



2014–15



School of Law

*Legal Education in a Capital Location*

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## George Mason University School of Law



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*The photo left provides a view of the monument to George Mason, Virginia patriot and statesman for whom the university is named. Dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 9, 2002, the monument honors Mason, one of the greatest of the founding fathers and among the least known. The acknowledged leader among those founders pressing for a Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, Mason persuaded Federalists, such as James Madison, that the new constitution was unacceptable absent amendments safeguarding individual rights.*

*Previously, Mason had helped draft the first constitution for an independent state, his native Virginia, in 1776. The Virginia Constitution begins with the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by Mason. The Declaration of Rights served as a model for the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, as well as the famous Declaration of the Rights of Man, produced by the French Revolution in 1789.*



*“Amazing focus on personal care and relationships with students has made the intimidating step towards law school less scary and uncomfortable.”*

*“Admissions website information, especially the FAQs, are excellent. I found GMU law’s website among the best in terms of locating information—very accessible and transparent.”*

*“Everyone has been readily available, helpful, and extremely friendly.”*

*In regard to the Office of Career, Academic and Alumni Services, “They are helpful and frank” and “I appreciate their honest and in-depth exploration of career and finding jobs.” “Since orientation I have been quite impressed with the speakers and substance of the sessions.”*

**—Select comments from the Fall 2013 New Student Surveys**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### WHY LAW SCHOOL?

Given the rising cost of attending law school and the state of the economy, you may be questioning the value of attending law school. That question deserves careful consideration by all prospective law students. The decision to attend law school should be based on careful self-analysis, accurate information about the lives of lawyers, and realistic expectations about what you will find challenging and rewarding in a career.

If you enjoy analytical thinking and intellectual challenge, then law school may be the right choice for you. As a field of study, law offers a wide range of career options. Each career option involves, to varying degrees, skills developed in law school, including analytical thinking, problem solving, research, writing, counseling, communication, and negotiation.

As you contemplate attending law school, I invite you to consider George Mason University School of Law.

### WHY MASON LAW?

Mason is a dynamic, young law school that has gained recognition as a national law school—as measured by national magazines, surveys, and members of the profession—in a very short time. Highly educated in multiple disciplines, the Mason faculty infuses traditional law curriculum with elements of finance, economics, politics and jurisprudence; a perfect blend for today’s political and economic climate. As a student, you will receive a rigorous intellectual challenge, inspiring scholarly debate.

For Mason students, opportunities abound in and around the Nation’s Capital. Our location—just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, D.C.—provides a wide range of professional opportunities unequalled in other areas of the country. Through our field placement programs, you may gain practical experience with real cases and real clients by working for credit in judges’ chambers, state and federal government agencies, public interest groups, and law firms. Exposure to a variety of employment opportunities can aid you in solidifying career goals, goals that our Career, Academic and Alumni Services Office staff stands ready to help you achieve.

Mason takes pride in its student body and is committed to excellence in legal education. We take seriously our obligation to prepare you for success in all areas of practice. Our faculty and adjunct faculty, which includes practicing attorneys, government officials and judges from the regional and local communities, will mentor you inside and outside the classroom.

### COME VISIT AND EXPERIENCE THE GEORGE MASON LAW COMMUNITY FOR YOURSELF

I invite you to visit George Mason University School of Law. Come see why our newest students most frequently cite their “interaction with Mason staff, students, professors, and alumni” as their reason for selecting Mason Law. As one of the highest-value choices in professional education, George Mason University School of Law offers the finest in legal education and practical training in an unparalleled location. Visit us, and see for yourself.

Dean and Professor of Law

## LOCATION IS OUR GREATEST ADVANTAGE

George Mason University School of Law sits just a few miles from downtown Washington, D.C., the nexus for the creation of the world's most important legislation and jurisprudence. Metropolitan Washington offers students access to hundreds of opportunities and legal resources of tremendous scope and depth:

- ◆ Outstanding instruction from faculty and guest lecturers with significant experience in governmental and public policy organizations such as the White House, the Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- ◆ Year-round employment opportunities with major executive branch agencies, congressional commissions and federal agencies, and the hundreds of private law firms located in the Washington, D.C., area.
- ◆ Access to the “rocket docket,” the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, which has the fastest trial docket in the United States and adjudicates some of the most complex civil cases in the nation, particularly patent, copyright, and employment cases.



The old adage of ‘location, location, location’ is no truer than in the legal world. I had received a few enticing offers from other schools; but once I received the call from Mason Law, everything else faded into the background. The opportunities that come from working, socializing, and studying in the heart of our nation are far beyond those of any other school. Likewise the relationships you will create here are invaluable, whether it is in traditional law or in the ever-increasing non-legal world.

**CHRISTOPHER TOPHAM**  
*Third-Year Law Student*

**President,  
J. Reuben Clark  
Law Society**



*An aerial view of Washington's Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial showing the Potomac River and the Northern Virginia shoreline a short distance from the School of Law.*

*At right is the Virginia Square/GMU station of the region's Metro subway system, which connects Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Mason Law students make frequent use of the system through its stop adjacent to the campus to travel between home and classes, jobs, and internships throughout the Washington area. Travel time to Federal Triangle is a mere 14 minutes from the Virginia Square/George Mason University Metro station.*

# THE LAW SCHOOL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Northern Virginia offers professional advantages and diverse social, cultural, and educational opportunities unequaled in any other metropolitan region.

Arlington County has vibrant commercial districts that host a number of industry leaders and Fortune 500 companies; the City of Alexandria houses the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and provides a venue for the headquarters of many national associations; Fairfax County, a world center of commerce and trade and the technology hub of the United States East Coast, has offices of more than 4,000 technology companies and national law firms located within its borders.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

George Mason University, established as a branch of the University of Virginia in 1957, gained independent university status in 1972 by act of the Virginia General Assembly. The university is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. George Mason University is part of the public university system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The university is a living memorial to George Mason, the Virginia patriot and statesman who is best known for having drafted the Virginia Declaration of Rights on which the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution is based.

## The School of Law

Founded in 1972 as the International School of Law, the law school became a part of George Mason University in 1979. It is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA)\* and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

For more than a decade, the law school has been in the forefront of curricular innovation. Recognizing the rapid changes that are occurring in legal practice and profession, George Mason has pioneered three core competencies—often neglected at more traditional institutions—for its students: (1) specialized substantive preparation for practice; (2) intensive development of legal writing and research skills; and (3) the legal application of economic tools and methods. Our demanding curriculum offers students unique advantages in today's competitive employment market.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/about](http://www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/about).

\*Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark Street, 21st Floor, Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: 312.988.6738  
[legaled@americanbar.org](mailto:legaled@americanbar.org)



George Mason University School of Law's proximity to Washington, D.C., provided me the unique opportunity to work for the Department of Defense. My experiences at Mason shaped me to become an excellent candidate for the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps One Year College Program. Mason's Academic Services Office provided fantastic support in planning my final year of law school studies to allow simultaneous Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) classes. If you have the motivation and the dedication to find the right opportunities, George Mason will support you every step of the way. I look forward to using what I learned at Mason in serving my nation as an Air Force Judge Advocate.

**ALLI WALSH**  
*Class of 2014*



# A CHOICE OF PROGRAMS

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF A WELL-DESIGNED LAW PROGRAM

George Mason offers a general course of study, which allows students to choose electives as their interests develop. All George Mason Law students are required to satisfactorily complete 89\* credit hours for graduation. Forty of those credit hours are in general courses; 49 credit hours are in elective courses. As part of the 89\* credit hours, students must complete the School of Law's writing requirements.

Students attending George Mason University School of Law may pursue full-time day study or part-time evening study. Unlike many other law school programs, the day and evening programs stand on equal footing, as the courses taught in the day and evening divisions are identical and are taught by the same professors.

### Day Division

In the day division, students take three years to complete the 89\* credit hours required for graduation. Day students take 14 to 15 credits each semester. Day classes are scheduled between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Frequently in upper class years, day students select classes from the evening division.

### Evening Division

In the evening division, students take four years to complete the 89\* credit hours required for graduation. Evening students average 11 to 12 credit hours each semester. Evening classes are scheduled between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. After the first year, evening students may choose to take some of their classes during the day.

### Summer Term

George Mason University School of Law holds a summer term each year that typically runs from late May to mid-July. All summer courses are held in the late afternoon and evening hours, between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

*\*Required credit hours are subject to change.*

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/parttime](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/parttime).



“As a part-time student with a full-time day job, I appreciate the consideration given to the scheduling of evening classes. Since no evening class begins before 6 p.m., I can work a full day and still make it to class on time. Even more important to me as a student focusing on patent law is the extensive selection of IP courses available in the evening program, many of which are taught by active practitioners in the IP field. This wide selection of evening IP courses is just one of the many qualities that distinguish Mason from the other area law schools.

**MAT BARNET**  
*Third-Year Law Student*



# A CURRICULUM FOR TODAY'S PRACTICE

The School of Law has designed a curriculum that addresses three of the most pressing requirements of contemporary legal practice: a thorough grounding in the fundamental skills of legal research, writing, and analysis; facility with economic and quantitative methods; and the increasing need for specialization.

## LEGAL RESEARCH, WRITING, AND ANALYSIS

Our three-year legal writing program emphasizes continual practice through the development of actual transactions and cases and effective use of technology. Students receive intensive legal research, writing, and analysis training in small sections.

## ECONOMIC AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

For the past 20 years, George Mason has integrated economic theory, as well as basic mathematical and financial skills, into our law and economics-oriented curriculum. Our curriculum introduces students to legal methods, along with economic and quantitative tools, stressing the application of the nonlegal methods in legal contexts.

## A CHOICE OF SPECIALTY PROGRAMS OF STUDY IN THE JD PROGRAM

The practice of law becomes more segmented as the body of law grows in both volume and complexity. The option to pursue specialty programs ensures that Mason graduates can demonstrate depth as well as breadth in their legal education and that they are prepared for practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Although George Mason offers a number of structured specialization options, students are not required to specialize in their legal studies. Many students enter law school without a clearly defined area of interest. Those students may pursue a general course of study, choosing electives as their interests develop.

All George Mason law students, whether pursuing a specialty or the General Law Program, are required to satisfactorily complete 89 credit hours for graduation, which includes the School of Law's writing requirement.

For expanded information on the JD program, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd).



“Entering a profession heavily reliant on writing and research, I wanted a law school that put the development of those skills at the forefront of its curriculum. George Mason’s intensive four-semester writing program not only provides an expansive look into the subject but also prepares you for professional application. The practicality, rigor, and thoroughness of George Mason’s legal writing curriculum have made me both a stronger writer and more marketable applicant.”

**MANMEET DHINDSA**  
*Second-Year Law Student*





### SPECIALTY TRACKS

With specialty tracks, students may acquire a sophisticated understanding of particular substantive areas of the law usually gained only after years of practice or through advanced legal study. A student pursuing a specialty track will take 24 to 31 credit hours of the 89 total credit hours required for graduation in the area of specialization *and* write a thesis.

#### Litigation Law Track

**The Litigation Law Track** is designed to prepare students academically and practically for litigation practice or other careers relating to dispute resolution. This track program is based upon a belief that solid professional competence requires a sound understanding of the theory and institutions underlying dispute resolution. Accordingly, the specialized track courses focus on the processes of dispute resolution and lawyers' roles from an analytical perspective, as well as on practical advocacy skills. Approximately 26 percent of the 89 credits required for graduation must be in litigation law courses. The remaining 74 percent of the credit hours are in courses outside litigation law.

#### Patent Law Track

**The Patent Law Track** is designed for students who intend to practice in the specialized field of patent law. Approximately 20 percent of the 89 credit hours required for graduation must be in patent law courses. The remaining 80 percent of the credit hours are in courses outside patent law; however, many patent track students will pursue related courses in copyright and trademark law.

#### Regulatory Law Track

**The Regulatory Law Track** prepares students for practice in and before the numerous agencies that regulate business and other activities. Approximately 34 percent of the 89 credits required for graduation must be in regulatory law courses. The remaining 66 percent of the credit hours are in courses outside regulatory law.

### SPECIALTY CONCENTRATIONS

Students preferring greater freedom in their course selection but desiring some degree of specialization may pursue concentrations. To complete a concentration, a student must earn 14 to 16 credit hours in a particular area.

Students may choose from concentrations in the twelve legal subject areas that follow.

- *Antitrust Law*
- *Communications Law*
- *Corporate and Securities Law*
- *Criminal Law*
- *Homeland and National Security Law*
- *Intellectual Property Law*
- *International Business Law*
- *Legal and Economic Theory*
- *Litigation Law*
- *Personal Law*
- *Regulatory Law*
- *Tax Law*
- *Technology Law*



I have thoroughly enjoyed the litigation track. It has opened my eyes to aspects of litigation that were previously unknown to me and has given me an opportunity to use economic frameworks to think critically about litigation decisions at every step.

**HEATHER MIMS**  
*Third-Year Law Student,*  
*Litigation Track*



# LLM PROGRAMS

## A CHOICE OF SPECIALIZING POST-JD IN OUR LLM PROGRAMS

George Mason University School of Law offers two LLM degrees for JD graduates seeking expertise in the fields of (1) intellectual property law or (2) economic analysis applied in the legal setting.

### LLM in Intellectual Property Law

This degree is designed for attorneys who intend to practice in the fields of patent, copyright, trademark and technology law in the United States or who would like to gain a knowledge of the United States' intellectual property laws and return to their home country for practice. The curriculum in the general LLM in Intellectual Property program includes courses covering every aspect of intellectual property law, from basic courses in patent, copyright, trademark and technology, to enforcement, litigation and dispute resolution, to practical experience drafting patents. Additionally, students may choose to pursue their LLM in Intellectual Property **with a patent or a technology focus.**

Students pursuing the LLM in IP at Mason, will learn from and interact with a stellar faculty. Mason's full-time faculty includes several scholars with substantial expertise in intellectual property law, focusing on the practice, theory, economics, and history of patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property rights. Mason's distinguished adjunct faculty has featured, among others, a sitting Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Solicitor of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a former Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, a former Register of Copyrights, and prominent practitioners from the government and most of the leading intellectual property law firms in the Washington, D.C., area.

For expanded information on the LLM in Intellectual Property, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/degrees/llm\\_ip](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/degrees/llm_ip).

### LLM in Law and Economics

This degree is designed to provide law graduates the opportunity to develop an expertise in the skills of economic analysis as they are applied to a variety of legal settings. Economics touches private law, intellectual property law, international business law, regulatory law and other areas that students may explore. Additionally, students may choose to pursue their LLM in Law and Economics **with an antitrust focus.**

Mason University School of Law is one of the nation's leading centers for the study of law and economics. During the past 16 years, George Mason has assembled a distinctive, interdisciplinary faculty, many of whom hold doctorates in economics, philosophy, political science, or related fields.

For expanded information on the LLM in Law and Economics, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/degrees/llm\\_law\\_econ](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/degrees/llm_law_econ).

MASON LAW IS HOME TO SEVERAL RELATED ACADEMIC CENTERS:

Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security  
[cip.gmu.edu](http://cip.gmu.edu)

Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property  
[cpip.gmu.edu](http://cpip.gmu.edu)

Information Economy Project  
[iep.gmu.edu](http://iep.gmu.edu)

Law & Economics Center  
[www.masonlec.org](http://www.masonlec.org)



*The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the federal agency responsible for granting U.S. patents and registering trademarks, is located minutes away from the School of Law in the Northern Virginia suburb of Alexandria, Virginia. USPTO headquarters occupies five interconnected buildings and employs nearly 9,000 people whose job is to protect U.S. Intellectual Property rights.*

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

George Mason University School of Law commits to teaching its students to think clearly and critically, to develop sound judgment, and to apply the knowledge they obtain in law school in practical ways that will lead them to success and fulfillment in their legal careers. We strive to prepare our students to achieve their personal professional goals and to become contributing and valuable members of our local, national, and international legal communities.

### OFFICE OF CAREER, ACADEMIC AND ALUMNI SERVICES (CAAS)

#### Services for Our Students

The Office of Career, Academic and Alumni Services aids students by providing academic and career advice during and after law school. Career and academic planning go hand in hand in law school, and counselors are available to discuss how course selection and performance can enhance career prospects. To expand students' career options, CAAS serves as a clearing house for information on full- and part-time positions, introduces students to mentors and leaders in various fields, conducts information and networking sessions, reviews job application materials, and coordinates or subsidizes on and off campus job fairs.

#### Practical Experience

The law school's location in Metropolitan Washington, D.C., gives Mason Law students unparalleled opportunities to gain substantial practical experience with an employer of their choice while earning credit. Through the externship program, Mason Law students develop solid research and writing skills and gain valuable networking ties while receiving credit by working in myriad settings, including federal and state courts, Capitol Hill, federal agencies like the Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission, and nonprofits like the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center and Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

Mason also offers externship programs where the law school places the student in particular field offices:

- ◆ **Domestic Relations**—Assisted by an attorney advisor, students represent clients in obtaining uncontested divorces and assist in other domestic relations matters by interviewing clients, preparing court filings, and attending hearings.
- ◆ **Virginia Practice**—Students intern in judges' chambers, public defenders' or Commonwealth Attorneys' offices, legal aid, county and city attorney offices, or a private firm.
- ◆ **Capitol Hill**—Students gain exposure to the intersection of law and policy by working on Capitol Hill, in government affairs offices, in trade associations, lobbying firms, and government agencies.

Mason provides students an additional opportunity to earn credit while working on live matters through our in-house clinical and practicum programs:

- ◆ **Law and Mental Illness**—Students study the history and development of the laws affecting the mentally ill and prepare for and represent petitioners in civil commitment hearings.
- ◆ **Patent Law**—Students work directly with an inventor to draft an actual patent application for submission.
- ◆ **Regulatory Law**—While working with a mentor, students may engage in the federal regulatory process, analyzing an active regulation and filing public comments.
- ◆ **Legal Assistance to Servicemembers and Veterans**—Students provide active-duty members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families with free representation in civil cases of clear injustice or in which they could not retain counsel without undue hardship.
- ◆ **Supreme Court**—George Mason law students provide *pro bono* legal representation before the Supreme Court of the United States, working closely with Wiley Rein LLP attorneys to identify cases of interest, research legal issues, and draft Supreme Court briefs on behalf of parties and *amici* at both the *certiorari* and merits stages. The clinic is one of only a handful like it in the United States.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/clinics](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/clinics).



“Serving as a Student Advisor with the Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers and Veterans was an incredible opportunity to gain invaluable practical experience in the courtroom, while also serving a worthy cause. Not only was it personally rewarding, the experience significantly strengthened my application for accession into the Navy JAG Corps.

JUSTIN COLLINS  
Class of 2014



Associated Press

*Instructors Thomas McCarthy, left, and William Consovoy, right, flank Mason clinic students outside the Supreme Court building after they assisted with a case argued before the Court.*

## A Supreme Clinical Opportunity at George Mason Law

In the Fall of 2011, George Mason University School of Law, in partnership with Wiley Rein LLP, a Washington, D.C., law firm, launched a Supreme Court Clinic to provide *pro bono* legal representation before the Supreme Court of the United States. The year-long clinic provides George Mason law students with the opportunity to work closely with Wiley Rein attorneys to identify cases of interest, research legal issues, and draft Supreme Court briefs on behalf of parties and *amici* at both the *certiorari* and merits stages. The Supreme Court Clinic is directed by William S. Consovoy and Thomas R. McCarthy, both lawyers in Wiley Rein's Appellate Group and 2001 graduates of George Mason University School of Law. Consovoy previously clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States and Chief Judge Edith H. Jones of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. McCarthy previously clerked for Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Judge Frank W. Bullock Jr. of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Clinic participants receive an invaluable opportunity to observe and participate in the business of the highest court in the land. In spring 2013, the Supreme Court dismissed as improvidently granted *Boyer v. Louisiana*, No. 11-9953, leaving in place the petitioner's murder conviction and life sentence. The Court's dismissal of the case represents a significant victory for the State of Louisiana and for the clinic, which acted as co-counsel for the State, in conjunction with the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office. Assistant District Attorney Carla S. Sigler, who argued the case on behalf of the State, praised the work of the clinic in helping to convince the Court that it had mistakenly taken this case.

George Mason University School of Law Supreme Court Clinic ... thoroughly researched the issues involved, prepared and filed a comprehensive and exemplary brief, and helped prepare the State's prosecutor for the daunting challenge of oral argument ... without [the Clinic's] assistance, the State would not have been able to prevail in this difficult case.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY  
CARLA S. SIGLER  
*Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana*



“The Career, Academic and Alumni Services Office was an invaluable resource for me throughout my time at Mason. Its counselors were there for me during my 1L year, when I was just trying to get my bearings as a law student, and they continued to advise me when the time came to pursue summer internships and other opportunities. I am especially grateful for their assistance in navigating the clerkship application process. It is hard to imagine going through it without them.

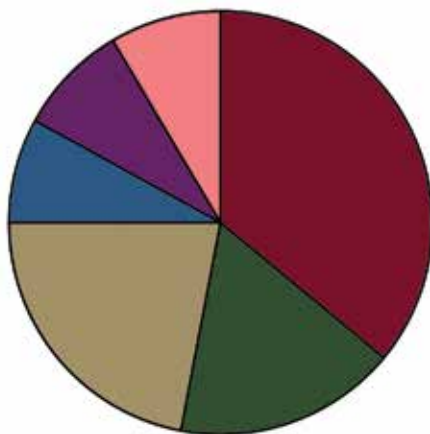
**SCOTT BROOKS**  
*Class of 2014*  
*Clerk to*  
*The Honorable*  
*Stephanie D. Thacker*  
*United States Court of Appeals*  
*for the Fourth Circuit*

**JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

A judicial clerkship for one or two years following graduation is an excellent way to bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law. It also can be an extremely valuable step in an attorney’s professional development and ultimate career success. Our students have been selected for judicial clerkships covering the full range of state and federal opportunities, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/career/clerkship](http://www.law.gmu.edu/career/clerkship).

**CLASS OF 2013 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**



**Employment Rate**

- Employed 92.5%
- Pursuing graduate degree full time 1.2%
- Seeking and not seeking employment 5.9%
- Unknown .4%

**Employment Type**

- Law Firm 36%**
- Business 17%**
- Government 22%**
- Judicial Clerkship 8%**
- Public Interest 8.5%**
- Academia 8.5%**

Employment information is based on data from surveys received for every graduate and from follow-up contact conducted by the Career, Academic and Alumni Services Office from graduation through the following February. Every graduate is required to fill out a survey as a condition of graduation, and George Mason provides employment data to the National Association of Law Placement (NALP), the ABA, and U.S. News. For detailed employment information on the Classes of 2011–13, visit: [www.law.gmu.edu/career/employment\\_information](http://www.law.gmu.edu/career/employment_information). Note that some graduates were employed in positions funded in part or in whole by George Mason at the time data was reported.

## A FACULTY WITH AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

Over the years, the School of Law has developed and nurtured in its faculty a diverse group of scholars who infuse a variety of disciplines into the law curriculum. Approximately one-third of members of the full-time faculty hold degrees in economics, and a number of them have held key positions as economists in the past. Our full-time and adjunct faculties boast members who are experienced in such areas as political theory, philosophy, psychology, behavioral science, biology, and jurisprudence. Mason law students reap the benefits of this multidisciplinary approach to legal knowledge.

The law school's faculty has been in existence for only four decades; however, in that period of time, its members have established themselves as intellectual leaders within the academy. Professor Brian Leiter, Joe A. Worsham Centennial Professor of Law at the University of Texas at Austin, gives Mason's law faculty a mean ranking of 21<sup>st</sup> in scholarly impact among the top 35 law schools in his 2012 study, based on a standard objective measure of scholarly impact: per capita citations to faculty scholarship, generally considered an indicator of faculty quality and reputation.

As of June 2014, George Mason Law is ranked in a Social Science Research Network (SSRN) ranking of Top U.S. Law Schools as #17 for all downloads. In addition, the law school is ranked #1 for total downloads per author in that same ranking.

The School of Law's location adjacent to the nation's capital, in the heart of the East Coast's technology hub, and minutes from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, ensures that its professors bring real-world experience to the classroom. Full-time faculty members possess significant professional experience in the practice of law and public policy, and the law school's full-time faculty is complemented by a remarkable adjunct faculty that includes a significant number of federal and state court judges and prominent practitioners who deal with cutting-edge legal issues on a daily basis. The proximity of prominent legal figures, such as attorneys general and Supreme Court justices, also adds an important dimension to the classroom experience.

To view faculty biographies, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/faculty/directory](http://www.law.gmu.edu/faculty/directory).

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/about/about\\_faculty](http://www.law.gmu.edu/about/about_faculty).

Watch interviews with law school faculty members Ross Davies and Helen Alvaré on Mason Law's YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/user/gmulaw/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/gmulaw/videos).



“The path to a summer associate position is full of unknown twists and turns for a law student. With the experienced guidance of Mason Law's Career, Academic and Alumni Services team, I was able to navigate my way through the application and interview process and obtain a summer associate position with a large law firm in Washington, D.C. CAAS prepared me with resume reviews, mock interviews, and any personalized assistance I required, so that I felt confident in such a competitive job market.”

Jay Mallin

**CLAIRE BOURKE**

*Third-Year Law Student*

*Mason Law professors appear frequently before members of Congress to provide expert testimony in matters of law and policy.*

*Professor Ilya Somin is greeted prior to his testimony at an April 2013 Senate Judiciary Committee subcommittee hearing on the use of drones.*



## A COMPREHENSIVE LAW LIBRARY

George Mason's Law Library combines a strong collection of print and electronic materials with a very experienced staff dedicated to ensuring that students have access to the resources they need for their legal education.

The library's collection consists of more than 481,000 print and microfiche volumes and access to hundreds of electronic journals, treatises, and databases, including LexisNexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg Law, HeinOnline, BNA, and CALI. Law students also have access to thousands of non-legal journals and databases provided through the University Libraries and VIVA, a consortium of academic libraries in Virginia. All electronic services are available both on campus and off. The Law Library is a selective depository for U.S. Government documents and belongs to the Washington Research Library Consortium, which enables students to borrow materials easily from the major academic libraries in Washington, D.C.

Spanning four levels of the law school building, the library has 270 carrels and table seats, nearly all of them wired with electrical and network connections so that students can plug in their laptops to access online resources. A wireless network also is available in all areas of the building, including the library. In addition, the library has fourteen small conference rooms that seat a total of 78 students and can be checked out for group or individual study. The library operates two computer labs that provide both Windows PCs and iMacs and offer students a variety of software, including Microsoft Office. Law students have access to free Lexis printing from both on and off campus. In addition, there are several high-speed laser printers located in the library that students may use with the university's Pay-For-Print system. The university also operates a full-service copy/print center that is located on the entrance level of the library.

The Law Library employs 14 full-time staff members, including six librarians trained as both librarians and lawyers, as well as several part-time evening librarians and a number of student assistants. The librarians teach legal research classes in the first and second year of the Legal Research, Writing and Analysis program and provide students with one-on-one consultation in conducting research. Technology support for the law school is provided by three full-time staff members who have offices in the library and work closely with library and university staff to ensure the highest levels of computing services to students.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/library](http://www.law.gmu.edu/library).



The librarians are here to help students. We teach research skills within the legal writing classes; we help students learn how to use Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg Law; we meet with students writing notes for journals; and we're always available to provide any extra research help needed. All of the full-time reference librarians have a JD and a master's degree in library science. Many of us practiced law before coming to work in the library. We are a great resource, and we truly enjoy working with students.

**MELANIE KNAPP**  
*Instructional Services  
Librarian*



## A DIVERSE AND TALENTED STUDENT BODY

At Mason we take pride in our student body, whose members come to us from every part of the nation and from many countries throughout the world. Our students range from recent college graduates in their twenties to senior citizens. Our evening program allows many nontraditional students to further their education while pursuing a career. As a result, our law school has a mix of students who are rich in experience, knowledge, and professional background. Students bring varied and interesting perspectives to the classroom, and their association with one another is an enriching experience in itself.

Mason provides its students many opportunities to expand their horizons through a multitude of student organizations and activities, all intended for both day and evening students. For information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs).

With a student body of approximately 600, Mason's School of Law is small enough to allow meaningful interaction among students, faculty, and administrators while large enough to offer a broad spectrum of educational choices and student activities. At Mason, there really is something for everyone.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/diversity](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/diversity).



“Returning to professional school after thirty years was daunting, and I am delighted with my Mason experience. My professors have leveraged my knowledge and life experience for the benefit of everyone in the classroom, while providing no extra deference because of my background. And I love being back in school with bright students of all ages, working together with respect for all, both in the classroom and on a journal and Moot Court. Being in the Washington area has also led to two outstanding summer internships, and I've continued the outside commitments I brought with me to school.

**FRANK BRICKFIELD**  
*Third-Year Law Student*

*Mason Law's fall 2013 entering class of 151 students was derived from four nations and 31 states, plus the District of Columbia. Of those students, 115 attended day classes, while 36 attended class in the evening. Forty-six percent of the matriculating students came from outside Virginia, and 44 percent were female. The median LSAT for matriculants was 161, and the median undergraduate GPA was 3.55.*

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

George Mason offers students many ways to enhance their legal educations by becoming active in one or more of our student organizations. These organizations, listed below, not only add to the vitality of the law school, but also create valuable networking opportunities for students with special interests.



George Mason University School of Law's administration is very supportive of student initiatives. I was consistently met with encouragement whenever my group had a new idea for an event or needed help accomplishing a goal. Mason Law gives students many ways to enhance the school's community, and this contributes to the sense that enabling student leadership and encouraging all lifestyles to be represented among the student body are important parts of the school's mission.

**DREW TAYLOR MOORE**  
*Second-Year Law Student*  
*President,*  
*Equality Alliance*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative Dispute Resolution Society</li> <li>American Bar Association/Law Student Division</li> <li>American Civil Liberties Union</li> <li>American Constitution Society</li> <li>American Inn of Court</li> <li>Asian Pacific American Law Students Association</li> <li>Association for Public Interest Law (APIL)</li> <li>Black Law Students Association (BLSA)</li> <li>Business Law Society</li> <li>Christian Legal Society</li> <li><i>Civil Rights Law Journal</i></li> <li>Criminal Law Association</li> <li><i>The Docket</i></li> <li>Environmental Law Society</li> <li>Equality Alliance</li> <li>Federalist Society</li> <li><i>George Mason Law Review</i></li> <li>Health Law Society</li> <li>Hispanic Law Students Association</li> <li>Honor Committee</li> <li>Immigration Law Society</li> <li>Intellectual Property Law Society (IPLS)</li> <li>International Law Society</li> <li>Internet, Telecom &amp; Media Law Association</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Reuben Clark Law Society</li> <li>Jewish Law Students Association</li> <li><i>Journal of International Commercial Law</i></li> <li><i>Journal of Law, Economics &amp; Policy</i></li> <li>Law Students for Liberty</li> <li>Law Students for the Second Amendment</li> <li>Mason Law Democrats</li> <li>Mason Law Republicans</li> <li>Mason Sports and Entertainment Law Society</li> <li>Military Law Society</li> <li>Moot Court Board</li> <li>Muslim Law Student Association</li> <li><i>National Security Law Journal</i></li> <li>National Security Law Society</li> <li>Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International</li> <li>Phi Delta Phi</li> <li>Running Along the Potomac</li> <li>Student Animal Legal Defense Fund</li> <li>Student Bar Association</li> <li>Thomas More Society</li> <li>Trial Advocacy Association</li> <li>VBA Pro Bono Society</li> <li>Wine and Spirits Law Society</li> <li>Women's Law Association</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs).

Learn more about Mason student activities at Mason Law's YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/user/gmulaw/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/gmulaw/videos).

*Photo courtesy of Elon University School of Law*





# THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The admissions process at George Mason University School of Law is extremely competitive. The Admissions Committee reviews and considers each application in its entirety. First-year and transfer students are admitted only in the fall. Applications are available through the Law School Admission Council, [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

## Early Decision Program

**Students seeking an early decision must submit and complete all of the standard application procedures no later than December 15, 2014.** Early decisions will be made no later than **January 31, 2015**. Applicants who apply but are not admitted through early decision may be considered in the standard admission process, or they may be denied admission.

## Standard Admission Process for First-Year Applicants

**The standard application deadline for fall 2015 admission is April 1, 2015.** Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to matriculate, an applicant must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting association of the United States. Alternatively, applicants completing their undergraduate work at an institution outside the United States must have their degrees certified as equivalent to those acquired in an accredited institution.

Application may be made during the final year of undergraduate study, and acceptance is contingent upon award of a baccalaureate degree before matriculation at the School of Law.

All applicants must register with the Law School Admission Council's (LSAC) Credential Assembly Service and take the LSAT.

## TRANSFER ADMISSION

Admission of transfer students is highly selective. Only students who have completed one year at an ABA-accredited law school will be eligible for transfer admission.

## VISITING LAW STUDENTS

The School of Law accepts a number of visiting students each semester and for the Summer Term.

Detailed information concerning the application procedures for early decision and standard first-year applicants, transfer applicants, and visiting applicants is available at [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/howtoapply](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/howtoapply).

## ADMISSIONS INQUIRIES, TOURS, AND CLASS OBSERVATIONS

Applicants who have questions should contact the Admissions Office at [lawadmit@gmu.edu](mailto:lawadmit@gmu.edu).

For tours or class observations, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/events](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/events).

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on evening tour days.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions).

Photos by Steve Tuttle, Paul Bohman, Donna Sneed, Creative Services, Photos.com, and iStockphoto.com, except where noted.



# FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

## ESTIMATED COSTS FOR 2014–15

With the rising cost of financing a law degree, Mason's lower tuition offers a top value in legal education. For the most current posting of tuition rates for the School of Law, please visit [budget.gmu.edu](http://budget.gmu.edu) [budget.gmu.edu/fiscal-year-2014-2015/](http://budget.gmu.edu/fiscal-year-2014-2015/), and select *2014–15 Academic Year Tuition and Fee Rates, Law—In-State or Out-of-State*. Although tuition is subject to change at any time, in spring 2014 the Board of Visitors announced a tuition freeze for the law school and declared an intent to hold law tuition steady through 2016–17.

## FINANCIAL AID

George Mason University's Office of Student Financial Aid, located at the Fairfax Campus, provides a variety of services to assist students in financing their education. George Mason University participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program.

Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year as soon as possible after January 1. To receive priority consideration for available, applicable funds, the FAFSA must be received by the federal processor on or before March 1. Types of financial aid available include Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans, and Federal Work-Study.

For more information, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid on the Web ([financialaid.gmu.edu](http://financialaid.gmu.edu)), or schedule an appointment to meet with a financial aid counselor.

Mason's Title IV school code is 003749.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Over seventy percent of the fall 2013 entering class received scholarship assistance; a higher percentage of the 2014 entering class will receive similar assistance. All scholarship awards are based upon merit as evidenced in applicants' applications for admission. **No additional or special scholarship applications are required.** All law students offered admission to the law school are considered for scholarship awards.

For a detailed listing of the scholarships that are available, please visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/financing](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/financing) or [financialaid.gmu.edu](http://financialaid.gmu.edu).

## Applicants for the Robert A. Levy Fellowships in Law & Liberty

*Robert A. Levy Fellowships in Law & Liberty* were created through the generosity of Dr. Robert A. Levy, a 1994 graduate of the law school. Through this generous fellowship program, Dr. Levy seeks to encourage young scholars to enter the academic field of law and economics by sponsoring their pursuit of a JD degree. Fellowship grants cover tuition and fees and provide a substantial stipend for up to three years. To be eligible for a Levy Fellowship, an applicant must either (1) have earned a PhD from an accredited university in economics or a closely related field such as finance or political science; or (2) have successfully completed all course work in one of the above fields and have passed the general exam for a PhD from an accredited university. Applicants for full-time, first-year law admission who also are applying for the Levy Fellowship must, in addition to all requirements for first-year applicants, provide a cover letter with the names of three references, a curriculum vitae, graduate school transcripts, and a copy of current research. **The deadline for Levy Fellowship and School of Law applications is April 1, 2015.**

For more information about the Levy Fellowship, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/financing/levy\\_fellowships](http://www.law.gmu.edu/financing/levy_fellowships).

George Mason University maintains the confidentiality of student education records pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

George Mason University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university and employer. Consistent with these principles and in compliance with the Student Right-to-Know Act, George Mason University publishes annual reports that disclose information about the athletic program and campus security. The campus security report includes campus crime statistics and is published annually by September 1. A copy may be obtained by calling 703-993-2816. The athletic reports include athletic participation and graduation rates and are published annually by October 15. A copy of either of these athletic reports may be obtained by calling Intercollegiate Athletics at 703-993-3204.



I initially found it overwhelming to decide which law school to attend, especially with there being so many in the D.C. and Virginia area. When Mason offered me a scholarship award, it made the decision much easier by significantly reducing the amount of loans I would have post-graduation. This was particularly important for me as someone interested in public interest law, since it enabled me to work for a non-profit over the summer without stressing about having an unmanageable amount of debt in the future. Most of all, the scholarship award sent me a strong message that Mason wanted me to attend and believed that I would be a successful law student. This vote of confidence solidified that it was the right place for me.

**CARLY MEE**

*Second-Year Law Student*

The list below is illustrative of the undergraduate institutions from which George Mason Law has drawn its students in recent years.

American University  
Arizona State University  
Auburn University  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Baylor University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Bowie State University  
Brandeis University  
Brigham Young University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Campbell University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University of America  
Central Methodist College  
Christopher Newport University  
Clarkson University  
Clemson University  
Colgate University  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of William and Mary  
Colorado College  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Florida International University  
Furman University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Grove City College  
Hamilton College  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hampton University  
Harvard University  
Haverford College  
Hobart and William Smith College  
Hollins University  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Ithaca College  
Jacksonville State University  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lehigh University  
Lewis-Clark State College  
Liberty University  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University  
Marquette University  
Mary Washington College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
McGill University  
Michigan State University  
Mississippi State University  
Morgan State University  
Muhlenburg College  
New York University  
Norfolk State University  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Old Dominion University  
Oregon State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Randolph-Macon College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University  
Roanoke College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
San Diego State University  
Seton Hall University  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Methodist University  
Spelman College  
St. Lawrence University  
St. Louis University  
Stanford University  
State University of New York  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University  
Towson State University  
Trinity University  
Truman State University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
U.S. Military Academy  
U.S. Naval Academy  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado  
University of Delaware  
University of Denver  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Hawaii  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maine  
University of Manitoba  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Memphis  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Montana  
University of Nebraska  
University of Nevada  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina  
University of North Dakota  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Richmond  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of San Francisco  
University of Scranton  
University of South Carolina  
University of Tennessee  
University of Texas  
University of the South  
University of Utah  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Western Ontario  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wyoming  
Utah State University  
Valparaiso University  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University  
Virginia State University  
Wake Forest University  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington University  
Wellesley College  
West Virginia University  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University

George Mason is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution committed to the principle that access to study or employment opportunities afforded by the university, including all benefits and privileges, be accorded to each person—student, faculty, staff member, or applicant for employment or admission—on the basis of individual merit without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, sex, or age (except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification). George Mason shall maintain a continuing affirmative action program to promote equal opportunity and to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices in every phase of university operations. Furthermore, affirmative action will be taken to ensure that opportunities afforded by the university are fully available to persons with disabilities, women, Vietnam veterans, and minorities. The university will make every reasonable accommodation to enable students or employees with disabilities to undertake work or study for which they qualify.

Inquiries regarding the university's equal opportunity and affirmative action programs may be made to the Office of Equity and Diversity Services, Mason Hall, Room D105, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030, telephone 703-993-8730.



School of Law

3301 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22201

Information: 703-993-8000

Admissions: 703-993-8010

Fax: 703-993-8088

E-mail: [lawadmit@gmu.edu](mailto:lawadmit@gmu.edu)



[www.law.gmu.edu](http://www.law.gmu.edu)