WELCOME TO
The University of Chicago Law School
Seven Chicago Law students served as Supreme Court Clerks in the same term. Here they are on the Supreme Court steps.

This is a place where
great achievement is expected.
Where ideas are everywhere.
Where it is comfortable to be smart.

This is a place where faculty teach students in beautiful new classrooms and in their living rooms.
Where the study of law is seen as collaborative, not competitive.
Where we care about doing good, not just doing well.

Students and a faculty member in the Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship meeting with a small business client.
Join our family of law students and teachers.
Message from the Dean

Applying to law school is a journey where you discover as much about us as we discover about you. You will confirm our reputation as an intellectual place where ideas fill the air, and you will also discover that we are a place that is fun and much loved.

You will learn of rich and varied career opportunities, about the outstanding university and city around us, and about the extraordinary teaching that goes on here. There is no other faculty that takes its students’ education as seriously and personally. This is not a place where great teachers are absent. This is a place where they compete to teach you, and look forward to chatting with you over coffee, at our Wine Messes, in many workshops, and at informal events from dinners to bridge games.

Our approach is interdisciplinary; our faculty is amazingly productive; our library is formidable, as well as high-tech and hospitable. Our graduates go on to clerk for leading judges, to build businesses, to teach, and, of course, to practice law. We have begun our second century with newly renovated classrooms, Chicago Public Policy Initiatives that aim to transform the way law schools, or at least this one, address social issues, the new Hormel Public Interest Program which assists students who work in public service, and post-graduate opportunities that are second to none.

If I were in your place, I would want to study law here more than anywhere else. I would want to be a part of this second century of the University of Chicago Law School and its inspiring traditions.

Saul Levmore
A LAW SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

The University of Chicago Law School is committed to the lively exchange of ideas inside—and outside—our newly renovated classrooms. Our students are from diverse backgrounds, study with leading scholars and teachers, and are trained to think independently, critically, and creatively about the law. We are part of the world-class intellectual community of the University of Chicago and we believe that ideas turned into action is one of the most satisfying ways to practice law.

“Ours is an intimate learning environment. Our students are close friends and they make the most of this community and their time in it. They form clubs; they speak openly, sensibly and provocatively in class; they encourage one another in a variety of careers and activities; and they are independent thinkers who are not embarrassed to be interested in ideas.”

ELEANOR ARNOLD, ’03
DEAN OF STUDENTS
“I remember how I loved the experience, the mental gymnastics of locking up with a Posner or Sunstein. I don’t think there is anyplace else in the world where one learns so well how to think and process information, to look at all aspects of any situation and think about it on multiple levels, from the highly theoretical to the utterly human.”

STEVE LIPSCOMB, ’88
FOUNDER AND CEO, WORLD POKER TOUR

“I knew Chicago would be intense, but I didn’t realize it would be this much fun. There’s a lot of room for creativity, and other students are more laid back than I imagined.”

HUNTER FERGUSON, ’07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorite professor</th>
<th>Richard Helmholz</th>
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<td>Undergraduate Institution</td>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
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<td>Postgraduate study</td>
<td>Postgraduate study at the University of Capetown, civil rights analyst at the U.S. Department of Justice</td>
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<th>Interests</th>
<th>Sailing, backpacking, Wilco, dogs</th>
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<td>Law School Activities</td>
<td>President of the Environmental Law Society</td>
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Students

Ideas matter—to our students, to our faculty, to our alumni. Chicago students enjoy their classes. Chicago faculty enjoy teaching them. Chicago alumni never forget them.

Our students crave rigor. They work hard—and play hard. They challenge their teachers and each other on all things logical, legal, and political. They master a lawyer’s most powerful skills: researching, writing, and presenting well-reasoned legal arguments. But they also enjoy over fifty student organizations ranging from the Federalist Society to the American Constitution Society, from StreetLaw, which teaches law to high school students, to the women’s intramural football team, which has won the campus championship seven times in a row. Students even fill the classrooms during lunchtime to hear faculty and other speakers discuss the issues of the day, and to enjoy a free lunch.

Chicago students are confident. They are involved. They come from diverse backgrounds, and hail from across the country and around the globe. They are ready for the next challenge. They go on to head law firms, become CEOs of companies, clerk for Supreme Court Justices—and become judges themselves.

“Contrary to the cutthroat reputation of other law schools, Chicago is truly supportive, diverse and collegial. I’m challenged by my professors and my peers.”

EBBA GERISA, ’08

Favorite professor
Cass Sunstein

Undergraduate institution
University of Wisconsin

Summer internship
Schiff Hardin LLP

College Experience
Co-captain of University of Wisconsin-
“In Cambodia I learned that the easy questions don’t help anybody. We need law that’s fair; but we need to ask, what does it mean for a law to be fair? That’s the kind of hard question we think about here every day.”

NIRAV SHAH, ’07

Favorite professor
Richard Epstein

Degrees
BS, BA, University of Louisville, graduate student at Oxford University, currently also enrolled in Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine

Awards
Soros Foundation New American Fellow, Henry Luce Scholar, Rotary International Scholar

Experience before Law School
Chief economist at the Ministry of Health, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

STUDENT STATS

200 undergraduate institutions represented
30 percent Latino/a, Asian-American or African-American
100 percent of LLM students are internationally-trained lawyers
24 median age at matriculation
48 states represented
10 percent with graduate degrees

Students
Assistant professor Adam Cox discussing law with a student.
Faculty

Learning the law at Chicago is collaborative. Faculty do not simply lecture—they engage students in a dialogue. They ask questions about tough legal concepts and principles, challenging students to articulate and think about the law for themselves.

Chicago faculty know that complex social and legal problems have no easy answers. Our graduates need to think on their feet in the courtroom, the legislative chamber, and the boardroom, and the Socratic Method teaches them to do that.

Because the Law School believes in interdisciplinary inquiry, our faculty are not just leading law scholars. They are also economists, feminist scholars, historians, and philosophers. They are clinical practitioners, dedicated to teaching and advocacy. Together with our faculty, visiting faculty and lecturers drawn from government and private practice teach over 170 courses, and reflect a breadth and depth that are hard to match.

“One of the pleasures of teaching here is knowing our students as individuals. I have lunch with my 1L Elements of the Law class as often as I can so that students can talk about puzzles that interest them.”

CASS SUNSTEIN
Karl N. Llewellyn Distinguished Service Professor of Jurisprudence

Degrees
JD, Harvard Law School; BA, Harvard College

Research
Constitutional law; law and human behavior; environmental law

Selected courses
Elements of the Law; Constitutional Democracy; Law, Behavior, and Regulation

On the Law School
“This is a phenomenal place—the ideas are diverse, the faculty is creative, and the students are smart, so it's not like work at all.”
"The education is different here. We first teach you the law and then we teach you how to think about the law. After that, you’re pushed to defend your own ideas."

“... I had so many great teachers that I couldn’t begin to name them all. The Law School gave me the best general education I could have, and a set of intellectual skills that I could apply—and have applied—in a job far removed from law.”

ANUP MALANI, ’00
Associate Professor

Degrees
JD, University of Chicago Law School; PhD, University of Chicago (economics); BSFS, Georgetown University

Research
Health law, bankruptcy, torts

Selected courses
Health Law, Bankruptcy and Reorganization, Corporations

On being a lawyer
“We train lawyers to be innovative. Being innovative and creative, yet practical, is good for the client—and it’s more fun for you.”
Bernard Harcourt  
Professor of Law and Faculty Director of Academic Affairs  
“The University of Chicago is the most intense intellectual community in the field of legal studies today. We care deeply about ideas and seek out the strongest critiques of our own positions and theories.”  
Bernard Harcourt’s scholarship focuses on crime and punishment from an empirical and social theoretic perspective.

Publications  
“Guns, Youths, and Crime”  
“Strapped Tight: Making Ethical Choices in Law and Social Science”  
Illusion of Order: The False Promise of Broken- Windows Policing

Douglas Lichtman  
Professor of Law  
“At Chicago, there is only a barely perceptible line between teaching and learning. The back- and-forth Socratic dialogue brings out the best ideas in the room—and they’re not always mine. This is a distinctive part of Chicago culture, and one part of what makes this an amazing place to teach, research, and think.”  
Douglas Lichtman’s research considers how technology will challenge, reinforce, and redefine traditional legal rules.

Publications  
“Guns, Youths, and Crime”  
“Strapped Tight: Making Ethical Choices in Law and Social Science”  
Illusion of Order: The False Promise of Broken- Windows Policing

Eric Posner  
Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law  
“What distinguishes Chicago from other law schools is the great intellectual seriousness of both students and faculty.”  
Eric Posner’s primary research interests are contract law, bankruptcy law, international law, and the relationship between law and social norms.

Publications  
“Law and Social Norms”  
Chicago Lectures in Law and Economics

Anup Malani  
Associate Professor of Law  
“Chicago students are special because they are very engaged, yet civil, in classroom discussion. They enjoy complex reasoning and often do their own outside reading, so class is a good learning opportunity for me, too.”  
Anup Malani’s principal interests include valuation of legal reforms, public health law, medical trials, non-profit firms, medical malpractice liability, compensation for mass torts, and executive compensation.

Publications  
“Habeas Settlements”  
“Identifying Placebo Effects with Data from Clinical Trials”  
“The Political Economy of State Property Exemption Laws”

David A. Weisbach  
Walter J. Blum Professor and Director of the Program in Law & Economics  
“The students and faculty here are never afraid to ask difficult questions, to push harder, to try to get to the bottom of important issues—which makes the school’s influence on the law and in how we think about the law unparalleled.”  
David Weisbach is primarily interested in issues relating to federal taxation.

Publications  
“The (Non)Taxation of Risk”  
“Corporate Tax Avoidance”
CHICAGO POLICY INITIATIVES

The Law School is committed to making big contributions to topics of national interest—health care, animal rights, immigration policy. The Chicago Policy Initiatives encourage faculty members and students to work together, think hard about important social problems, and propose solutions.

The Chicago Judges Project
Professor Cass Sunstein headed this survey of the voting patterns of federal judges, finding that judges are as strongly influenced by their fellow panelists on the bench as by the political party of the person who appointed them.

Chicago Project on Animal Treatment Issues
Students and faculty examine best practices and develop disclosure guidelines for the treatment of animals in various industries.

Chicago Project on Foster Care
Professor Emily Buss and several Chicago students are researching the ways that law could provide better social and financial support to teenagers leaving the foster care system. A conference announcing their results is planned for 2006.

“Some students and faculty here are liberal, some conservative, and some wouldn’t be happy in either category. The Law School is simply more balanced than other schools.”

EMILY BUSS
Professor and Kanter Director for Policy Initiatives

Degrees
JD, BA, Yale University

Research
Children’s and parents’ rights

Selected courses
Civil Procedure, Adolescence and the Law

On teaching at Chicago
“The students here are terrific: engaged, prepared, and filled with good ideas.”

On the Chicago Policy Initiatives
“The Initiatives identify serious social problems and devote attention to innovative solutions. My project aims to improve the fate of teenagers aging out of foster care, who are often poorly prepared to function as adults.”
The Law School is home to several Centers where faculty research topical issues and present findings to students in lectures and seminars.

The Center on Civil Justice
The Center focuses on what civil courts and administrative agencies actually do, and aims to develop a realistic picture of law and human behavior.

The Center for Comparative Constitutionalism
Coordinated by Professor Martha Nussbaum, this center focuses on the relationship between constitutional law and the concerns of marginalized people and groups.

The Center for Studies in Criminal Justice
This center studies the agencies of criminal justice and other agencies of social control. Research projects have included an analysis of the operation of deterrent processes in criminal law, the relationship of weapons to homicide rates and gun-control measures, and justice in juvenile and family courts.

The John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics
Economics provides a tool for studying how legal rules affect the way people behave, and is an important part of a lawyer’s education. The Olin Program offers courses and seminars, including Nobel laureate Gary Becker’s microeconomics course.

The Law School pioneered clinical legal education when it opened the very first legal clinic at a law school. The Mandel Legal Aid Clinic continues to serve the people of Chicago to this day.
Second and third year students working in the clinic learn litigation, legislative advocacy, and transactional skills by representing clients while under the close supervision of clinical teachers.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Appellate Advocacy Project
Civil Rights Clinic: Police Accountability Project
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project
Criminal Justice Reform Project
Employment Discrimination Project
Irwin Askow Housing Project
Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship
Mental Health Advocacy Project

JOURNALS

The Law School publishes six professional journals, three of which are run and edited by students.

Student-edited Journals
The Chicago Journal of International Law
The University of Chicago Law Review
The University of Chicago Legal Forum

Faculty-edited Journals
The Journal of Law & Economics
The Journal of Legal Studies
The Supreme Court Review
Careers

Our graduates take on the most demanded and demanding professional opportunities. One-quarter of Chicago graduates secure some of the most sought-after judicial clerkships, including clerkships with Justices on the United States Supreme Court. The country’s top 200 law firms, Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations all actively seek out Chicago graduates.

CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

Seminars, workshops, and four professional career advisors are dedicated to helping you find the job that will fit you best. Practice interviews and coaching are available to all students, and you can research your future using office publications, online databases, proprietary survey data, clippings, and recruiting materials available at our wired and wireless Career Resource Center.

CAREER EDUCATION

Hear directly from alumni at top firms, government agencies and public interest organizations. Regular programs teach job seeking and interview skills.

Clerkships

Chicago is one of the two most successful law schools in placing graduates in Supreme Court clerkships. In 2005, seven of our graduates clerked on the Supreme Court.

“The Law School provided me with a very sound, intellectual foundation which has been instrumental in my career. Classes in law and economics, accounting, and corporate finance all encouraged me to look beyond a career as a lawyer.”

DAN DOCTOROFF, ’84
Deputy mayor, City of New York

Responsibilities
Oversees the planning and implementation of policies affecting the economic health of New York City

Previous experience
Managing partner, Oak Hill Capital Partners; investment banker, Lehman Brothers

Law School connections
Hired at Lehman Brothers partly due to a Law School classmate

Careers

28
"Chicago is an exciting and fun environment that gives its students skills that are keys to success, regardless of the path they take."

**Leslie Shad, ’85**
CARE USA, former general counsel

**Responsibilities**
Advising CARE on such issues as intellectual property, federal and state compliance issues, and trusts and real estate matters

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**CAREERS BY THE NUMBERS**

- **$135,000** median salary at graduation
- **75** percent take jobs in the private sector
- **20–25** percent of graduates receive a judicial clerkship
- **99** percent of Supreme Court clerks in 2005
- **9** percent of Chicago Law alumni are professors
- **8,500+** on-campus interview opportunities per year
- **7** percent of Chicago graduates receive offers of employment
- **75** percent of Chicago graduates receive a judicial clerkship

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"Chicago is an exciting and fun environment that gives its students skills that are keys to success, regardless of the path they take."

**Leslie Shad, ’85**
CARE USA, former general counsel

**Responsibilities**
Advising CARE on such issues as intellectual property, federal and state compliance issues, and trusts and real estate matters
“A law degree from the University of Chicago gives you tremendous access to opportunities. Everywhere I go there are Chicago alums, which helps form an instant bond. A degree from the Law School provides a seal of integrity in a field not always known for it.”

JAMES L. TANNER JR., ’93
PARTNER, WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY

“The Law School, especially the law and economics perspective, provided a strong foundation for intellectual analysis of complex legal issues.”

JERYL A. BOWERS, ’93
Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart
Nicholson Graham, LLP
Los Angeles

Previous experience
Vice president, secretary and general counsel at MediaLive International Holdings; general counsel at PETSMAINT.COM

Mergers and acquisitions
THE PLACE
The Law School

The Law School is different from other schools. Our faculty members are driven teachers and prolific scholars, engaged with social problems and real legal issues. Our students value academic thought, compassionate clinical work, and contact with one another and their teachers. Our graduates distinguish themselves with their intellect, skepticism, sense of purpose, and taste for the tough questions.

Classes are small, allowing for intimate exchanges of ideas. The Law School fosters community by organizing students into research and writing sections of about thirty students, taught by fellows known as “Bigelows.” These students get to know each other well, and work together all year.

By the second and third year, students become leaders, heading organizations that delve deeper into law or that broaden social horizons. Our students sing in a cappella groups, act in the Winter Quarter Musical, play softball, and volunteer for community service. A student favorite is the weekly Friday Wine Mess, where students socialize over wine and cheese. On Wednesday mornings, faculty and staff drop by the Green Lounge for Coffee Mess, where they talk with students over donuts and bagels.

“Here you will find a unique intellectual community with a wide array of courses, excellent clinical programs, a parade of absorbing speakers, an engaged and accessible faculty who are committed to teaching as well as scholarship, and constant opportunities to challenge and be challenged by classmates and teachers alike.”

GEOFFREY STONE, ’71
HARRY KALVEN, JR. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR,
FORMER UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PROVOST,
FORMER DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL
The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago is known for its more than seventy Nobel laureates and its world-changing ideas, but it is also a friendly place to work and play. The heart of the University campus, known as the Quads, is a 211-acre botanic park. Students study by the ducks in Botany Pond, relax on the swing in the Social Science quad, or take a quiet walk through the cloisters near the Divinity School. Not only is the campus bisected by the spacious green belt known as the Midway—where there are many pick-up soccer games and an outdoor ice skating rink—but it is also surrounded by Chicago parks, which include an 18-hole golf course a half mile from campus, a swimming pool, romantic lagoons, and a bustling marina on Lake Michigan.

The Ratner Center, named for Law School alumnus Gerald Ratner, ’37, is the University’s new sports complex. It is an ideal place to work out, whether you choose to swim in the Olympic-sized pool, run on the indoor track, or use the exercise machines in the cardio rotunda. Students can also take in lectures all over campus, attend nightly viewings of new and classic films in Ida Noyes’ award-winning, Dolby-equipped theater, stretch out in a dance class, or go to a play produced by the Court Theatre, the University’s acclaimed professional theater company.
Hyde Park

Swim at the sandy beach near Promontory Point Park. Ice skate on the Midway just 200 feet from the Law School’s front door. Get involved with local politics. Browse through thousands of hand-chosen titles at the warren-like 57th Street Books. Buy some cotton candy at the Hyde Park Art Fair or fresh vegetables at the weekly Harper Court farmer’s market.

Hyde Park, nestled next to Lake Michigan and long considered the jewel of Chicago’s South Side, is a diverse, close-knit, and highly intellectual community. Many of the University professors live nearby on “Professors’ Row,” and residents greet each other in the Hyde Park Co-Op grocery store or outside the Medici, a popular burger joint. They walk their dogs in Nichols Park to the squawk of the monk parakeets that fly through the trees there. They attend raucous community meetings on zoning and development, often enriched by the views of economics and sociology professors. Chicago faculty and students are so much a part of the community that alumnus David Auburn wrote his 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play Proof about a Chicago professor and his daughter living in Hyde Park.

Students who live in Hyde Park will find a range of some of the most affordable housing in the city, from full-service buildings with a pool and a doorman, to family- and pet-friendly apartments owned by the University, to the collegial New Grad dormitory, which is just a short walk from the Law School.

Chicago students have the best of both worlds—a college town within a sparkling city.
1. The dynamic on-campus Smart Museum boasts a permanent collection of over 9,000 objects.
2. Sailing at Jackson Park.
3. A student studying on the Main Quadrangle.
4. 57th Street Books, one of Hyde Park’s many independent bookstores.
5. The new Ratner athletic center.
6. The downtown Chicago theater district.
7. The popular Cloud Gate sculpture by Anish Kapoor—known locally as “the Bean”—at Millennium Park, downtown.
8. Students working out in the cardio rotunda at the Ratner Center.
10. Pilsen, an established Mexican-American neighborhood, is known for its famous murals.
Chicago

Chicago is a cosmopolitan, diverse, yet affordable city. Chicago is also the birthplace of modern architecture and sketch comedy, the home of the Chicago Marathon on Columbus Day weekend, and a showplace for world-class museums like The Art Institute of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History. It’s a city where there is something new to do every day and night: go to Navy Pier to take in Shakespeare and a ferris wheel ride; visit Devon Street to buy a sari or Pilsen to admire the public murals and eat Mexican food; dance at hundreds of nightclubs; feast at thousands of restaurants; take in an art film, a rock concert, or a street fair.

Our students plan outings to see our major league sports teams, the Bulls, the Bears, the Blackhawks—and of course the Cubs and the White Sox. Many of the 250 local theater ensembles and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra offer student discounts. Some students particularly like getting a drink at legendary jazz and blues clubs like the Green Mill and Hyde Park’s own Checkerboard Lounge.
THE PROGRAM

Compelling

SDP - Rational

8th Amdt - proportion

1st Amdt - speech
Curriculum

At Chicago, you learn the law—and you learn how to think, which is even more important. The Law School discourages narrow specialization. The law will change while you are in law school, and so we train our students for the future.

You will get to know your professors and each other because classes are small and the people are friendly. First year students take a core sequence covering contracts, torts, property, criminal law, and civil procedure, as well as one interdisciplinary course, Elements of the Law. Every student in the first year class at some point takes a class with every other 1L student.

All of the University is open to you in the second and third years, when you can choose not only from more than 170 classes per quarter within the Law School, ranging from Health Law and Policy to Telecommunications, from Feminist Jurisprudence to Public International Law, but also from hundreds of courses in other schools and departments.

You will find that the curriculum is deep and diverse, emphasizing careful analysis infused with interdisciplinary perspectives, drawing on the faculty’s extensive backgrounds in fields such as economics, history, philosophy, political science, and sociology.

The Law School also offers shorter, more intensive courses such as criminal justice policy and financial accounting to spice up the curriculum with skills training and distinguished visitors—and without a major time investment.

For a complete list of courses, see www.law.uchicago.edu/courses/.
Elements of the Law, a class designed at Chicago, examines legal issues from diverse standpoints. You’ll learn how political scientists, economists, psychologists, sociologists, and moral philosophers think about legal questions. And you’ll learn about the basic reasoning behind all laws: why we reason from precedent; what consent, coercion and voluntary choice mean; how we choose between rules and discretionary standards; and how to think about interpreting statutes and other authoritative texts that may not have been written with today’s problems in mind.

The Law School encourages interdisciplinary work—all students may take twelve hours of coursework anywhere in the University. Students may also apply for three formal joint degree programs either at the same time they apply to the Law School or in their first year. They may also work with Law School and University staff to arrange concurrent degrees.

The formal joint degree programs reduce time and expense by allowing candidates to count course work in each area for both degrees. For students working on concurrent degrees, the Law School is flexible, giving students leaves of absence so that they may register full time in other areas of the University.

Formal joint degree programs:
The Graduate School of Business (MBA, PhD)
The Harris School of Public Policy (MPP)
The Committee on International Relations (MA)
1. Professor Douglas Baird at the annual auction, which raises money for students working at nonprofit organizations for the summer. 2. Students performing in the Winter Quarter Musical, an annual parody of law school life. 3. The locker area in the renovated classroom wing. 4. Wednesday morning Coffee Mess. 5. Studying in the library. 6. On line for a free lunch before a noontime lecture. 7. A Foosball game in the Green Lounge, the Law School’s social hub. 8. The first year student BBQ in the Law School courtyard.
Chicago students love the Greenberg Seminars, intimate and quirky five-week classes that take place in a professor’s living room. Students have discussed graphic novels with professors Cass Sunstein and Douglas Lichtman, Shakespeare with Professor Martha Nussbaum and Judge Richard Posner, and American foreign policy with Professor Eric Posner. Classes change yearly. One student said that the seminars enhance the Law School’s “reputation for professors’ accessibility, and take the open-door office hours policy several steps farther than any law school I know of.”

Several times a year, faculty host roundtable dinners, a popular discussion series for students. Twenty students gather at a faculty member’s home to talk about topics not covered in classes, from who has property rights over the final out ball of the Red Sox World Series game, to the exposure of children to the Internet, to racial profiling, to gerrymandering and its effect on politics.

“Life should be about striving, progress and improvement. For me, this is the place where that can happen.”

Adam Samaha
Assistant Professor of Law
How to Apply to the University of Chicago Law School

Ready to join us? Submit an application in one of three ways:

- University of Chicago online application, available at www.law.uchicago.edu
- Paper application, which may be downloaded at www.law.uchicago.edu

When to Apply

The Law School starts accepting applications after September 1. You may apply Early Decision or Regular Decision.

Early Decision

If you want to apply Early Decision, the application and all supporting materials must be received by the Admissions Office by December 1. Admission during Early Decision is binding on applicants. Indicate your intention to apply Early Decision on your application and return the signed Early Decision Agreement with your application. We will let you know by the end of December whether your application is accepted, denied, or held for further review. Applications that are held will be considered in the Regular Decision cycle and admission will no longer be binding.

Regular Decision

If you are applying Regular Decision, submit your application and all supporting materials so that the Admissions Office receives them by February 1. We consider applications as soon as they are completed.

APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Application

To apply, complete the two-page application and provide the supporting materials, detailed below. If you submit your application electronically, remember to also submit a signed Certification Letter, available through our online application or the LSDAS electronic application.

Law School Admission Test

Your Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score must be less than four years old. Submit all scores received on the LSAT.

Academic History

Please provide us with a complete history of your academic performance, both undergraduate and graduate, though the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS).

Resumé

Describe your principal extracurricular and community activities, as well as any full- or part-time employment, in your resumé.

Letters of Recommendation

You must send us two letters of recommendation, but we will accept up to four. We strongly recommend that you send at least one letter from an academic instructor who is very familiar with your academic ability. Please submit your letters through LSDAS letter of recommendation service where possible.

Personal Statement

Your personal statement is an important, required part of your application that gives us insight into the non-academic contribution you would make to the class, and helps us to know you better. A statement that focuses on some personal attribute or experience is helpful to the Admissions Committee.

The application fee is $75.

The application, detailed information, and instructions regarding each of the application requirements may be found at www.law.uchicago.edu.
Financial Aid

Your Chicago legal education is an investment in your future. Chicago provides generous financial aid in the form of loans and scholarships for those who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Tuition for the Law School for 2006–2007 is $37,334 for the nine-month academic year. During the 2006–2007 academic year, the average budget, including tuition, for a single student is $59,278. An additional $3,000 loan is available to all students to cover the cost of a laptop or other computer.

Over half of students at the Law School receive scholarships. Approximately eighty percent of students receive government-backed and private loans. The total amount available through government-backed loans is $18,500 annually, and students are able to borrow up to the full student budget through private loans.

Hormel Public Interest Program and First Year Public Interest Support
The Law School offers support for students who choose to work in public interest for a summer or for a career. For more information, please visit www.law.uchicago.edu/financial/loanforgive.html or www.law.uchicago.edu/financial/summer.html.

Deadlines and Procedures
To apply for need-based aid, complete the candidate and parent questionnaires (and if applicable the spouse questionnaire) on the Need Access Application at www.needaccess.org by March 1.

Open Houses for Prospective Students
Visit us! Attend a class, meet with students, faculty, and administrators, and tour the Law School at one of our open houses for prospective students. Try to visit during the academic term so you can see the school in action.

Open Houses begin in October and continue through December. Daily tours begin after New Year’s Day. Please check our website for additional information.

Questions?
Call us at 773-702-9484, visit www.law.uchicago.edu or e-mail us at admissions@law.uchicago.edu.

ADMISSIONS STATS

190 number of students in a typical entering class each year

3.65 average undergraduate GPA

5,000 number of applications received per class

170 median LSAT score

10 percent with graduate degrees

75 percent with one year or more work experience

60 Financial Aid

61
“It’s a truly unusual place, one of genuine intellectual ability—not just tokenism—where you have significant figures on the faculty who engage in substantive conversation and disagreement—not name-calling and political posturing, but serious discussion of serious issues.”

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL, ’79
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, TENTH CIRCUIT