frequently published experts. You will find their writings published in books and leading law journals. You will hear them interviewed on major television and radio programs and read their comments quoted in the nation’s preeminent newspapers.

Law School Campus

From spacious clinical offices to state-of-the-art classroom space, from the full-service cafeteria to the student study rooms, from the centralized recruiting interview rooms to the student lounge, every aspect of the campus of Alabama Law is designed with student service in mind.

The School of Law is also home to the Bounds Law Library. It offers an impressive collection of traditional and electronic research materials. The library’s outstanding staff is committed to helping students, faculty, practicing attorneys, and judges make the most of this excellent resource.

Our students have 24-hour access to the Law School, including its student lounge space, study rooms, and computer lab. A private lot reserved exclusively for the use of our law students provides convenient parking. Law students are guaranteed entry into the lot, regardless of any events taking place at nearby athletic and university facilities.
strong network of alumni across the nation and around the globe, a law degree from Alabama can take you anywhere you want to go.

Clinics
You need not wait until graduation to start working on real-life legal problems. In fact, Alabama is one of the few law schools in the country that guarantees every student the opportunity to gain clinical experience before graduating.

During the second and third years, students may choose to participate in our legal clinics. Under the guidance of clinical faculty, students provide direct legal services to actual clients. Each year, the clinic students aid several hundred individuals and organizations. Students and staff staff provide thousands of hours of free legal assistance to the community.

Alabama Law Clinics

- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Civil Law Clinic
- Domestic Violence Law Clinic
- Elder Law Clinic
- Mediation Law Clinic

Career Services
We know that law school is more than a three-year educational experience. It is also the road to a career.

Of course, finding a job does not magically occur when you graduate. Some of the most important groundwork is laid prior to graduation, and the Career Services staff is here to help you navigate that process.

Career Services sponsors numerous workshops on writing résumés and cover letters, interviewing, networking, and developing job-seeking skills. The staff also works with students on a one-on-one basis to help them identify and meet their employment goals.

Our Career Services Office arranges interviews that occur on campus, at job fairs, in law firm offices, and by video conference. Additionally, the Career Services Office aggressively markets the Law School and its students to employers throughout the country. With a strong network of alumni across the nation and around the globe, a law degree from Alabama can take you anywhere you want to go.

Federal Clerkships
At Alabama Law, we know that serving as a law clerk to a federal judge is one of the most important and prestigious placements for students following graduation. That is why we work so hard to see that our students have every advantage possible as they apply for these positions.

In addition to multiple programs about clerkships, faculty members work individually with our students to prepare them for the application process and interviews. With placements over the years in more than 17 states and the District of Columbia, we are proud of our results. Alabama Law is one of the top-ranked schools for federal clerkship placements for graduates.
This catalog was published in August 2016. Reasonable care was made to present information that, at the time of preparation for printing, accurately described the course offerings, faculty information, policy regulations, and requirements of The University of Alabama School of Law. However, the Law School reserves the right to change the programs, courses, requirements, and regulations set forth in the catalog at any time without prior notice at the discretion of the administration and faculty.

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