



## Administration

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## Faculty

D. Antolini, MPP, JD—environmental law, torts, legal writing  
 J. Barkai, MBA, JD—clinical program, alternative dispute resolution, evidence  
 H. Beh, PhD, JD—contracts, advanced torts, legal writing  
 R. Brown, JD, LL.M.—labor law, legal writing  
 D. Callies, JD, LL.M.—real property, land use regulation, state and local government, legal writing  
 W. Chang, JD—native Hawaiian rights, water law, jurisprudence, legal writing  
 A. Conner, PhD, JD—Chinese law, legal writing  
 D. Conway-Jones, JD—government contracts, intellectual property, internet law and policy, legal writing  
 K. Gebbia-Pinetti, JD—commercial law, bankruptcy, legal writing  
 V. Hench, JD, LL.M.—criminal law, civil rights, gender and law, legal writing

C. Iijima, JD (Pre-admission Program director)—remedies, legal writing  
 C. Jarman, JD, LL.M.—environmental law, ocean law, legal writing  
 M. Levin, JD, LL.M.—sales, Japanese law, legal writing  
 C. Pang, MPH, JD—elder law, family law, legal writing  
 J. Pietsch, JD—elder law, health law  
 R. Roth, JD, LL.M.—taxation, trusts and estates, professional responsibility  
 L. Seeger, JD, MLawLibr—legal research  
 J. Van Dyke, JD—constitutional law, international law, international human rights  
 E. Yamamoto, JD—civil procedure; race, culture and the law; legal writing

## General Information

Since admitting its first class of students in 1973, the William S. Richardson School of Law has graduated more than 1,800 attorneys, most of whom continue to serve in the state of Hawai'i. As the school matures, its graduates have risen to prominent positions, including governor of Hawai'i; president of a Hawai'i university; a federal magistrate; circuit, district, family, and per diem court judges; partners in major law firms; and members of the state Legislature and Honolulu City Council. In addition, graduates of the school are found in significant numbers at the attorney general, public defender, and prosecutor offices.

The law school offers a three-year, post-baccalaureate program culminating in the Juris Doctor (JD) degree, also known as the first professional degree in law. Although some law schools offer graduate degrees in law (this school does not), the great majority of students find that the JD degree is sufficient to prepare for admission to a bar and for a career in law.

## Student Body

Many of the 270 students in the law school either were born in Hawai'i or have other ties to the state or region. We also welcome students from the continental United States, Asia, and the Pacific. Many students from out-of-state express an interest in the school's exceptional Pacific-Asian, environmental, or

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ocean policy areas of emphasis. Each entering class (75–80 in number) typically reflects the ethnic diversity of Hawai‘i and includes individuals of African American, Caucasian, Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Korean, and Pacific Island ancestry. Currently enrolled students from the Asia Pacific region represent China, Guam, Japan, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Approximately half of the students are female, and about 20 percent have completed other graduate degrees before enrolling in the law school.

### **Mission**

The mission of the William S. Richardson School of Law is to provide formal legal education, encourage and support scholarly legal research, and promote justice in our society and professional responsibility and public service within our profession. We share the goals of the State of Hawai‘i and the University to provide educational opportunities for the people of this state and to be leaders in environmental law, Pacific and Asian legal studies, and the law of the sea.

In carrying out this mission, the school’s graduates fill a demand for qualified attorneys who are sensitive to Hawai‘i’s special needs and who will serve government and the public interest as well as private entities.

Students are encouraged to study law and legal institutions as integral parts of larger social, political, economic, and ecological systems. A number of law students concurrently seek graduate degrees at the University of Hawai‘i while undertaking the JD program.

### **Accreditations**

The accreditation process of the American Bar Association (ABA) is designed to ensure that approved law schools have adequate facilities and adhere to sound educational policies. The School of Law has been fully approved by the ABA; this enables its graduates to present a JD degree acceptable to the bar examiners in every state. There are approximately 180 ABA-approved law schools in the United States.

In 1989, the School of Law was admitted to full membership in the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

**Degree Offered:** Juris Doctor (JD)

### **Advising**

Students have access to academic, personal, and career counseling at any time during the program. Academic counseling is intended to assist the student in defining a program that will satisfy both personal interests and professional development.

Career counseling and information on job opportunities are provided to students for part-time, clerkship, and entry-level positions. About 40 Honolulu legal employers representing the private, public, and public-interest sectors participate in the on-campus interview program for law students. The law school also presents informational programs on career choices and alternatives and preparation for the job search.

## **Admission Requirements**

Admission to the law school is based on an applicant’s academic achievement, aptitude for the study of law, and professional promise. Included among the specific factors evaluated are undergraduate grade point average, results of the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), academic work beyond the bachelor’s degree, academic rigor, writing ability, work experience, and volunteer and civic activities. The admission committee also takes into consideration the diversity of the class and unusual accomplishments or achievements. Residency in Hawai‘i or special experience relevant to Hawai‘i, the Asia Pacific region, or the law school’s programs is also a significant admission criterion.

All applicants must have earned, by the entrance date, a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States or a foreign degree that is fully equivalent. Other requirements include the LSAT results, submission of transcripts to the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), two letters of recommendation, and a completed law school application.

## **Application Deadlines**

Applications for admission must be filed with the School of Law and must be submitted on the current year’s forms. Contact the law school for up-to-date deadlines and applications. Late or incomplete applications are not considered. Applicants are notified of the admission decision in late March/early April for August entry. In 2002, the law school received about 750 applications for admission.

## **Pre-admission Program**

Established in 1974, the Pre-admission Program provides students from disadvantaged backgrounds with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to do law school work. Each year, 12 students are selected from among applicants with academic records not strong enough to justify admission to the regular program, but who, nevertheless, demonstrate potential for successful completion of law study and significant contribution as lawyer.

There is no separate application process for this program. Those invited to participate are identified by the admission committee during its review of regular applications to the JD program. Students who successfully complete the Pre-admission Program are admitted to the first-year class the following year.

## **Program Requirements**

The JD program is a three-year, full-time course of study that begins in August with a one-week orientation for new students. The JD degree is awarded upon completion of six semesters of full-time study and the satisfactory completion of 89 credit hours, including a selection of required courses. Completion of the program must be attained within five years of the date of first registration. Full-time study is defined as registration for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester plus regular and punctual attendance at scheduled class meetings. In

addition, all law students must complete 60 hours of pro bono legal service in order to graduate. The School of Law does not offer part-time or evening programs, and its classes are open only to law students and selected classified graduate students with prior departmental and law school approval. Contact the law school for a detailed description of the degree requirements.

The first-year curriculum is entirely prescribed and offers a conventional format of substantive courses and intensive small group seminars in legal writing, research, and advocacy. The program for the second and third years is primarily elective and includes writing and research seminars, clinical workshops (some of which involve students in actual litigation under the Supreme Court's Student Practice Rule), and a variety of courses in both traditional and new areas of law.

Most grading within the law school is done anonymously and on a C+/B- curve.

### **Additional Information**

For complete information on school policies and programs, request a *School of Law Catalog* from the Office of Admissions at 2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822 or online at [www.hawaii.edu/law](http://www.hawaii.edu/law)

## **Special Programs**

### **Dual Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs**

Law students may integrate their law school work with graduate work in other schools and colleges at the University of Hawai'i and receive both the JD degree and a graduate degree. The most popular dual degree programs have been the JD-MBA, the JD-Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and the JD-MA in Asian studies, although other dual degrees may be approved in consultation with the law school. Students may also pursue graduate certificate programs including ocean policy, resource management, or gerontology.

Students interested in dual degree or certificate programs must apply separately and be admitted to both the School of Law and the graduate or certificate program. Admission to one program does not guarantee admission to the other.

### **Elder Law Program**

The University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program (UHELP) consists of two components: the course on legal problems of the elderly and the Elder Law Unit. The course is part of the law school's educational program for training law students in elder law. The Elder Law Unit, housed at the law school, provides direct delivery of legal services to elderly who are socially and economically needy. It is an important source of cases assigned to law students in the Elder Law Clinic.

Students interested in this area of law may also undertake the UH Advanced Certificate in Gerontology.

### **Environmental Law Program**

Recognizing the challenges that Hawai'i faces in developing an environmentally sustainable economy, the law school has developed a vibrant, diverse Environmental Law Program

(ELP). The ELP offers a significant number of exciting and varied courses in environment law and related fields. The centerpiece of the ELP is the Certificate in Environmental Law, described below. For more information on the law school's ELP, visit our website at [www.hawaii.edu/elp](http://www.hawaii.edu/elp). The certificate program recognizes the increased student interest in this area, the expertise of a substantial number of our faculty and opportunities in the field. Students interested in the certificate might also want to consider pursuing a Graduate Ocean Policy Certificate which is offered at the University of Hawai'i and is part of our dual degree program. The certificate is available only to University of Hawai'i law students.

### **Pacific-Asian Legal Studies**

Because of Hawai'i's location, population, culture, and economic relationships, the law school faculty has developed the Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Program (PALS). The program has the twofold purpose of conducting new research and enriching the JD curriculum. A number of faculty have expertise in Pacific-Asian research, teaching, and consultation. Course offerings have included Chinese law and society, Chinese trade and investment law, Japanese criminal law, Japanese trade law, Japanese constitutional law, Korean law, and Pacific Islands legal systems. The program benefits from an exchange with the law faculty at Hiroshima University in Japan. Other exchanges are also being explored.

Interested law students can elect to do a full semester externship for academic credit with selected courts in the Pacific. With prior approval, students may also plan to study with a law faculty in Asia for one semester and transfer credits toward the JD degree.

### **LL.M. Program for International Students**

The LL.M. program is a one-year course of study open to foreign legal professionals and law graduates who wish to gain a broader understanding of U.S. and international legal issues. The program begins in August; no students will be admitted mid-year. To graduate, students must complete a total of twenty-four credit hours. Students are free to design their own course of study in consultation with the LL.M. director and may select a range of courses and seminars in areas such as business and commercial law, environmental law, and international and comparative law. Their program may (but need not) include first-year courses, which serve as an introduction to U.S. law and methods of study. With the consent of the instructor and the LL.M. director, LL.M. students also may enroll in courses offered by schools or departments outside the School of Law or participate in legal externships.

After a special three-week Introduction to American Law course, LL.M. students will take all their classes with American J.D. students and will have ample opportunity to interact with them. The small size of the LL.M. program (no more than ten to fifteen students) and of most School of Law classes promotes close interaction, and LL.M. students are encouraged to participate in all aspects of law school life.

For more information on the LL.M. program, see [www.hawaii.edu.law/](http://www.hawaii.edu.law/) or contact the LL.M. director at [lawllm@hawaii.edu](mailto:lawllm@hawaii.edu).

## Student Organizations

The current list of student organizations at the School of Law includes the following:

Advocates for Public Interest Law

‘Ahahui O Hawai‘i

American Bar Association—Law Student Division

American Inns of Court

American Trial Lawyers Association Student Chapter

*Asian Pacific Law and Policy Journal*

Christian Legal Society

Client Counseling Team

Delta Theta Phi International Legal Fraternity

Environmental Law Society

Environmental Law Moot Court Team

Filipino Law Students Association

Hispanic Law Students Association

Korean Bar Association Hawai‘i

LAMBDA Law Student Association

Law Student Organization Wellness Collective

National Lawyers Guild

Native American Moot Court Team

Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Organization

Pacific Islands Legal Studies Association

Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, Richardson Inn

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Team

Student Bar Association

University of Hawai‘i Filipino Law Students Association

*University of Hawai‘i Law Review*

Women Law Students Association