

Best Schools for Practical Training

| Top Schools for IP, Environmental

preLaw

A National Jurist publication

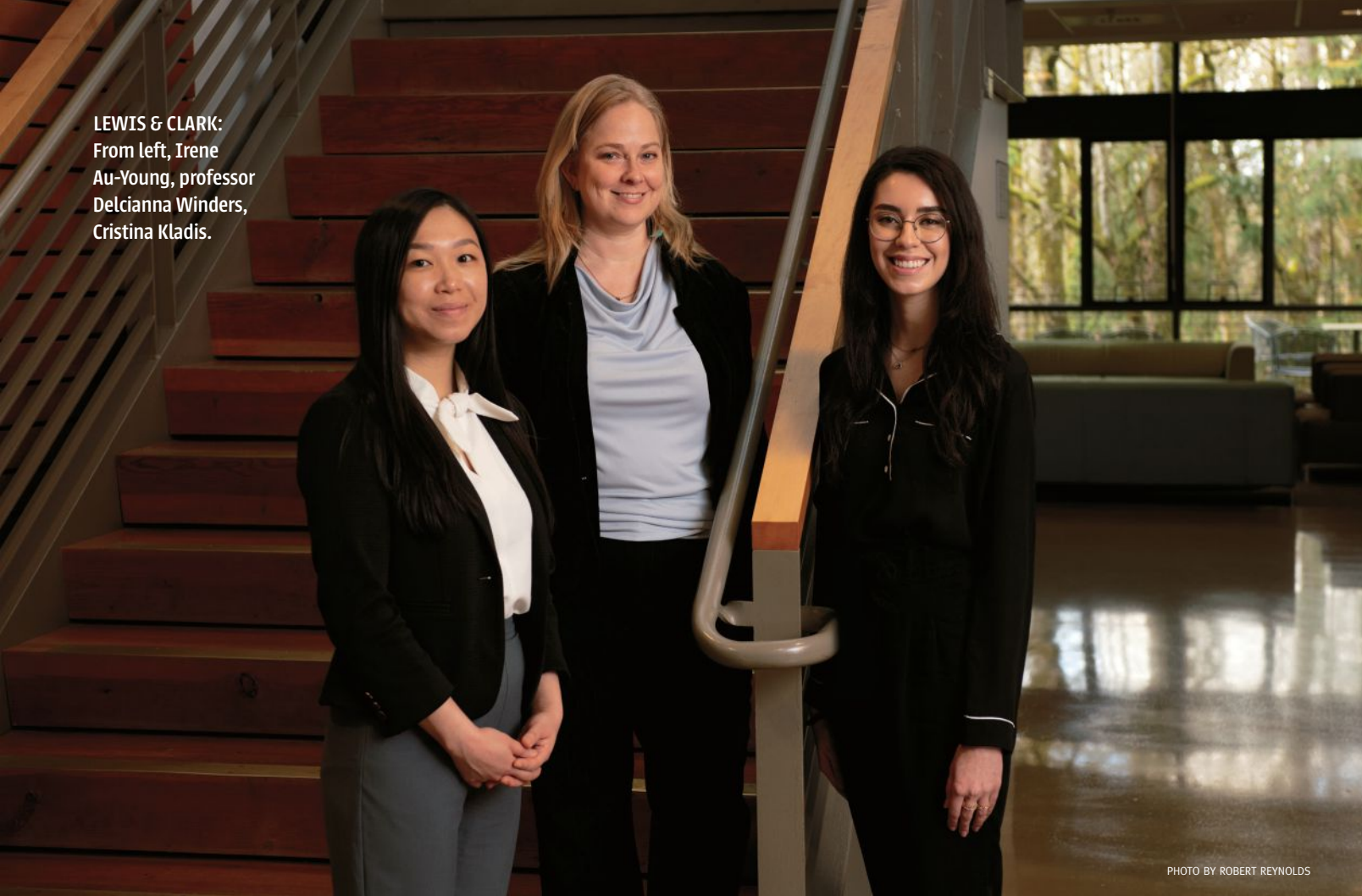
Dayton improves bar passage;
Tulane creates eco-warriors;
Concordia lives on; Profiles of
18 California law schools

SPRING 2020
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BEST LAW SCHOOL BUILDINGS

THE BEST BUILDINGS OFFER SPACE,
GREAT AESTHETICS, AMENITIES
AND CONNECT STUDENTS WITH THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY



A photograph of three women standing on a wooden staircase in a modern building. The woman on the left is wearing a black blazer over a white blouse and grey pants. The woman in the middle is wearing a black blazer over a light blue turtleneck and black pants. The woman on the right is wearing a black blazer over a black top and black pants. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The background shows a large window with a view of trees outside.

LEWIS & CLARK:
From left, Irene
Au-Young, professor
Delcianna Winders,
Cristina Kladis.

PHOTO BY ROBERT REYNOLDS

BEST SCHOOLS for PRACTICAL TRAINING

These schools focus on giving students real-world experience before they step into the real world. It's growing more vital, since employers want grads who don't need hand-holding.

BY MIKE STETZ

Here's a pretty cool thing about law school. Even as a student, you can raise some hell. You can thank practical training opportunities for that. But, if you're in the crosshairs of ambitious, strong-willed law students, maybe not ...

Take a pair of students from Lewis & Clark Law School, for instance. They work in the Portland, Ore., school's Animal Litigation Law Clinic and helped craft lawsuits recently filed against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One suit attacks the federal agency for reducing key oversight at the

nation's pig slaughterhouses as well as eliminating limits on how many pigs can be killed per hour. Another suit claims that the agency is not protecting sick and weakened pigs from slaughter. If they're too sick to walk, they're susceptible to being prodded, kicked or shoved.

Regardless of whether you love a bacon cheeseburger, it would be pretty hard to argue against the idea that processing bacon should be done as humanely — and safely — as possible.

This clinic, which is only about a year old, is the only one of its kind in the nation. Its sole focus is protecting

| | A+ | Clinic Ratio | Number of clinics | Clinic Guarantee | Clinic hours required | Externship Ratio | Simulation ratio | Moot Court Ratio | Pro bono required |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Northeastern University | 88.6% | 12 | ✓ | ✓ | 74.5% | 81.3% | 5.0% | |
| 2 | St. Thomas University - Mn. | 34.9% | 13 | | | 179.5% | 73.8% | 8.3% | ✓ |
| 3 | Baylor University | 25.7% | 11 | | | 31.1% | 318.2% | 64.2% | |
| 4 | University of Minnesota | 70.5% | 25 | | | 27.3% | 138.5% | 11.5% | |
| 5 | University of Denver | 30.0% | 14 | | | 81.4% | 28.5% | 51.1% | ✓ |
| 6 | Brooklyn Law School | 33.4% | 24 | ✓ | ✓ | 41.9% | 244.3% | 18.1% | |
| 7 | Elon University | 17.8% | 5 | ✓ | | 73.7% | 124.3% | 42.9% | |
| 8 | Brigham Young University | 40.4% | 13 | ✓ | | 74.8% | 74.2% | 10.0% | |
| 9 | Case Western Reserve University | 21.7% | 9 | ✓ | ✓ | 60.1% | 103.2% | 14.1% | ✓ |
| 10 | Pepperdine University | 27.0% | 11 | | | 55.7% | 134.9% | 49.9% | |
| 11 | University of Arizona | 50.3% | 17 | ✓ | | 28.2% | 183.2% | 19.4% | |
| 12 | Liberty University School of Law | 28.7% | 4 | | | 21.0% | 217.7% | 59.1% | |
| 13 | Florida Coastal School of Law | 48.3% | 5 | | | 52.8% | 15.9% | 11.4% | ✓ |
| 14 | Chapman Fowler School of Law | 23.8% | 6 | | | 56.2% | 140.6% | 43.0% | |
| 15 | Southwestern Law School | 16.7% | 3 | | | 95.8% | 89.0% | 23.8% | |
| 16 | University of Georgia | 32.8% | 11 | | | 48.4% | 117.4% | 39.5% | |
| 17 | North Carolina Central University | 65.0% | 7 | | | 21.3% | 86.8% | 4.0% | |
| 18 | University of Colorado | 39.3% | 4 | ✓ | | 30.0% | 121.9% | 58.0% | |
| 19 | UC - Irvine | 53.7% | 15 | ✓ | ✓ | 28.4% | 26.9% | 11.2% | |
| | A | Clinic Ratio | Number of clinics | Clinic Guarantee | Clinic hours required | Externship Ratio | Simulation ratio | Moot Court Ratio | Pro bono required |
| 20 | University of Maryland | 38.9% | 14 | ✓ | ✓ | 33.6% | 77.3% | 18.4% | |
| 21 | Cardozo School of Law | 34.2% | 11 | | | 40.2% | 115.8% | 24.6% | |
| 22 | William & Mary Law School | 31.6% | 11 | ✓ | | 36.1% | 109.7% | 23.9% | |
| 23 | University of Wyoming | 36.6% | 7 | ✓ | ✓ | 59.9% | 47.4% | 6.5% | ✓ |
| 24 | University of Wisconsin | 55.9% | 14 | | | 26.5% | 42.7% | 20.1% | |
| 25 | IU - Bloomington (Maurer) | 24.7% | 4 | ✓ | | 38.4% | 95.1% | 36.6% | |
| 26 | University of Washington | 45.5% | 15 | ✓ | | 21.7% | 138.5% | 13.4% | ✓ |
| 27 | CUNY School of Law | 38.3% | 12 | ✓ | ✓ | 5.0% | 98.4% | 2.6% | ✓ |
| 28 | Harvard Law School | 38.1% | 25 | | | 26.7% | 115.7% | 41.8% | ✓ |
| 29 | Arizona State University | 21.8% | 10 | | | 51.2% | 46.1% | 25.7% | |
| 30 | Touro Law School | 27.8% | 10 | ✓ | ✓ | 46.8% | 51.0% | 13.6% | ✓ |
| 31 | Washington and Lee University | 23.2% | 6 | | | 23.5% | 121.5% | 22.7% | |
| 32 | West Virginia University | 45.5% | 9 | | | 12.5% | 81.8% | 9.4% | |

farmed animals, which don't get a lot of love. They're born, they're fed and then they're slaughtered.

So who comes to the rescue? In part, law students.

Cristina Kladis, a third year law student, is involved in the lawsuit targeting the USDA's regulation changes, which she said look like "a joint venture between the government and big business."

Irene Au-Young, also a third year, is working on the suit to protect the weakened animals. She argues that the federal government treats pigs as industrial commodities to be produced as cheaply as possible.

Their work is just one example of how law schools help students prepare for their futures via practical training — a

PRACTICAL TRAINING METHODOLOGY

We graded schools on a number of data points, focusing on key practical training offerings such as clinics, externships, simulation courses, pro bono hours and moot trial participation.

We gave the largest weight — 32% — to clinics. We asked schools for the number of students who completed a clinic in 2018-19. If a student was enrolled in two semesters, that counted as two. Extra credit was given to schools by which clinic work is guaranteed or required.

Externships were weighted at 25% and we asked schools how many students completed one in 2018-19. Again,

if a student had two externships, that counted as two.

Simulation courses accounted for 20% of the score. We asked for the total enrollment in such courses.

Moot court and pro bono hours accounted for 10%. If a school required pro bono hours, it got extra credit.

Finally, we gave 10% to additional practical training offerings, such as required legal writing. We asked schools to provide us with such information as they saw fit.

If schools did not reply, we relied on ABA data.

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key component of the law school experience. It's one of the reasons preLaw magazine highlights the schools that excel in our annual ranking of Best Schools for Practical Training.

Going after the USDA? It's got its challenges, considering the agency is the second largest federal department and has a budget of \$141 billion. It has its own in-house counsel team of 250 attorneys.

Yep, that's the competition. And, nope, the students aren't intimidated. They relish the challenge.

Lewis & Clark earned an A- in this

year's ranking, one of dozens of schools to earn recognition. The schools that are honored run the gamut.

Yale Law School, which boasts a wide range of clinics, made the list, earning a B+. So did the lesser-known Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, N.C. As part of its mission to foster practical training, the school requires that every second-year student complete a residency-in-practice with a law firm, judge, government organization, nonprofit or clinic. It got an A+.

These schools realize that students can

only learn so much from a book or a lecture. What boosts learning is the act of doing. And Kladis and Au-Young are very much doing.

Pigs and law students

Eleven and one-half million.

That's how many more farmed pigs are estimated to be killed annually because of the USDA's action to eliminate slaughtering speeds. Without those limits, worker safety is endangered and the animals could suffer more pain and suffering, critics argue. They'll be whacking pigs so fast that there are worries the animals won't bleed out before being boiled.

Au-Young is no stranger to how farmed animals can be treated. She's taken law courses that have highlighted factory farm practices. Yet she was surprised to learn how these weakened and sick animals were being slaughtered — and then fed to us. Because they're weak, they're more susceptible to disease.

"I think that's a shock for a lot people," she said.



“It's been the most interesting part of my law school experience. It's exceeded my expectations.

—Irene Au-Young, 3L,
Lewis & Clark Law School



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by *U.S. News & World Report*

MOST LIBERAL STUDENTS
Ranked #1 by *The Princeton Review*

**TOP SCHOOLS
FOR HEALTH LAW**
A+ by *preLaw*

**TOP SCHOOLS
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
A+ by *preLaw*

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A by *preLaw*

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N Northeastern University
School of Law

The pork industry has said that the slaughtering speed limits are no longer necessary because of more advanced technology and that weaker pigs are many

| A- | Clinic Ratio | Number of clinics | Clinic Guarantee | Clinic hours required | Externship Ratio | Simulation ratio | Moot Court Ratio | Pro bono required |
|--|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Quinnipiac University | 23.6% | 7 | | | 29.8% | 80.4% | 36.3% | |
| University of Buffalo | 28.4% | 3 | | | 21.8% | 116.0% | 26.4% | |
| University of Montana | 9.4% | 4 | | | 39.8% | 268.4% | 11.0% | |
| Syracuse University | 36.2% | 8 | | | 35.1% | 114.7% | 12.0% | |
| Northwestern University | 47.7% | 20 | ✓ | | 19.0% | 92.9% | 4.6% | |
| University of Illinois | 17.1% | 5 | | | 50.4% | 66.5% | 49.6% | |
| University of Connecticut | 41.0% | 13 | | | 14.9% | 102.7% | 30.1% | |
| Loyola University Chicago | 19.1% | 6 | | | 36.3% | 134.8% | 13.5% | |
| University of Utah | 10.3% | 2 | | ✓ | 53.1% | 189.8% | 17.8% | |
| University of San Diego | 23.8% | 13 | | | 33.3% | 148.8% | 19.0% | |
| LMU - Loyola Law School | 26.5% | 21 | | | 24.2% | 137.3% | 11.3% | ✓ |
| University of Missouri - KC | 22.8% | 9 | ✓ | ✓ | 39.8% | 76.9% | 21.2% | |
| University of Tennessee | 24.7% | 9 | ✓ | | 23.0% | 94.7% | 20.2% | |
| Georgetown University | 29.1% | 16 | | | 27.3% | 85.5% | 10.7% | |
| Howard University School of Law | 44.9% | 7 | | | 30.7% | 52.5% | 12.0% | |
| Lewis and Clark College | 25.0% | 4 | | | 54.1% | 58.4% | 15.6% | |
| University of the District of Columbia | 65.7% | 8 | ✓ | ✓ | 5.2% | 0.0% | 7.0% | ✓ |
| University of Arkansas at Little Rock | 33.7% | 11 | | ✓ | 28.6% | 73.6% | 4.4% | ✓ |
| University of Kansas | 21.0% | 4 | | | 35.7% | 98.7% | 36.3% | |
| Thomas Jefferson School of Law | 28.1% | 5 | | | 41.7% | 91.9% | 23.0% | |
| Temple University | 25.4% | 28 | | | 40.6% | 91.9% | 6.5% | |
| Penn State University - Dickinson Law | 15.5% | 3 | | | 47.3% | 93.7% | 15.0% | |

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times not sick. They are just stressed.

The two law students aren't buying it. They argue that the government is bowing to corporate interests. Both Kladis and Au-Young have been involved in many facets of the suits. They have done research. They have interviewed the plaintiffs, which are a collection of animal rights and environmentalists groups. They have helped craft the arguments.

Not only do they say that such experiences have proved invaluable but they also note that they get to work under clinic director Delcianna Winders, who as the former vice president and deputy general counsel for the PETA Foundation, has vast experience in this arena.

Both of these students came to Lewis & Clark because of its renowned environmental and animal law programs. But neither dreamed they would get the chance to do this kind of work while in school.

"It's been the most interesting part of my law school experience," Au-Young said. "It's exceeded my expectations."

Kladis agreed. "This has been my favorite part of law school. I'm getting the kind of experience that I can use throughout my career."

Law schools improve offerings

Many other schools place an emphasis on practical training, which we rank by looking at a number of key elements that foster it, including clinics, externships, simulations, moot court and pro bono work.

In the past, we relied mostly on the American Bar Association (ABA) for much of the data, but we found that the accrediting body changed the way it gathered such information. This year, we asked schools to provide us the information for a clearer picture. If schools did not, only then did we rely on ABA information. (See methodology on page 34.)

The result? We found that most schools that have historically done well



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL:
It recently started the Rural Immigrant Access Clinic. Among the immigrants it helped were those housed in a county jail.

continued to do so, with a few exceptions. Most of the schools topping our list have strong clinical programs, for instance, which we gave the highest weight — at 32%.

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2019

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2018-19

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BEST VALUE LAW SCHOOLS
2018

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PUBLIC INTEREST LAW SCHOOL
2018

| B+ | Clinic Ratio | Number of clinics | Clinic Guarantee | Clinic hours required | Externship Ratio | Simulation ratio | Moot Court Ratio | Pro bono required |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Chicago-Kent College of Law | 23.6% | 12 | | | 18.5% | 129.5% | 19.7% | |
| Concordia University | 15.6% | 3 | | | 28.9% | 133.3% | 0.0% | ✓ |
| University of Dayton | 13.7% | 4 | | ✓ | 28.3% | 233.6% | 7.5% | |
| Emory University | 9.9% | 9 | | | 43.7% | 165.1% | 16.4% | |
| George Mason University | 21.0% | 9 | | | 48.1% | 103.2% | 12.0% | |
| University of Hawaii | 44.3% | 4 | ✓ | ✓ | 23.3% | 34.3% | 14.6% | ✓ |
| University of Iowa | 25.4% | 7 | | | 21.7% | 111.4% | 48.6% | |
| UIC John Marshall Law School | 22.2% | 9 | | ✓ | 18.3% | 133.9% | 39.8% | |
| McGeorge School of Law | 19.4% | 6 | ✓ | ✓ | 26.0% | 139.3% | 24.5% | |
| University of North Dakota | 0.0% | NA | | | 65.7% | 60.5% | 27.5% | |
| Seattle University | 16.7% | 12 | ✓ | | 28.7% | 55.9% | 42.3% | |
| University of Texas | 30.1% | 17 | | | 15.7% | 146.9% | 10.2% | |
| Tulane University Law School | 23.7% | 8 | | | 31.6% | 95.6% | 9.8% | ✓ |
| University of Massachusetts | 20.3% | 8 | | ✓ | 18.4% | 167.0% | 4.7% | ✓ |
| Villanova Law | 20.3% | 4 | | | 52.4% | 109.4% | 13.2% | |
| Yale Law School | 60.6% | 18 | | | 4.0% | 18.4% | 22.0% | |

Take University of Minnesota Law School. Not on last year's list, this year the Minneapolis school finished third, thanks in part to the strength of its clin-

ics. It has 25 of them.

And it's hardly standing pat. Last year, it added a new one, the Rural Immigrant Access Clinic. The school noticed an

increase in immigrants living in America's heartland.

In some cases, they are recruited to work in meat packing plants. These peo-



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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER: It recognized the need for both practical training and helping the less fortunate more than a century ago.

ple normally can't afford legal services. The clinic doesn't operate like traditional ones, which normally have a set location. Instead, it operates short-term, pop-up clinics in different parts of the state — in churches, libraries and community centers.

At just about every location, it attracts more people than expected.

Law schools have long featured practical training as part of their instruction and mission. For instance, go back to 1904. That's when University of Denver Sturm College of Law opened the nation's first legal aid dispensary, which served the region's poor. It later evolved to become the school's clinical program.

The University of Denver continues that tradition. It earned an A+ in this year's ranking, as it did last year. As part of its commitment to practical training, it created the Live Client Guarantee, which provides every student a chance at a clinic or externship.

While practical training has a long history in legal education, it appeared to be scattershot when it came to which law schools embraced it. Some did a lot. Some did a little. Some did less-than-a-little.

But last decade, law schools were put under much more scrutiny. They weren't doing enough to prepare graduates for the job, critics charged. Newspaper

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stories noted that graduates from the nation's top schools needed to be trained by their law firms because they couldn't do elementary work.

And that criticism resonated.

Schools began to create more practical training opportunities. The ABA responded as well by requiring schools to have students complete at least six credits in "experiential courses," such as clinics, externships or simulations.

Many students don't find the practical training element burdensome. Indeed, many find it to be one of the more rewarding parts of the law school experience. If anything, it seems to fit into the wheelhouse of today's students.

Last year, a survey found that money was not the biggest motivator for student interest in pursuing a law degree. Most said they were considering law school for more altruistic reasons.

And, with practical training, students can do so. It's not simply about raising hell. You can help the disadvantaged, as well. University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, which earned an A+, has the Cardin requirement, named after U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, a 1967 graduate of the school.

Every entering first-year, full-time student must provide legal services to the poor through Cardin Requirement courses, which are offered by the school's clinical law program.

Where practical training can take you

They are not alone. Far from it. Thousands of law students are getting real-life lawyering experience. And it can be pretty heady stuff.

At Northeastern University School of Law, students in the Public Health Legal Clinic helped the school's Public Health Advocacy Institute initiate a lawsuit against Juul Labs, the e-cigarette giant.

It wants the company to fund treatment for those who started using e-cigarettes before age 18 and now want to quit. The Marlboro Man may be gasping his last breath — cigarette sales continue to go down — but e-cigarettes are growing more popular, particularly among the young.

This kind of work is hardly unusual for the Boston law school, which again finished No. 1 in our rankings. Its strong showing comes in part because of its Cooperative Legal Education Program — also known as co-op — which guarantees students three full-time legal work experiences.

And the choices are extensive. The school has relationships with 1,500 employers in 40 states, and students have completed externships in 71 nations.

The co-op program helped William "Mo" Cowen, a 1994 graduate. He had four co-ops, including stints with a judge, a law firm, a legal aid agency and a public defender's office.

Upon graduation, he went on to work at a law firm, then as chief legal counsel and chief of staff for a Massachusetts governor. Later came this plum: He

was appointed to fill Sen. John Kerry's seat after Kerry was named Secretary of State. Today, Cowen is president, Global Government Affairs, Policy and Developed Markets, for GE.

And he looks back at his co-op experience with much gratitude.

"Whether working in a courtroom under the supervision of a judge or side by side with clients on civil litigation and corporate matters, I treasured my co-op time for making me the leader and lawyer that I am today," he said.

These co-ops? Be ready to suit up, and fast. Cowen's first was with Judge Patti Saris, then with the Massachusetts state trial court. (Now she's a U.S. District Court judge.) She immediately had him review case files and briefs and draft orders. He was not far removed from being a first year.



"I remember sheepishly telling her that I wasn't sure my one year of law school qualified me to draft case orders," he said. "I vividly remember her response: Don't worry: I fully expect whatever you write will not be good. But we need to know how bad you are so we can know how to build and improve."

She remains one of his best mentors to this day, he said.

Cowan was a first-generation law stu-

dent, so he had limited knowledge of what the profession offered. One of the reasons he chose Northeastern was so he could explore different options.

"Like my co-op experiences, there are very few straight lines in my career," he said. "But that's exactly why I enjoy being a lawyer ... I've had the chance to build and move my career in many different directions. If you have the same opportunity, I encourage you to embrace it and



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“Whether working in a courtroom under the supervision of a judge or side by side with clients on civil litigation and corporate matters, I treasured my co-op time for making me the leader and lawyer that I am today.”

—William “Mo” Cowen, graduate,
Northeastern University School of Law

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run with it ... it will give you great joy, both professionally and personally.”

While Northeastern has its co-op program, most schools offer similar experiences through externships. This practical training option gets you out of the law school setting and puts you in a real-world environment. There's a working professional — not a professor — you're learning from.

Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles got an A+ this year, in part because of a surge in students taking externships. It boasts one of the largest such programs in the nation. Annually, it fields about 400 externships.

Brendan Nafarrate, a second year at Southwestern, is working on his third externship. He's also done a clinic.

“You're only in law school once,” he said. “I want to experience as much as I can.”

He's well on his way. He's worked for Bet Tzedek, a legal services agency dedicated to helping the disadvantaged, as well as the L.A. County Public Defender's Office. He's now doing an internship with a U.S. District Court judge.

Here are yet more advantages of practical training: You gain expertise, build confidence and better position yourself for the job market.

"It's so valuable in so many ways," Nafarrate said.

And here's one more thing: You can get a taste of several practice areas. Nafarrate is also the first in his family to go to law school. Initially, he was thinking of focusing on immigration law, but now he's been exposed to other areas of law and they intrigue him.

However, even if he does focus on immigration, he realizes there are a number of avenues in which to do so. He could get a job with a legal aid agency or with the government.

"I'm keeping all doors open," he said.

Oh, and here's one more thing. Nafarrate has seen first-hand the kind of commitment these different jobs demand. He has a better understanding of what kind of work-life balance they provide.

“You’re only in law school once. I want to experience as much as I can.”

—Brendan Nafarrate, 2L,
Southwestern Law School

It can snowball, too. He recently landed a plum summer internship with the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review in Virginia. The competition for the paid position was intense, but he has some serious experience ... already. ■



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Bourbon Street, bayous and eco-warriors

Tulane University is a national leader in environmental law. It's dynamic natural setting in New Orleans contributes to the learning experience. **BY JENNIFER MCENTEE**

Daniel Schwank grew up in New Orleans, enjoying the historic city's proximity to coastal wetlands and waterways, river flora and fauna. After earning a master's degree in environmental science from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, he knew where he wanted to go next to study maritime and environmental law: Tulane University Law School.

"Tulane is in an area that faces some of the greatest environmental challenges in the nation," said Schwank, who will graduate in May. "It's a good practical example of a place that desperately needs help. I asked myself, 'Where can I do the most good?'"

The answer? In his own backyard.

The city of New Orleans is uniquely situated for studying the relationship between ecology and the law, said professor Oliver Houck, one of the foremost authorities in the field who helped found Tulane's environmental law program.

Louisiana's natural wonders are amid some of the largest petrochemical complexes in the world, pitting environmentalists and residents against pro-business government officials and industry lobbyists.

"If you're really interested in environmental law, this is more where it's at than any other place," Houck said. "Other law schools, of course, have good programs and excellent professors, but they don't have the absolute horror show we have here. It's a very stimulating experience."

Tulane is one of 52 law schools that offer a certificate in energy and environmental law and one of only 15 that offer an LL.M. in the specialty. The Tulane Center for Environmental Law is the umbrella organization for environmental programs and events at the university, linking the law school with academics working in environmental policy.



NOT YOUR AVERAGE LAW SCHOOL CLASS. At Tulane, professors take students to local swamps and estuaries to teach environmental law.

Tulane also has an Environmental Law Clinic, which 20 students participate in each year under faculty supervision to take legal action on behalf of pro bono clients on issues of public health, state permits, records and regulations, industrial pollution and destruction of wetlands.

Houck was general counsel and vice president of the National Wildlife Federation before joining Tulane's law faculty in 1981. He encourages students to get a hands-on education in environmental law by mixing legal casework with outdoor adventures. He takes law students on field trips to natural habitats such as Louisiana's Pearl River Wildlife Management Area and Atchafalaya River Basin.

"We're pretty much at ground zero on several issues: coastal ecosystems, petrochemicals and environmental justice," Houck said.

As an example, he offers the Environmental Law Clinic's precedent-setting work in the late-1990s that challenged a proposed polyvinyl chloride production plant in a small, lower-income, predominantly black neighborhood along the Mississippi River. The \$700 million Shintech project, planned for the community of Convent, would have been the second-largest chemical facility in the world.

The law clinic's work resulted in an objection from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a vetoed air permit from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, as well as the scorn of some politicians, lobbyists and even Tulane alumni, who complained to the Louisiana Supreme Court that the law clinic should be curtailed. Shintech ultimately abandoned its plans to build in Convent (*Tulane continues on page 46*)

Greenest law schools

Worried about the planet? Join the crowd. Time magazine's Person of the Year in 2019 was Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg. She was 16.

"The Power of Youth," the magazine noted of her efforts.

That could also be said of law students, many of whom find environmental law to be a calling — not just a challenging specialty. And a host of schools have signature programs that fuel that desire.

We've highlighted Tulane University's program in this issue, but many schools have key elements — such as rigorous curriculums, courses, clinics, centers and expert faculty — dedicated to environmental law.

Take Vermont Law School for example. It has long been recognized as a leader in this specialty, and it continues to add offerings.

(Greenest continues on page 47)

Environmental Law

See methodology on page 53

A+

George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia State University
Golden Gate University
Lewis & Clark Law School
Pace University
Tulane University Law School
UC Berkeley
UCLA Law
University of Arizona
University of Colorado
University of Minnesota
University of Oregon
University of Utah
UNM School of Law
Vermont Law School

A

Case Western Reserve University
Chicago-Kent College of Law
Emory University School of Law
IU Bloomington (Maurer)

IU McKinney School of Law
Loyola University New Orleans
Touro Law Center
UC Hastings
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Hawai i
University of Maryland
University of Montana
University of San Diego
University of Washington
West Virginia University
Widener Law Commonwealth

A-

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(Tulane continued from page 44)

and instead built a smaller PVC plant in nearby Plaquemine. The matter became the inspiration for the Lifetime television movie “Taking Back Our Town.”

It was an ambitious project for the law clinic to take on, considering its students carry full course loads and rotate off cases as they graduate or reach the end of their

clinic terms, Houck said. But the Shintech case was a master class in the complexities of law, social justice, business incentives and government regulation.

“We really want to resolve some environmental problems,” Houck said. “But our mission is to train students to go out and do this stuff.”

The law clinic has since successfully

fought for environmental protection related to a crude oil pipeline along the Louisiana coast as well as a proposed oil and gas exploration and production waste facility near a residential community. It also was able to secure a larger buffer space between an active landfill and a historical neighborhood.

Tulane environmental students also get experiential opportunities through their research and classwork, client practice, a biannual law journal, conferences, fellowships, clerkships and externships at local law firms, nonprofits and government agencies.

Tulane law student Cameron Bertron spent last summer at the New Orleans nonprofit Healthy Gulf, performing legal research for ballot initiatives related to conservation of the Gulf Coast’s wetlands and forests. Set to graduate in May, she is also Houck’s research assistant, investigating water laws in the western United States.

It was a second-year environmental law class with Houck that piqued her interest in water and comparative environmental law.

“I would recommend to any law student to take a class in a field of law that you hadn’t considered before. You never know what you’re going to love,” Bertron said. “The faculty at Tulane is incredible. I feel like I have an academic family.”

Schwank split last summer between two private law firms, gaining experience in litigation related to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

He said he appreciates that Tulane helped him apply classroom legal theory to real-life situations.

“It’s like they say, the best way to learn the practice of the law is through practicing law,” he said.

Both Bertron and Schwank have helped run Tulane University Law School’s annual Environmental Law & Policy Summit, which celebrated its 25th year in March. Noted litigators Vic Sher and Andrea Rodgers, foreign news correspondent M.R. O’Connor and University of California, Irvine School of Law professor Alejandro Camacho were keynote speakers.

“I can now say I know how to put on a conference,” Bertron said. “For better or worse, it’s a learning curve.”



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(Greenest continued from page 45)

The school's environmental justice clinic — one of only a few in the nation — will become a permanent fixture after its initial launch this fall. Students are already involved in several cases, working with disenfranchised communities to address racial disparities and improve environmental quality.

The South Royalton, Vt.-based school also has started a podcast, aptly called Hothouse Earth. It is for advocates, journalists, educators, students and concerned citizens seeking to understand environmental law and how it relates to current events.

Vermont Law School is one of 16 schools to earn an A+ ranking in this specialty. Another 17 schools earned A grades.

And this isn't a case of schools simply jumping on a currently popular bandwagon. These programs date back decades because schools saw such a strong need in this area of law. Issues such as water and air pollution were becoming paramount in the 1960s. Lawyers were needed to help businesses comply with growing regulations too. Yet, schools continue to branch out, creating new curriculums, such as animal and wildlife law programs, for instance.

The George Washington University Law School's environmental and energy law program is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. It notes that issues such as the use of the pesticide DDT and the suffocating smog that enveloped Los Angeles galvanized

its early environmental efforts. With more than 50 courses in the specialty, George Washington University earned an A+.

Case Western Reserve University School of Law notes that its Cleveland location was key to creating its robust environmental law program, which received an A. The federal Environmental Protection Agency was created partly in response to Cleveland's Cuyahoga River catching fire. Yes. A River. Caught. Fire.

Schools continue to work diligently in their own backyards when it comes making a difference. For instance, University of Virginia School of Law, one of seven



THIRD-YEAR IU MCKINNEY LAW STUDENT JIMA FAHNBULLEH presents her research on the policy implications of environmental disasters, from Hurricane Katrina to Flint, Mich., on predominantly African-American neighborhoods.

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JANE GOODALL (left) a trailblazer in the animal behavior research, visited the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law recently for a lecture titled "Reasons for Hope." She is pictured with Dean Elizabeth Kronk Warner and Robert Kelter, director of the school's Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment.

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UCLA LAW SCHOOL STUDENT LAURA YRACEBURU discusses ideas for environmental legislation with Bill Craven, chief consultant to the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water Committee.

schools to get an A- in our analysis, works to improve conservation efforts in the all-important Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of its many endeavors.

University of Colorado Law School features a Law of the Colorado River seminar. It addresses areas of law and policy that affect management of the river and the communities that depend on it. To cap off the seminar, the class takes a two-week rafting trip down the Colorado River and through

the Grand Canyon.

However, these schools also focus on national and international environmental issues, such as climate change. In the fall of 2019, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law co-launched the California-China Climate Institute, chaired by former California Gov. Jerry Brown. The institute aims to spur further climate action through joint research, training and dialogue in California and in China.

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Intellectual Property: Got a great idea? This specialty protects it

When marijuana was legalized in a number of states, many dispensaries came up with catchy product names that played off popular existing ones. (We can only guess what fueled the inspiration . . .)

That's how Reefer's Peanut Butter Cups came to be. And as fast as you can say "Cheech & Chong," Hershey — the maker of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups — filed federal trademark lawsuits to stop the practice.

Intellectual property (IP) is a fast-growing legal specialty because both longstanding companies and startups are fiercely protective of their brands and innovations.

They don't want to see them, well, go up in smoke.

So, given the demand, many schools have extensive IP programs, including University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School



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Intellectual Property

See methodology on page 53

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Fordham Law School
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Southwestern Law School
George Washington University
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A

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A-

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