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The George Washington University Law School



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Overview^{4,5}

Since enrolling its first class in 1865, The George Washington University Law School has produced some of the finest minds across the spectrum of legal scholarship. GW Law graduates continue to use their knowledge and skills to influence the critical legal conversations of our times.

In the early years of the Republic, when the nation's new capital was no more than a small collection of public buildings separated by pastureland, President George Washington advised Congress to establish a national university at the seat of government. His goal was to educate future generations of civil servants and thereby forge a national identity based on "principles friendly to republican government and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind." He left in his will 50 shares of stock in the Potowmack Canal Company for the endowment of a university "to which the youth of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their Education in all the branches of polite literature-in arts and Sciences -- in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics & good Government."

Though it would be decades before George Washington's namesake university would be established by an Act of Congress, the George Washington University Law School -- established in 1865 -- was the first law school in the District of Columbia. Today, the School continues to embody the aspirations of the nation's first president.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁶

15.0:1

Admission Criteria⁷

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	160-167	3.41-3.82
Median*	165	3.71

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 2013 entering class.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics⁸

Approximate number of applications	6543
Number accepted	2718
Acceptance rate	41.5%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades^{9,10}

Grades

Letter grades are given with numerical equivalents as follows:

A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.66
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	3.04-3.10
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.66
D	1.00
F	0.00

The majority of courses are graded on a letter-grade basis, but for a small number of courses, primarily those that are clinical or skills-oriented, the grade of CR (Credit) or NC (No Credit) is given or the following grading scale is used: H (Honors), P (Pass), LP (Low Pass), and NC (No Credit). For Honors, a student must do work of excellent quality, and no more than 25 percent of the class may earn this grade. For courses graded on a Credit/No Credit or Honors, Pass, Low Pass, or No Credit basis, No Credit is given for work that would receive a grade below C- were evaluation to be made using the letter grade scale.

Academic Recognition

Students of The George Washington University Law School are not supplied with individual class rankings. However, in lieu of specific rankings, students' relative academic accomplishments are represented through two scholar designations. Students in the top 1% to 15% of the class (based on cumulative GPA at the end of each semester) are designated "George Washington Scholars," and

students in the top 16% to 35% of the class (based on cumulative GPA at the end of each semester) are designated “Thurgood Marshall Scholars.”

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹¹

Minimum GPAs Required (Based on May 2013 graduation class)	
Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 10% of the class	3.752
Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 25% of the class	3.567
Minimum GPA required to fall within the top 33% of the class	3.518
Median GPA	3.401
Minimum GPA required for graduation	1.67

Honors^{12, 13}

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	Top 10% of graduating class.
High Honors	GPA of 3.33 or better and not to exceed 10% of graduating class.
Honors	GPA of 3.0 or better and not to exceed 40% of graduating class.
George Washington Scholar	Students in the top 1% to 15% of the class.
Thurgood Marshall Scholar	Students in the top 16% to 35% of the class.

Awards¹⁴

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
American Bankruptcy Institute Medal for Excellence in Bankruptcy Studies	For excellence in the field of debtor and creditor law.
American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award	For excellence in the study of health law.
American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award	For excellence in the study of intellectual property law.
American Bar Association/Bureau of National Affairs Award	For excellence in the study of labor and employment law.
Chris Bartok Memorial Award in Patent Law	For excellence in the study of patent law.
Henry R. Berger Award	For excellence in the area of tort law.

Ogden W. Fields Labor Law Award	For the highest overall proficiency in labor law.
Finnegan Prize in Intellectual Property Law	For the best publishable article on an aspect of intellectual property law.
Phi Delta Phi Award	For demonstrated excellence in the courses in professional responsibility, ethics, and jurisprudence.
Peter D. Rosenberg Award in Patent and Intellectual Property Law	For excellence in the study of patent and intellectual property law.
Joel B. Rosenthal Commercial Law Award	For excellence in the area of commercial law.
Laurence E. Seibel Memorial Award in Labor and Employment Law	For excellence in the courses in labor and employment law.
Richard L. Teberg Award	For the highest overall proficiency in the courses in securities law.
Patricia A. Tobin Government Contracts Award	For excellence in the area of government contracts law.
Jennie Hassler Walburn Award	For outstanding performance in the field of civil procedure.
Imogen Williford Constitutional Law Award	For outstanding performance in the field of constitutional law.
Michael J. Avenatti Award for Excellence in Pre-Trial and Trial Advocacy	For excellence in the courses in pre-trial and trial advocacy.
Jacob Burns Award	For the winning team in the Van Vleck Moot Court Competition.
Cohen & Cohen Mock Trial Award	For the winning team in the Cohen & Cohen Mock Trial Competition.
Judge Albert H. Grenadier Award	For the members of the graduating class who have represented the Law School at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Jessup Moot Court Competition.
Manuel and Ana María Benítez Award for Clinical Excellence in Immigration Law	For a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated extraordinary ability in his or her work in the Immigration Clinic.
John F. Evans Award	For outstanding achievement in the criminal division of the Law Students in Court Program.
Richard C. Lewis, Jr., Memorial Award	For a member of the graduating class who has exhibited extraordinary dedication to his or her work in the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics and unusual compassion and humanity toward clients and colleagues.

Community Legal Clinics Volunteer Service Award	For the member of the graduating class who excelled in volunteering his or her time and energy to promote the goals and ideals in the public interest by contributing to the efforts of the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics.
ALI-ABA Scholarship and Leadership Award	For the member of the graduating class who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership.
Michael Dillon Cooley Memorial Award	For that individual in the graduating class who has been most successful in maintaining his or her compassion, vitality, and humanity during law school.
The George Washington Alumni Association Award	For extraordinary leadership and commitment to the University and its community.
Justice Thurgood Marshall Civil Liberties Award	For outstanding performance in and dedication to the field of civil rights and civil liberties.
National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Graduate Award	For a member of the graduating class who has contributed to the advancement of women in society, promoted issues and concerns of women in the legal profession, achieved academic success, and earned the respect of the Law School faculty and administration.
Thelma Weaver Memorial Award	For a foreign student member of the graduating Master of Laws class who has contributed most to the intellectual and professional life of the Law School, its students, and its faculty.
Anne Wells Branscomb Award	For the highest average grade in the entire course of the evening division for the degree of Juris Doctor.
Willard Waddington Gatchell Award	For three members of the graduating class who attained the highest average grade in the entire course for the degree of Juris Doctor.
Charles Glover Award	For the highest average grade in the third-year, full-time course for the Juris Doctor degree.
Kappa Beta Pi Award	For the women members of the graduating class in the full- and part-time divisions who attained the highest average grade in the first-year course of study for the Juris Doctor degree.
John Bell Lerner Award	For the highest average grade in the entire course for the Juris Doctor degree.
John Ordronaux Awards	For the member of the graduating Juris Doctor class who attained the highest average grade in the first-year, full-time course of study and to the member of the graduating Juris Doctor class who attained the highest average grade in the second-year, full-time course of study.

Journals¹⁵

The **George Washington Law Review**, founded in 1931, is a student-published scholarly journal that examines legal issues of national significance. The Law Review publishes six issues a year and also publishes material on its online companion publication, *Arguendo*. Each issue typically contains scholarly articles, essays, and student notes. The Law Review also devotes one issue to the annual Law Review Symposium and one issue to the Annual Review of Administrative Law. The Law Review is staffed and run by GW Law JD students selected as a result of their academic

achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition.

The **George Washington International Law Review**, founded in 1966, is a student-published journal that presents articles and essays on public and private international financial development, comparative law, and public international law. The International Law Review is published quarterly. Additionally, the International Law Review annually publishes the Guide to International Legal Research. The Guide is an authoritative and comprehensive reference tool organized by geographic regions and substantive areas of international law. The International Law Review is staffed and run by GW Law JD students selected as a result of their academic achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition.

The **American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal**, founded in 1972 and residing at GW Law since 1994, is the joint publication of the AIPLA, one of the largest private bars of intellectual property attorneys in the world, and the George Washington University Law School. The AIPLA QJ is published four times per year and is dedicated to presenting materials relating to intellectual property matters. With a readership of over 17,000 attorneys and IP professionals, AIPLA QJ is a leading journal for intellectual property and technology.

The **Federal Circuit Bar Journal**, as the official journal for the Federal Circuit Bar Association and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC), is charged with providing meaningful, insightful and timely coverage of issues within the court's purview. The FCBJ is a national quarterly publication that carries a subscriber base of over three thousand judges, professors, attorneys, and law students. Membership is open to GW Law JD students who are selected as a result of their academic achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition.

The **Federal Communications Law Journal** is the official journal of the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA), the leading organization for communications lawyers and other professionals. In conjunction with the FCBA, the George Washington Law School publishes the FCLJ three times a year and features articles on a range of domestic and international issues in communications law by practitioners, Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, policymakers, and professors, as well as book reviews and student notes. The FCLJ is edited and managed by GW Law JD students selected as a result of their academic achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition.

The **International Law in Domestic Courts**, founded in 2007 by Oxford University Press, is published online by Oxford University Press (OUP) and provides commentary on domestic judicial decisions involving international law issues from around the world. GW Law JD students are the exclusive rapporteurs for the United States and are joined by more than 70 professional rapporteurs from other countries. Rapporteurs identify and propose the cases, then write scholarly commentaries (akin to case notes) on the cases accepted for inclusion in the database. ILDC rapporteurs write about cases concerning international business law, family law, privileges and immunities, treaty law, environmental law, criminal law, foreign investment, human rights, humanitarian law, and all other subject areas of international law.

The **Public Contract Law Journal**, produced jointly by the George Washington University Law School and the Section of Public Contract Law of the American Bar Association, is the premier journal read by practitioners in the field of government procurement law. The PCLJ is published quarterly and is edited and managed by JD students, selected as a result of their academic achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition, and LLM students enrolled in the program for Government Procurement Law. LLM students must participate in the annual ABA Section of Public

Contract Law writing competition, or, at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and faculty advisors, submit a writing sample related to public contract law.

The **George Washington Journal of Energy and Environmental Law** is produced in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute and is published twice each year. JEEL focuses on legal issues related to next-generation energy production and distribution and on environmental and climate law issues related to the production of energy. Membership is open to GW Law JD students who are selected as a result of their academic achievements and their performance on the annual writing competition. LLM students may participate on JEEL.

Moot Court^{16, 17}

The Moot Court Board is a student-run honorary society that plays a vital role at GW Law by promoting the development of oral and written advocacy skills. Particular attention is given to fostering excellence in appellate oral advocacy. Membership is offered to first-year law students who achieve exceptional performance in the first-year moot court competition or to upper-class students who achieve distinction in one of the four internal moot court competitions. The board also selects students to represent the Law School at a variety of external competitions. The Moot Court Board hosts numerous competitions throughout the year, covering a host of topics such as constitutional law, international law, national security law, intellectual property law, government contracts and veterans advocacy.

Clinical Programs

The **Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics** create an exciting and supportive educational environment in which law students develop lawyering skills while providing legal services to people who need them.¹⁸

The **Domestic Violence Project** pairs students with public interest groups, governmental organizations and pro bono lawyers working in the field of domestic violence law.¹⁹

The **Family Justice Litigation Clinic** allows students to represent clients in cases involving custody, child support, divorce, and protection from abuse.²⁰

The **Federal, Criminal, and Appellate Clinic** allows students to represent clients before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals in direct appeals from criminal convictions, under supervision.²¹

The **Health Rights Law Clinic** serves the Washington, DC community as the Health Insurance Counseling Project (HICP). Each year, the clinic serves more than 4,000 members of the community through direct legal services, counseling, and information sessions on health care and health insurance matters. Areas of legal representation include Medicaid, HMO or managed care coverage under Medicare, appeals regarding denial of payment for hospital or home health care, and negotiations with collection agencies regarding payment of medical bills.²²

The **Immigration Clinic** provides legal representation to aliens in the DC metropolitan area. Students work directly with clients to help them get asylum and avoid removal. GW Law students have won cases involving issues like torture, religious persecution, female genital mutilation, sexual orientation, HIV-status, and also have obtained freedom from detention for aliens.²³

The **International Human Rights Clinic** is the only human rights clinic in the country dedicated primarily to litigating human rights cases before U.S. and international tribunals. The clinic's docket

consists largely of human rights cases either in U.S. courts under the Alien Tort Claims Act and other federal statutes, or before international tribunals, such as those in the Inter-American Human Rights System.²⁴

The **Neighborhood Law & Policy Clinic** is a “reentry” clinic that advocates for individuals with criminal histories. The clinic serves the legal needs of prisoners, parolees, and ex-offenders, and accepts representation of a variety of different cases.²⁵

The **Public Justice Advocacy Clinic** enables students to represent low-income clients in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the District of Columbia Superior Court and the DC Office of Administrative Hearings. Many cases involve claims of wage theft-where DC employers have failed to pay clients minimum wages, promised wages and/or overtime.²⁶

The **Small Business & Community Economic Development Clinic** provides free legal assistance to selected area businesses, nonprofit organizations, artists, and social enterprises. Many of the clients are micro businesses comprising 1-5 persons with less than \$35,000 in startup capital.²⁷

The **Vaccine Injury Clinic** is the only one of its kind in the country. Students represent young children and adults who are seeking compensation for vaccine-related injuries and death. The clinic has won important appellate victories, including rulings from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.²⁸

D.C. Law Students in Court is a joint project of five Washington, DC, law schools. Students participate in either the civil division (which focuses primarily on the representation of tenants in landlord-tenant actions, but also handles consumer, negligence, and other civil matters) or the criminal division (in which student litigators defend persons charged with misdemeanor offenses). Students in both divisions have the opportunity to participate in jury trials.²⁹

The **Jacob and Charlotte Lehrman Foundation Scholarship** is awarded each year to a third-year student to serve as student director of the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics. The student director conducts client intake, assists administrators, and acts as a liaison between law students and staff.³⁰

The **Friedman Fellowship Program** offers two-year graduate clinical fellowships. These fellowships allow experienced attorneys to obtain an LL.M. degree while examining and engaging in clinical legal education and public interest law. Each fellowship is connected to a particular law school clinic. Although the clinics provide varying kinds of responsibilities and experiences, each allows the Fellow to co-teach and co-supervise the law students enrolled in the clinic.³¹

Placement Facts³²

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$130,000 - \$160,000
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$60,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	85%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	91%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	47.1%
Business and Industry	7%
Government	21.6%
Judicial Clerkships	8.6%
Public Interest Organizations	12.8%
Academia	2.6%
Unknown	0.4%

Externships/Internships^{33, 34}

Externships

The George Washington University Law School Field Placement Program provides students with the opportunity to work closely with judges or practicing lawyers as legal externs in governmental, public interest and private non-profit organizations while earning academic credit. The program is designed to enhance the educational experience of its students through exposure to the actual practice of law.

The primary educational objectives of the program are to provide students with the opportunity to gain experience in different substantive areas of law and legal process; to develop legal research, writing, interviewing, counseling and investigative skills; to deal with issues of professional responsibility in a real practice setting; and to engage in reflective lawyering.

Internships

Judicial Clerkships and Internships

Clerking is a tradition at GW Law. GW Law students and alumni have a strong history of obtaining judicial clerkships, including with the United States Supreme Court. Each year approximately 10% of graduates go on to judicial clerkships, including federal, state, and specialized courts. Over the last several years, GW Law has produced 4 Supreme Court clerks, 74 Federal Appellate Court clerks, and 32 State Supreme Court clerks.

In recent years, approximately 100 first year law students have interned for a judge over the summer. On average, about 20 GW students pursue judicial internships every semester.

Student Organizations³⁵

- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Constitution Society
- Antitrust Law Association
- Arab Student Law Association
- Art Law and Entertainment Society
- Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)
- Bar None Project (BNP)
- Black Law Student Association (BLSA)

- Christian Legal Society
- Corporate and Business Law Society (CBLS)
- Criminal Law Society
- Cyberlaw Students Association (CYLSA)
- District of Columbia Public Defender Service Recording Sealing Service (DRSS)
- East Asian Law Society (EALS)
- Education Law & Advocacy Network (ELAN)
- Entertainment and Sports Law Association (ESPLA)
- Environmental Law Association (ELA)
- Equal Justice Foundation (EJF)
- Evening Law Student Association (ELSA)
- Family Law Society
- The Federalist Society
- The Feminist Forum
- Finance and International Trade Law Society (FITL)
- Government Contracts Students Association (GCSA)
- Gulf Recovery Network (GRN)
- GW Basketball Association (GWBA)
- GW Law Democrats
- GW Law Running Club
- GW Law Softball Club
- Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA)
- Human Rights Law Society (HRLS)
- Immigration Law Association (ILA)
- International Law Society (ILS)
- The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
- Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA)
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Lambda Law
- Law Association for Women (LAW)
- Law Revue
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Military Law Society
- Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA)
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Security Law Association (NSLA)
- Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)
- Nota Bene
- Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)
- Phi Delta Phi (PDP)
- Planning and Law Society (PALS)
- Political Law Society
- Promissory Notes (PN)
- South Asian Law Student Association (SALSA)
- Space Law Society (SLS)
- Street Law
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)
- Student Health Law Association (SHLA)
- Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA)

- Tax Law Society (TLS)
- Vintners & Brewers Legal Society

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