

ORANGE BOOK

2026 ACADEMIC PLANNING GUIDE



PEPPERDINE
Caruso School of Law

Disclaimer

This book is designed to be a helpful summary of Pepperdine Caruso School of Law's academic policies, procedures, and processes. However, it should not be considered or relied upon as the definitive or final source of information. The governing graduation requirements are set forth in the Academic Policy. It is the student's sole responsibility to make sure they have timely completed all requirements as set forth in the Academic Policy and Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Catalog.

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Office of the Academic Dean

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY CARUSO SCHOOL OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC DEAN

Introduction to the Orange Book

Now that your first-year required courses are nearly complete, you'll have the opportunity to choose your own path to completion of your Juris Doctor degree. The purpose of the Orange Book is to provide you with a clear path to planning a dynamic and fulfilling academic and student life experience at Pepperdine. We have designed this book specifically to walk you through:

1. Graduation Requirements
2. The Registration Process
3. The Bar Exam (including state bar admissions processes)
4. Special Programs, Institutes, and Clinics

You are always welcome to make an appointment for academic consultation with the Academic Dean. If you ever have any questions, we are available to help you design your program to fit your passions and interests.

CHECKLIST FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Attend all sessions during Academic Advising Week.
- Read this "Orange Book" in its entirety.
- Pay special attention to the Graduation Requirements.
- Pay special attention to the Bar Exam section.
- Consult with professors in the areas of law that interest you.
- Use the Total Game Plan to start planning:
 - o Fill in your required courses and when you plan to take them.
 - o Fill in those courses that meet the upper-division experiential learning and upper-division writing requirements.
 - o Fill in any bar-related courses you want to take.
 - o Fill in any certificate classes you plan to take. For information about certificate programs check the "certificate programs" website and Academic Catalog.
 - o Check the list of elective courses and place them in the semesters you would like to take them.
- Make an appointment with a faculty member or academic dean, bring your Orange Book, and review your game plan.
- Register for classes at your assigned time.

JURIS DOCTOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The juris doctor will be conferred after completion of the following requirements:

1. Satisfactory completion of required and elective courses comprising at least 88 units, of which 66 units must be letter graded;
2. Satisfactory completion of the upper division writing requirement;
3. Satisfactory completion of the experiential course work requirement;
4. Satisfactory completion of the Bias, Cross-Cultural Competency, and Racism educational requirements;
5. Satisfactory completion of at least 66 classroom units;
6. Satisfactory completion of the Bar Exam Workshop if you are required to complete it;
7. Timely filing with the Caruso School of Law's Office of Student Information and Services of formal application to graduate.

Upper Division Curriculum Requirements for Graduation

Upper Division Required Courses:

Constitutional Law—Individual Rights (3)

Corporations (3)

Criminal Procedure (3)

Ethical Lawyering (2-3)*

Evidence (3-4)*

Remedies (3)

Wills and Trusts (3-4)*

TOTAL UNITS: 20-23

*These courses may be offered with different unit values: you can satisfy the requirement with either.

Upper Division Writing Requirement

All students are required to complete a rigorous upper division writing experience as defined by the Academic Policy. This requirement may be met by any one of the following:

1. Pepperdine Law Review or other official law school journal;
2. Writing a paper complying with the requirements of the Academic Policy for a law school course, including but not limited to independent study and courses designated as providing an opportunity to fulfill the upper division writing requirement;
3. Writing an appellate moot court brief approved by a faculty advisor as satisfying the upper division writing requirement; or
4. Other substantial and rigorous written work approved by the Academic Dean as satisfying the upper division writing requirement.

Students seeking to satisfy the writing requirement under option three must obtain certification from the supervising full-time professor, and under option four, must obtain certification from the Academic Dean that the writing or writings produced reflect substantial research and effort and constitute a rigorous writing experience. These students must submit to the Registrar a completion form with the professor or Academic Dean's signature. If the student's fulfillment of the requirement is based on taking a course, the student must earn at least a "pass" in the course if it is graded as High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail and must earn at least a "C" in the course if it is taken for a grade.

Bias, Cross-Cultural Competency, and Racism Requirement

Pursuant to current ABA accreditation standards, students are required to complete two educational activities in the areas of bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism. The first activity is traditionally offered during orientation as part of the Launch Week curriculum. The second activity may be met by courses incorporating these topics or educational experiences incorporating these topics. Courses that satisfy the requirement are designated as "303(c)."

Upper Division Experiential Requirement

All students must complete at least 15 units of practice based, experiential coursework or its equivalent.

A. Six of the 15 units must be upper level courses designated as experiential under the ABA definition of experiential courses, as determined by the Academic Dean and noted on WaveNet as AEXP.

B. The remaining 9 units may be fulfilled as follows:

1. First year LRW courses count for 4 units.
2. Students may satisfy the remaining units through other classes designated as experiential under the ABA definition of experiential courses or under Pepperdine's broader designation of experiential courses, or designated on WaveNet as AEXP, in each case as determined by the Academic Dean and noted in the course schedule.
3. Students may count up to 5 units earned in credit-bearing advocacy or journal courses toward the 15-unit requirement. Units earned in any course to satisfy the upper division writing requirement described above will not count toward satisfying any portion of the 15-unit requirement.
4. Students may seek a waiver for up to 5 units of the 9 units by certifying that they have completed 50 hours of legal work under the supervision of a lawyer, paid or unpaid, per unit waived. Note that this is a waiver applicable to the 15-unit experiential learning requirement, not a waiver of total general units required to graduate, and not a basis for award of units.

For more information, including an Experiential Learning Planning Guide, visit:

community.pepperdine.edu/law/clinical-education/experiential-learning-requirement.htm

Bar Exam Workshop

Students in the upper half of their class when they enter their final year of law study are encouraged to take the Bar Exam Workshop, and all other students are required to complete the course.

Maximum Units Per Semester

JD students generally take no more than 16 units from the law school per semester or summer session. Students may take 17 or 18 units in a given semester with permission of the Academic Dean and Registrar, but must pay for each unit above 16 at the current per-unit basis. Students cannot enroll in upper-division courses for zero units.

66 Units of Classroom Credit

Students must earn at least 66 units in classroom courses. Therefore, only 22 units of non-classroom credits will count toward the JD degree. For example, credit earned from law journals, externships, independent studies, moot court board, and trial or moot court competitions is considered to be non-classroom credit because these courses do not have regular meeting time in a classroom. This requirement is coextensive with the 66-graded unit requirement.

Student Election of High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail

Students may elect to retroactively convert up to two (2) letter-graded elective courses to High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail designations. The retroactive conversion of the grade must be exercised within the short time frame announced by the Records Office after a student has had an opportunity to see all the letter grades earned for the semester. Retroactive election to change a graded course to a High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail converts their units to non-graded units.

66 Units of Letter-Graded Courses

Students must earn at least 66 units in courses that assign letter grades. The remaining 22 units (or more) may be taken as High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail or Pass/Fail. Retroactive election to change a graded course to a High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail counts as non-letter graded. Also, for example, credit earned from law journals, externships, independent studies, moot court board, and trial or moot court competitions count as non-graded. **Be extremely cautious about this requirement if you are taking journals, clinics, and externships or intend to attend both our London and D.C. locations.**

Participation in Summer Programs at Other Law Schools

Students wishing to participate in summer programs at other law schools outside the Los Angeles area should petition the Academic Dean. The petition should describe the program, courses to be taken, and their unit value. The petition should include the beginning and ending dates of the actual class sessions. Upon approval, the student will be notified, and a letter of permission listing approved courses will be mailed to the Registrar of the appropriate university. Students who do not submit a written request for prior approval will not receive credit.

Graduation with Honors

Honors for graduating students shall be as follows: the top two percent (2%) of the graduating class will graduate *summa cum laude*; the next five percent (5%) will graduate *magna cum laude*; and the next eighteen percent (18%) will graduate *cum laude*. Transfer students will not be counted in determining the number of students within each of the percentage levels qualifying for honors. However, any transfer student whose grades are within the levels qualifying for honors will also receive the appropriate honor. The top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class will be eligible for election into The Order of the Coif membership provided they have completed at least 75% of their law school appropriate honor. The top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class will be eligible for

election into The Order of the Coif membership provided they have completed at least 75% of their law school units in graded courses. “Graded courses” are those for which academic accomplishment is recorded on the basis of educational measurement involving four or more discriminators. Therefore, courses graded on a High Pass/Pass/Credit/Fail basis will be considered a “graded” course for Coif purposes. To elect Coif membership, transfer students must finish in the top ten percent based solely on second and third year grades as compared to the second and third year grades of classmates.

CERTIFICATES

The school offers various certificates, including:

- Certificate in Criminal Legal Practice
- Certificate in Dispute Resolution (Straus)
- Certificate in Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law (EMS)
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship and the Law (Palmer)
- Certificate in International and Comparative Law

For more information on these certificates, please see the Academic Catalog (<https://community.pepperdine.edu/law/academics/catalog/>).

DEGREE AUDIT REPORT (DAR)

To view, click on the “Degree Audit Report” link within the Academic tab in WaveNet. Click on the “Go” button next to the Academic Institution and Report Type. If you have any questions regarding your Degree Audit Report, please contact the Office of Student Information and Services. Read this very carefully.

How to Read Your Degree Audit Report:

Personal Information

- Your name and CWID are displayed on the top of the page.
- Your intended academic program appears on the title line.
- The catalog year identifies the catalog requirements for your degree.

Summary of Credit Towards Graduation

- The Juris Doctor major units represent graded units.
- **Academic Requirements Remaining**
- This analysis assumes successful completion of all Pepperdine course work currently in progress.

Academic Requirements Completed or In Progress

- All courses “in progress” are shown. The total units displayed include “in progress” courses.

Work Not Applicable to this Program (Not everyone will have this section)

This section displays courses the student has attempted but that are not credited or applicable toward the intended degree. These include failed or withdrawn courses. It could also display courses that are beyond the 88 units needed for graduation. These grades will continue to factor into your overall grade point average.

Certificate requirements are not tracked in the Degree Audit Report.

THE TOTAL GAME PLAN

Using a pencil with a big eraser, fill in the following requirements in the grid below. Then, consider the optional California Bar courses. Finally, plug in your electives. Not sure where to put everything? Ask a professor, dean, staff director, or upper-division student. The [Graduation Self-Check Form](#) is also a helpful tool for you to make sure you are on target to meet all requirements.

First Year Courses = 30 Units

Civil Procedure	5 Units
Constitutional Structure	3 Units
Contracts	5 Units
Criminal Law	3 Units
Legal Research & Writing I	2 Units
Legal Research & Writing II	2 Units
Property	5 Units
Torts	5 Units
Academic Mastery Program	
Intro to Professional Formation	

Required Upper Division Courses

Constitutional Law-Individual Rights	3 Units
Corporations	3 Units
Criminal Procedure	3 Units
Ethical Lawyering	2-3 Units
Evidence	3-4 Units
Remedies	3 Units
Wills & Trusts	3-4 Units

Upper Division

Writing Requirement

Anti-Bias Requirement

Experiential Courses (of which
6 units must be ABA approved)

Bar Exam Workshop

15 Units (First-Year LRW counts as 4
Units) 2 Units - (take in 3L year)

Recommended California Bar Courses

Community Property

2-3 Units

California Civil Procedure

2-3 Units

YEAR ONE

FIRST YEAR

Civil Procedure	5
Constitutional Structure	3
Contracts	5
Criminal Law	3
Introduction to Professional Formation	0
Legal Research & Writing I	2
Legal Research & Writing II	2
Property	5
Torts	5
	30 total

YEAR TWO

SUMMER

SECOND YEAR FALL

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SECOND YEAR SPRING	

YEAR THREE

SUMMER	

THIRD YEAR FALL	

THIRD YEAR SPRING	

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

Important Disclaimer: To give you a general sense regarding when courses are likely to be offered, we have prepared an “Every Semester Course List,” an “Annual Course List,” and an “Every Other Year Course List.” Upper division courses that are required for all J.D. students are typically offered every fall and spring semester except in rare circumstances. However, regarding electives (including electives that are part of certificate requirements, etc.), these lists are only intended to provide you with information regarding what courses we have offered in recent years, and our sense as of the time this guide was prepared regarding when the courses are likely to be offered if they remain active as courses. The courses we offer in any given semester or year depend on the curriculum needs and faculty availability. **Warning: the lists are not definitive regarding what and when courses will be offered, it is merely a prediction.** Course descriptions may be found in the academic catalog.

EVERY SEMESTER COURSE LIST (courses typically offered every semester - required courses listed in **bold**)

Catalog Number	Units	Course Name
LAW 1632	2	Arbitration Practice and Advocacy
LAW 2000	2	Bar Exam Workshop
LAW 742	3	Constitutional Law-Individual Rights and Liberties
LAW 803	3	Corporations
LAW 822	3	Criminal Procedure
LAW 1902	2	Cross-Cultural Conflict and Dispute Resolution
LAW 42/43	Variable	Dispute Resolution Law Journal
LAW 634	2-3	Ethical Lawyering
LAW 904	3-4	Evidence
LAW 300	1-10	Externship Field Placement and Workshop
LAW 365	3	Faith and Family Mediation Clinic
LAW 403	2	Honors Trial Practice
LAW 501	2	Independent Study
LAW 62/63	Variable	Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship and the Law
LAW 2/3	Variable	Law Review
LAW 385	3	Legal Aid Clinic
LAW 3024	3	Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
LAW 385	3	Legal Aid Clinic

LAW	3024	3	Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
LAW	380	2	Mediation Clinic
LAW	1422	2	Mediation Theory and Practice
LAW	1	1	Moot Court-Interschool Competition
LAW	1492	2	Negotiation Theory and Practice
LAW	350	2-3	Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic
LAW	2952	2	Psychology of Conflict Communication
LAW	723	3	Remedies
LAW	345	1-3	Restoration and Justice Clinic
LAW	355	3	Startup Law Clinic
LAW	402	3	Trial Practice
LAW	7	1	Trial Practice Competition
LAW	824	3-4	Wills and Trusts

ANNUAL COURSE LIST (courses typically offered every year)

Catalog Number	Units	Course Name
LAW 222	2-3	Accounting and Finance for Lawyers
LAW 2024	2	ADR and Social Entrepreneurship
LAW 872	3	Administrative Law
LAW 2047	2	Advanced Decision-Making Under Conflict
LAW 2432	2	Advanced Legal Writing
LAW 1522	2	Advanced Mediation Seminar
LAW 2555	1-2	Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Lab I
LAW 2556	1-2	Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Lab II
LAW 2962	2	Apology, Forgiveness, Reconciliation
LAW 410	2	Appellate Advocacy
LAW 1672	2-3	Arbitration Law

LAW	2762	2-3	California Civil Procedure
LAW	360	1-2	Clinical Law - Intl (London)
LAW	1893	3	Commercial Law - Sales
LAW	1903	3	Commercial Law - Secured Transactions and Commercial Paper
LAW	802	2-3	Community Property
LAW	2026	2	Conflict Consulting and Coaching
LAW	912	2-3	Copyright Law
LAW	2362	2	Current Issues in International Dispute Resolution
LAW	1282	2	Dispute Resolution and Religion
LAW	1932	2	Divorce and Family Mediation
LAW	103	2-3	Domestic Violence Law Seminar
LAW	2306	2	Employment Disputes
LAW	2030	2	Entertainment Industry Disputes
LAW	1622	3	Entertainment Law
LAW	2403	2	Entrepreneurship Law Practicum
LAW	1242	2	Environmental and Public Policy Dispute Resolution
LAW	2922	2	Ethical Considerations in International Arbitration
LAW	1762	3	European Union Law (London)
LAW	2412	2	Facilitating Dynamic Groups
LAW	2392	2	Faith-Based Diplomacy and International Peacemaking
LAW	242	3	Federal Courts
LAW	814	3-4	Federal Income Taxation
LAW	10	2	Honors Appellate Advocacy
LAW	842	2-3	Immigration Law
LAW	2512	2-3	Intellectual Property Survey

LAW	372	2-3	International Commercial Arbitration
LAW	2912	2	International Commercial Arbitration and the National Courts
LAW	2902	2	International Commercial Arbitration Procedure and Practice
LAW	2832	2	International Commercial Arbitration Theory and Doctrine
LAW	2035	2	International Commercial Mediation Theory and Practice
LAW	2133	2	International Investment Disputes
LAW	2142	2-3	Internet Law
LAW	2692	2	Lawyering in the Nation's Capital (DC only)
LAW	1863	2-3	Media and the Law
LAW	1242	2	Mediating Public Policy Complex Disputes
LAW	18	1	Moot Court Board
LAW	5	1	Moot Court-Dalsimer Competition
LAW	8	1	Moot Court-International (London program only)
LAW	2039	2	Olympic & International Sports Dispute Resolution
LAW	2036	2	Ombuds Theory and Practice
LAW	2037	2	Online Dispute Resolution
LAW	1794	2-3	Privacy Law
LAW	262	3	Public International Law
LAW	312	2-3	Real Estate Finance
LAW	1603	2-3	Real Estate Transactions
LAW	2041	2	Resolving Conflicts and Systems Design for Organizations and Corporations
LAW	2108	2	Restorative Justice
LAW	1802	2	Role of In-House Counsel
LAW	1613	2	Role of Law in Real Estate Investment
LAW	2023	2-3	Second Amendment Seminar

LAW	1252	2-3	Sports Law
LAW	2013	2-3	Statutory Interpretation
LAW	922	2	Trademarks, Unfair Competition, and Unfair Trade Practices
LAW	1172	2	Trial Preparation and Settlement - Civil
LAW	1171	2	Trial Preparation and Settlement - Criminal

EVERY OTHER YEAR COURSE LIST (courses typically offered every other year)

Catalog Number	Units	Course Name
LAW 2602	3	Advanced Constitutional Law-Supreme Court Seminar
LAW 2012	2	Advanced Legal Research
LAW 2882	2	Advanced Litigation Writing
LAW 2192	2	Advanced Torts Seminar
LAW 404	2	Advanced Trial Practice
LAW 122	2-3	American Legal History
LAW 232	2-3	Antitrust
LAW 1800	2	Banking Law
LAW 2833	2-3	Business Perspectives on Workplace Privacy
LAW 1592	2-3	Business Reorganizations in Bankruptcy
LAW 1733	3	Civil Rights
LAW 1852	2-3	Communications Law
LAW 2352	3	Comparative Antidiscrimination Law Seminar
LAW 1322	2	Comparative Law
LAW 1743	2-3	Complex Litigation
LAW 1112	1-3	Constitutional Law Seminar
LAW 1103	3	Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy
LAW 1552	2-3	Education Law
LAW 2052	3	Election Law
LAW 1792	2-3	Employment Discrimination Law
LAW 982	2-3	Employment Law

LAW	932	2	Entertainment Law Seminar-Special Problems in the Film Industry
LAW	942	2	Entertainment Law Seminar-Special Problems in the Music Industry
LAW	2122	2	Entertainment Law Seminar-Special Problems in the Television Industry
LAW	1162	3	Environmental Law
LAW	102	2-3	Family Law
LAW	1842	2-3	Federal Estate and Gift Taxation
LAW	2323	3	Federal Income Taxation of Business Entities
LAW	2113	2-3	First Amendment: Freedom of Speech, Religion, & Related Rights
LAW	2662	2	Health Care Organization, Financing, and Ethics
LAW	1972	2-3	Human Rights
LAW	272	2-3	International Business Transactions
LAW	2852	1-3	International Criminal Law
LAW	2082	2-3	International Environmental Law
LAW	270	2-3	International Litigation
LAW	1012	3	International Tax
LAW	2200	2-3	Jewish Law
LAW	112	2-3	Juvenile Rights: Substance and Procedure
LAW	1312	2-3	Land Use Planning
LAW	2134	2-3	Law and Bible Seminar
LAW	852	2-3	Law and Religion Seminar
LAW	2782	2	Licensing
LAW	2262	2-3	Mergers and Acquisitions
LAW	1832	2-3	Patent Law
LAW	2802	2	Police Practices
LAW	1292	2-3	Products Liability

LAW	1243	3	Securities Regulation
LAW	1512	2	Sentencing and Corrections
LAW	1013	3	Tax Policy
LAW	972	2	War Crimes
LAW	2482	2	White Collar Crime
LAW	1222	2	Workers' Compensation

REGISTRATION

Registration for courses occurs in WaveNet in the Student Services Center and typically begins during the following months:

- Fall Semester – June
- Winter Intensive Session – October
- Spring Semester – November
- Summer Semester – March

Individual enrollment appointments are emailed to your Pepperdine account and are also displayed in the “Enrollment Dates” section in the Student Services Center. During the fall and spring terms, registration occurs over a four day period. 3L students register on days one and two, and 2L students register on days three and four. Throughout your law school career, your enrollment appointment will be scheduled on each of these four days. Please monitor your Pepperdine email account so you register timely.

Financial Responsibility Agreement

- In order to register each term, you will need to electronically sign a Financial Responsibility Agreement. When you are assigned an enrollment appointment, this item is automatically added to your “To Do List,” and a related registration hold is applied to your student record.
- To remove this hold, you must electronically sign this agreement. You will login to WaveNet, go to your Student Center and find the item in your “To Do List” located on the right side of your Student Center. Click the “more” arrow under the “Approve Financial Resp Agrmnt” text and click on the “Financial Responsibility” link. Electronically sign the agreement by clicking the Agreement box, typing your full name, and clicking “Submit Financial Responsibility Agreement.” This will remove the item from your “To Do List” and remove the registration hold.

Registration Holds

Prior to your registration time, please visit the Student Services link in WaveNet to see if you have any registration holds.

- Resolve any holds that appear prior to your registration date.
- The “Account Under Review” service indicator will not prevent you from registering. If you have a question regarding this service indicator on your record, please contact SOLSA@pepperdine.edu.

How to Register for Courses via WaveNet

- Log in to WaveNet.
- Add or delete classes from your ‘Shopping Cart’ from within the Add tab, and enroll directly from the Cart.
- Enter the 4-digit class number in Enter Class Nbr section, click ‘Enter.’
- You can also search for a class using the ‘Search’ button.

- On the Enrollment Preferences page, you can add more classes to your enrollment shopping cart.
- You may now attempt to enroll in the class, or you can add more classes to the cart. Once you are ready to enroll, click ‘Proceed to Step 2 of 3.’
- Click ‘Finish Enrolling’ to confirm enrollment in the class. If you have errors, please make other choices and re-submit.
- The ‘View Results’ page will display once you have confirmed your enrollment. Be sure to check this page for enrollment confirmation and any enrollment errors.

WaveNet Registration Tips

- Having your list of course class numbers available makes registration easier.
- You may add courses to your Shopping Cart before your registration appointment – you will save time during the registration process by using this list.
- Keep checking class availability prior to your registration start time. The **Class Search** allows you to see the class and wait list enrollment numbers. To see these numbers, click on the **Class Section** hyperlink.
- Once you have placed your courses in your Shopping Cart, please remember to submit your request or your cart will be full and your schedule empty.
- If you click on something and do not see a window, disable your browser’s pop-up blocker.
- Be mindful of the location of the courses you select as the London courses are not listed separately from the courses offered in Malibu.

Important Note Regarding Maximum Units per Semester: JD students generally take no more than 16 units from the law school per semester or summer session. Students may take 17 or 18 units in a given semester with permission of the Academic Dean and Registrar, but must pay for each unit above 16 at the current per-unit rate.

Closed Courses: Please review the course schedule before your registration appointment to determine space availability. It is strongly recommended that you have alternate courses selected in the event your preferred course is closed.

Waitlists: Always check the “waitlist if the class is full” box as you add each course. By doing so, you will automatically be added to the waitlist if the course is closed. **If you add a different section of the same course you are automatically dropped off the waitlist in the first section.** The Office of Admissions, Student Information and Services, will contact you if a space becomes available in a closed course. You are not automatically enrolled in the course. If a space opens up, however, you will have limited time to accept your spot on the waitlist. **Do not ask professors about waitlists for their classes. They do not control and cannot modify your priority.**

Add/Drop Period: You can add/drop courses in WaveNet from the beginning of your registration appointment through the first two weeks of the semester. Courses dropped during this period will not be recorded on your transcript. Schedule changes made after the official add/drop period must be done on an official “Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form” and signed by the Academic Dean. Courses dropped

after the add/drop period will appear on your transcript, and the grade of “W” will be assigned. Courses offered in an intensive session must be dropped before the second class meeting, or a grade of “W” will be assigned. Forms can be found here:

law.pepperdine.edu/degrees-programs/content/registration-adddrop.pdf. After the add/drop period, even intensive courses that have not started yet require use of this form; if you try to drop them from WaveNet you will receive an error message. **You must drop intensive courses at least one week before they begin in order to receive a full tuition refund and to avoid a “W” on your transcript.**

Rescheduling Final Exams: Every effort has been made to avoid conflicts between required courses in the final exam schedule. Students may not petition to reschedule a final exam unless two final exams are scheduled to be taken on the same day. Therefore, it is important for you to pay attention to the final exam schedule when you are selecting your courses. Petitions to change one of the two exams scheduled for the same day must be filed by the seventh week of classes with the Deans’ Suite.

Once you have sought a rescheduled final exam, you must take it at the rescheduled time, and you cannot adjust the reschedule date even if you end up with successive final exams. You can find the final exam petition form at <https://bit.ly/4uyPjqI>.

Degree Audit Report: View your Degree Audit Report (DAR) online within your Student Center. You are encouraged to review your DAR before you register each semester. See page 7 for additional information regarding the DAR. Please contact the Office of Admissions, Student Information, and Services if you have any questions regarding your DAR.

THE BAR EXAM

State Bar Admissions Requirements

Attorneys must be licensed in order to practice law in any given state. Every state has different requirements for licensure; almost all require a law student applicant to pass a general bar examination for competence, pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), and establish his or her moral character and fitness for practice. Depending on the jurisdiction, students may not take a bar exam until they have graduated from law school.

Students planning to practice in states other than California should consult the individual admissions requirements for those states. A list of state admissions offices is available at www.ncbex.org/jurisdictions.

Students who intend to practice law in California should review the detailed requirements for California Bar admissions at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions/requirements.

- **During the first year:**

- Law students who plan to take the California Bar are required to register as a law student with the Committee of Bar Examiners within 90 days of beginning law study. The registration portal is available at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions/requirements. If you have any interest whatsoever in taking the California bar, please do this.
- *Not sure if you registered already? Call the bar admissions office at 415-538-2300 or email the office at admissions@calbar.ca.gov.* Alternatively, if you start a new registration through the portal, and you already have an account, the system will notify you that you already have an account. You may then log in by resetting your password for the previously established account.

- **During the second year:**

- Students transferring to Pepperdine who plan to take the California Bar exam should have registered as law students with the California Bar within 90 days of beginning law study at their original law school. Transfer students who previously registered with the California Bar also must inform the State Bar Admissions Office of this change of school. Transfer students who did not previously register with the California Bar should do so as soon as possible.
- Passing the MPRE is a requirement for admission to a state bar. Students should plan to take the MPRE, which is given every spring, summer, and fall, in the same semester or as soon as possible following the semester in which the student completes the Ethical Lawyering course. Register through the National Conference of Bar Examiners at www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registration/. Please note that if you plan to request accommodations for the MPRE, you must submit your accommodation request before registering for the exam.

- Students must submit a moral character application to the bar in the state where they intend to take the bar exam. For students planning to practice in California, the applications are available on the California State Bar website at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions/moral-character. The moral character application is *separate* from the bar exam application (and involves separate forms, fees, and deadlines). The moral character application and investigation process is lengthy. Plan to submit your application at the end of your second year or, at the latest, in the first semester of your third year. For students planning to take the bar exam in another state, please refer to the website for that state’s bar and/or to the NCBE website for jurisdiction specific information regarding moral character/character and fitness.

- **During the third year:**
 - Students should decide on a post-graduate bar review course during the spring semester. Bar review company “Table Days” are offered during the fall and spring semesters so that students can meet with company representatives to determine which company’s course will best fit their needs. In addition, you may benefit from consulting with a Bar Exam Workshop course professor before purchasing a particular bar review course.

 - Students must apply to take the bar exam. Applications usually become available in California on March 1 for the July exam and November 1 for the February exam. To ensure you are assigned to one of your preferred testing centers, apply on the same date the application window opens (ideally, as early in the day as possible). The application is available at www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/California-Bar-Examination. Application dates and deadlines for other jurisdictions differ, and frequently are earlier.

 - Students in need of testing accommodations should submit a petition for accommodations to the State Bar approximately five to six months before the exam they intend to take to allow time for an appeal in the event the petition is denied. However, petitions filed up to two months before the exam may be granted some type of accommodations depending on the student’s circumstances as described in the petition. Students applying for accommodations should plan to consult with a Bar Exam Workshop professor toward the beginning of the petition process when they are gathering documents and information, to obtain general tips and advice to help them avoid potential obstacles and common issues. Information about applying for testing accommodations is available at www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/Requesting-Testing-Accommodations.

Following graduation:

- o All students should complete a postgraduate bar review course. These are 10 to 12-week courses during which students study full-time for the bar exam. Students who complete at least 95% of the assignments in one of these courses are more likely to pass the bar exam.

For More Information:

- Questions concerning admission to the California Bar not answered on the State Bar of California Web site, www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions, should be directed to the California Bar’s Office of Admissions at 415-538-2300 or to a Bar Exam Workshop course professor.

BAR ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

When?	What?	Done?
1L	Register as a law student with the CA State Bar (or as required by any other state bar).	
2L	Transfer students must register with the CA State Bar (or as required by any other state bar).	
2L	Plan when you are going to take the MPRE.	
2L/3L	Submit the moral character application. (Note: If you have moral character issues, you should apply in your second year, as the investigation may take longer. If you are unsure, see a Bar Exam Workshop course professor.)	
3L	Attend “Table Days” at the law school to plan which post-graduate bar review course you will use. In addition, this is the time to begin planning how to pay for the expenses that come with applying and preparing for, and taking the bar exam.	
3L	Take the MPRE if you haven’t already.	
3L	Petition for accommodations (if applicable).	
3L	Take the Bar Exam Workshop course, which provides a helpful overview of and some initial preparation for the bar exam. Students in the upper half of their class when they enter their final year of law study are highly encouraged to take the Bar Exam Workshop, and all other	

	students are required to complete it.	
3L	Apply to take the bar exam.	
3L	Graduate.	
Post-Grad	Study full-time for 10-12 weeks and take and pass the bar.	

California Bar Exam

The California Bar Exam for JD graduates currently includes five essays on topics covered in the law school's required courses for JD students, one ninety-minute performance test, and 200 multiple choice (MBE) questions. These three parts of the exam must be taken during the same exam administration. California does not accept the transfer of MBE scores from other states. The examination is administered in February and July each year during the last Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. Examinees with disabilities who are granted extended-time accommodations may have extended testing time.

Essay Questions

The essay questions are designed to measure an examinee's ability to analyze legal issues arising from fact situations. Answers are expected to demonstrate the examinee's ability to analyze the facts in the question, to tell the difference between material facts and immaterial facts, and to discern the points of law and fact upon which the question turns. The answer must show knowledge and understanding of the pertinent principles and theories of law, their qualifications and limitations, and their relationships to each other. The answer should evidence the examinee's ability to apply the law to the given facts and to reason in a logical, lawyer-like manner from the premises adopted to a sound conclusion. An examinee should not merely show that he/she remembers the legal principles, but should demonstrate his/her proficiency in using and applying them.

Performance Test Question

The Performance Test is designed to test an examinee's ability to handle a select number of legal authorities in the context of a factual problem involving a client. A Performance Test question consists of a file and library with instructions advising the examinee of the task(s) that should be performed. In addition to measuring an examinee's ability to analyze legal issues, performance test questions require examinees to: 1) sift through detailed factual material and separate relevant from irrelevant facts; 2) assess the consistency and reliability of facts, and determine the need for and source of additional facts; 3) analyze the legal rules and principles applicable to a problem and formulate legal theories from facts that may be only partly known and are being developed; 4) recognize and resolve ethical issues arising in practical situations; 5) apply problem solving skills to diagnose a problem, generate alternative solutions, and develop a plan of action; and 6) communicate effectively, whether advocating, advising a client, eliciting information, or effectuating a legal transaction. An examinee's performance test response is graded on its compliance with instructions and on its content, thoroughness, and organization.

Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)

The MBE, which is administered on Wednesday, is developed and graded by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). This portion of the examination is an objective six-hour examination containing 200 questions, which is divided into two three-hour sessions with 100 questions each. The MBE tests seven subjects: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. Information about the MBE and sample questions is available through the NCBE's website at <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mbe/preparing-mbe>.

Scope of Tested Subjects

Applicants taking the California Bar Examination may be required to answer questions involving issues from any or all subjects listed below:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Business Associations | 6. Criminal Law and Procedure | 10. Remedies |
| 2. Civil Procedure | 7. Evidence | 11. Torts |
| 3. Community Property | 8. Professional Responsibility | 12. Trusts |
| 4. Constitutional Law | 9. Real Property | 13. Wills and Succession |
| 5. Contracts (including the UCC) | | |

Bar Exam Results

Results from the February administration of the bar exam traditionally are released in May and, from the July administration, in November. Examinees are informed of the specific release date ahead of time. On the release date at a specified time, examinees can access the State Bar of California's website (www.calbar.ca.gov) to determine whether their names appear on the pass list. Examinees who fail the examination will receive their essay, performance test, and MBE scores at the same time or shortly after the results are released. Their essays and performance test answers are returned to them within four to six weeks after the release of results. Successful examinees will not receive their scores or their answers.

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

In addition to passing the California Bar Exam, applicants for admission to practice law in California or any other state must take and pass the MPRE, a sixty-question multiple choice exam, as a prerequisite to admission. The exam is administered three times each year at established test centers across the country. To register for the exam or for more information, examinees should go to www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registration/. Note that if you plan to apply for the MPRE test accommodations you must do so before registering for the exam.

Examinees may take the MPRE any time after completing their first year of law study.

California Bar Exam-Related Fees

Students should plan ahead for the expenses associated with taking the bar exam and becoming a licensed attorney, which total a minimum of between \$3,500 and \$5,500, not including living expenses during the time spent preparing for the exam. In addition to fees for registering as a law student, registering for the MPRE and the bar exam, submitting an Application for Determination of Moral Character, purchasing a bar review course and other study resources, as well as other related fees and expenses, students should budget for summer living expenses, travel, and perhaps hotel

expenses during the exam. Note that late fees can be substantial if you miss applicable deadlines. For more information on California fees, visit law.pepperdine.edu/bar-exam/california-bar/. Expenses associated with taking the bar exam in other jurisdictions will be similar, but refer to the particular state bar's website for detailed information.

PROGRAMS & INSTITUTES

This section contains information on the following programs and institutes:

- Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law
- Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion and Ethics and The Ken Starr Institute
For Faith, Law & Public Service
- Sudreau Global Justice Institute
- Advocacy Programs
- Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law Program
- International Programs
- Law Journals

STRAUS INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

About the Institute

No matter what area of law you are interested in, dispute resolution skills are universal. The majority of cases filed in court are resolved using a dispute resolution process, including negotiation, mediation, or arbitration. The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law is one of the world's leading educational programs in the field of dispute resolution. Straus offers two tracks of educational opportunities - professional training programs and academic programs in dispute resolution including the Certificate, Master's (MDR) and LLM in Dispute Resolution.

Repeatedly recognized as the foremost academic center of its kind, the Straus Institute brings together an unparalleled full-time teaching and research faculty with scholars and practitioners from throughout the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Its broad and deep curricular offerings serve emerging lawyers as well as experienced mid-career professionals, business persons, and religious and community leaders. Since its founding, the Straus Institute has established itself as a standard of excellence in preparing effective negotiators, peacemakers and problem solvers and a driving force for improving the culture of conflict in America. Pepperdine is currently ranked number one in Dispute Resolution by *US News and World Report*.

The Straus Advantage

Over its thirty-five year history, Straus has cultivated a global network of leaders, peacemakers, lawyers, policymakers, and professionals who share their knowledge and expertise with our students, mentor their professional pursuits, and provide timely opportunities on exciting conflicts around the world. The Institute regularly hosts events that feature distinguished alumni and changemakers across the Southern California region, and on an international scale.

Additionally, our faculty and staff provides guidance and assistance as students pursue their professional endeavors, and throughout the year the Institute introduces its students to diverse employers across industries including entertainment, tech, HR, and traditional mediation and arbitration firms. Straus regularly offers lunchtime events, open to all students, to foster networking and career development opportunities.

Opportunities for Law Students to Enhance their JD Degree

Pepperdine JD students have two options to complement their JD degree with a dispute resolution education. Students can earn a Certificate in Dispute Resolution in the same three years as their JD, or a Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR) in three years with summer and winter intensive classes. The Certificate program is the most popular option and will allow students to gain a fundamental understanding of the various dispute resolution processes through required courses on negotiation, mediation, arbitration as well as electives. There is no additional cost to earn the certificate in Dispute Resolution.

JD Certificate in Dispute Resolution Program (12 units)

Students in Pepperdine's JD program can apply for the Certificate in Dispute Resolution and earn a JD and Certificate in the same three years at no additional cost. The Certificate program allows Pepperdine JD students to use their elective units to go towards the 12 unit Certificate requirement. Since these courses are counted as JD elective units, tuition for these dispute resolution courses is absorbed into your JD program tuition, with no additional cost to earn the Certificate. With careful planning, students can complete other certificates offered at Pepperdine in addition to the Certificate in Dispute Resolution.

Applications for the Certificate program are accepted during the spring semester of the first year, but can also be submitted throughout the year.

The Pepperdine JD Certificate Application will include:

1. Google form application
2. Resume

Certificate program courses can be taken as electives during the 2L and 3L year for JD Students.

JD/Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR) (26 units)

The Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR) Program can be completed, with careful planning, in the same three years as the JD Program. JD Students can complete courses for the MDR through summer, winter intensive, and during the fall or spring.

The master's degree requires 26units of coursework. Pepperdine JD students will "double count" 10 units of dispute resolution coursework towards their JD and MDR, leaving 16 units to be completed separately from the JD program. These 16 units can be completed in several formats. One possible format is below:

To apply to the MDR, current Pepperdine JD students will need to submit the following materials:

- Application form
- Personal Statement (addressing interest in dispute resolution)
- Resume

* Transcripts can be pulled from your JD file. Questions on our Dispute Resolution Programs can be directed to the Straus Institute at strausadmissions@pepperdine.edu or 310-506-4655.

THE PALMER CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF THE LAW

The Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law at Pepperdine, endowed by 1975 law alumnus, Geoffrey H. Palmer, is designed to prepare students for the heightened demands and unique opportunities in such areas as business, finance, entertainment, intellectual property, technology, and real estate. After completing the first year of law school, students must apply in the spring/summer after the 1L year to become Palmer Center Fellows. With a diverse curriculum, the Center offers a multidisciplinary certificate program in addition to the Palmer Center Fellowship Program that prepares student Fellows to fulfill the overlapping roles of lawyer and entrepreneur. The Palmer Center offers a stimulating, fast-paced atmosphere, both inside and outside the classroom.

Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law Certificate Program Courses

To earn a certificate in entrepreneurship and the law from the Palmer Center, a student must complete a total of 12 units. This includes two core course requirements: either the 2 unit Entrepreneurship Law Practicum (Law 2403) or 3-unit Startup Law Clinic (Law 355), along with a 2-3 unit Intellectual Property Survey (Law 2512) course. Additionally, students must complete 6-8 units selected from any of the below suggested Elective Course Concentration..

- **Intellectual Property, Entertainment, and Technology**
- **Business and Finance**
- **Real Estate**

The courses in each Elective Course Concentration are listed in the Palmer Center Approved Elective Course List, accessible through the Palmer Center website; <http://law.pepperdine.edu/palmer-center/>. Complete course descriptions are included in the Academic Catalog, available online.

Each course listed on the Palmer Center Approved Elective Course List is available to all law students; and may apply these units toward completion of the Entrepreneurship and Law Certificate. Participation in the Palmer Center Fellowship Program is not required to receive a certificate if all certificate requirements are fulfilled .

Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law Fellowship Program

The Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law is a two-year certificate program, which requires 12-units of coursework in these and related fields. To enhance opportunity and connection, students may also apply to the Palmer Center Fellowship Program, a two-year commitment, which offers networking events, help with externships, panel discussions, 2L preceptor program, special symposia, industry conferences, and other programming to advance student education and careers.

Palmer Center Events

The Palmer Center also hosts co-curricular events that give Fellows an opportunity to interact with local and national leaders in business and law. Through a network of mentors and institutional partners who share the Palmer Center’s vision of excellence, Fellows are directly involved with leading legal professionals and entrepreneurs. Events include:

- Regular “Lunch and Learn” events with guest speakers from the business and law communities
- Palmer Center New Fellows Orientation Dinner
- Annual Holiday Mixer
- Industry Specific Mixers with Alumni and Palmer Fellows
- JBEL Symposium
- Access to conferences
- Annual 1L “Meat” and Greet BBQ

Alumni Network and 2L Preceptor Program

The Palmer Center has an active and vibrant alumni base with over 800 alumni which offers valuable networking opportunities to Fellows. Students accepted into the Palmer Center Fellowship Program have the option to pair with a Palmer alumnus mentor in the 2L year. The student is guided through law school about internships, post-graduate employment, and provided with invaluable advice into the job market.

Opportunities for Event Conference Stipends

The Palmer Center endeavors to provide some Fellows with financial support to nurture his or her educational and professional goals by offering Event Stipends to subsidize attendance at off campus conferences and seminars.

Journal of Business Entrepreneurship and the Law

The Pepperdine Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship, and the Law (JBEL) is sponsored by the Geoffrey H. Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law and is produced by Palmer Center Fellows. The journal contributes to the body of legal knowledge by publishing high quality academic articles in the fields of business, entrepreneurship, and the law. For more information visit: <http://law.pepperdine.edu/jbel/>

How to Apply

Visit the Palmer Center website at <https://law.pepperdine.edu/palmer-center/apply/> to apply to become a Palmer Center Fellow. Applicants must apply the spring/summer after their 1L year of law school to be eligible.

Telephone: (310) 506-4591 E-mail: palmercenter@pepperdine.edu
<https://law.pepperdine.edu/palmer-center/>

THE HERBERT and ELINOR NOOTBAAR INSTITUTE ON LAW, RELIGION, AND ETHICS

Nootbaar Institute

The Herbert and Elinor Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, & Ethics (the “Nootbaar Institute”) seeks to provide students and faculty with the opportunity to explore the intersection of law, religion, and ethics through a range of activities such as on-campus events, workshops, internship opportunities, travel experiences, courses, and a clinical offering. The Nootbaar Institute’s signature student opportunities include the following:

- The Nootbaar Institute supports several specialty law courses. Some courses in recent years included Christian Perspectives on Law; Current Issues in Law and Religion; Racial Inequality; Law and Democracy: Questions of Faith; Role of Law Practice in the Life of a Person of Faith; Theology, Professional Life & Popular Culture; Property, Taxes and Theology; and Religious Faith and Law Practice.
- The Religious Liberty Clinic, launched in 2021, provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on religious liberty litigation on cutting-edge cases under the supervision of some of the nation’s leading scholars and practitioners in the area.
- The Faith and Justice Spring Break Trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, launched in 2021, provides students with an opportunity to travel with law school faculty to Montgomery, AL to engage and reflect deeply upon topics related to racial justice, history, and the role of faith in advancing social healing and justice in the U.S.
- On-campus events featuring outside speakers, including an annual Martin Luther King, Jr speaker (co-sponsored by the law school’s Office of Student Life).
- Through the Nootbaar Student Stipend program, students may apply for funding to support participation in conferences, professional experiences, or projects that deepen their engagement around faith and law.

The Nootbaar Institute also supports law and religion scholarship through the Nootbaar Fellows program, a cohort of legal scholars from across the country who meet regularly to workshop papers addressing law and religion. For more information about the Institute, please email nootbaar.institute@pepperdine.edu

THE KEN STARR INSTITUTE FOR FAITH, LAW, & PUBLIC SERVICE

The Ken Starr Institute for Faith, Law, and Public Service (the “Starr Institute”) seeks to equip students and scholars to pursue justice, uphold the rule of law, and serve the nation and the world with integrity and compassion through the lens of faith. Inspired and energized by the life and legacy of legal scholar, public servant, and former Caruso School of Law dean Ken Starr, the Starr Institute enhances components of the Pepperdine University mission and reinforces the fundamental American values that contribute to the success of a flourishing society.

The Starr Institute’s signature student opportunities include the following:

- **Specialty Law Courses.** The Institute supports courses that explore constitutional law, religious liberty, public service, and the ethical responsibilities of lawyers in public life. These courses are designed to integrate legal excellence with moral and civic responsibility.
- **Distinguished Speaker Series.** The Institute hosts on-campus events featuring prominent judges, scholars, practitioners, and public servants who address pressing legal and constitutional issues of national importance. These conversations model civil discourse and thoughtful engagement across differences.
- **Religious Liberty Clinic.** Launched in 2021, this clinic provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on religious liberty litigation on cutting-edge cases under the supervision of some of the nation’s leading scholars and practitioners in the area. The Starr Institute and the Nootbaar Institute jointly support the work of the clinic.
- **The Quattrone Wrongful Convictions Appellate Clinic.** This clinic empowers students to fight for justice by advocating on behalf of the wrongfully convicted. Working alongside leading attorneys, students draft amicus briefs, support post-conviction appeals, and advance strategic litigation that can change lives. The clinic also leads public education efforts, including an annual Wrongful Conviction Day conference featuring national experts and honoring extraordinary commitment to justice. Through this work, students gain unparalleled appellate experience while helping to secure freedom for the innocent and prevent future injustices.

In addition to student programming, the Starr Institute supports public engagement through conferences focused on religious liberty and wrongful convictions.

For more information about the Institute, please email ken.starr.institute@pepperdine.edu

SUDREAU GLOBAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

We are an international organization, based out of Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, fighting to protect the vulnerable by strengthening justice systems and training the next generation of global attorneys. We would love for you to take part in this incredible mission!

Classes

- Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Lab I and II
- Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Developing World
- Human Trafficking: Law, Policy, and Litigation

Spring Break

- 10-day Trip to Malawi in March for a week-long prison project (2Ls and 3Ls only)

Summer Internships

- Ghana Supreme Court and Legal Aid
- Malawi Supreme Court
- Zambia Supreme Court
- Rwanda Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
- Uganda Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, High Court, and Public Prosecution
- Human Trafficking Institute: Uganda

For more information please visit our website law.pepperdine.edu/global-justice/ or reach out to us at global.justice@pepperdine.edu

Social Justice Track

Here is more information on the school's social justice track:

<https://law.pepperdine.edu/degrees-programs/areas-of-interest/social-justice/>

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Pepperdine Caruso School of Law has robust advocacy programs, encompassing trial, appellate, and alternative dispute resolution skills.

Intra School Competition

Each fall semester, 2L and 3L students in good academic standing are eligible to participate in the Arabian Appellate Advocacy Tournament (AAAT). AAAT is an individual competition, using a closed library of cases, and has no brief writing component. The preliminary and elimination rounds are held on a Saturday in mid-September. The two advocates who make it to the final round compete for prize money. No units of credit are awarded for participation in AAAT.

The annual team appellate/advocacy Intraschool competition is the Vincent S. Dalsimer Moot Court Competition. Two-person teams sign up, usually at the end of the fall semester, and submit their appellate brief in February or March, depending on the date of the School of Law Dinner. Oral argument rounds similarly begin in February or March. The final round is argued before a distinguished panel of judges. United States Supreme Court justices have served on the Final Round bench over the years, including Chief Justice John Roberts. Students earn one unit of credit for participation. Prize money donated by alumni is also awarded for Dalsimer.

On the trial side, in the fall semester there is a Cross Examination Competition for 2Ls and 3Ls. Students are given a mock case and undertake a ten minute cross-examination. Winners receive a cash prize and an invitation to join the interschool trial teams. Typically, thirty to fifty students participate. In the spring semester there is the Cipolla Closing Argument Competition which is open to all students. Students are given a mock case and undertake a ten minute closing argument. The winners receive cash prizes and an invitation to join the interschool trial teams. There are typically 60 to 90 students who participate. No units of credit are awarded for participation in these competitions.

In the spring semester of their first year, law students write an appellate brief and orally argue their case as part of their Legal Research and Writing class. Teams may “opt in” to the Col. John and Maria Moriarity First Year Moot Court Competition and compete for recognition and prize money.

Interschool Competition

Pepperdine competes at a very high level against other law schools on the national and international stage. The competitions are divided into three basic categories: trial, appellate, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

To be eligible to try out for the trial team, 2L and 3L students must be in good academic standing, must have taken or be currently enrolled in Trial Practice Class (3 units), and must compete in open tryouts during the fall semester or successfully compete in either the Cross Examination Competition or the Cipolla Closing Argument Competition. Students selected for the Interschool Trial Competition must enroll in Honors Trial Practice (2 units). Additionally, one unit is awarded for each competition in which a student participates.

The Appellate Advocacy Team competes in national and international moot court competitions, submitting written briefs and then presenting oral arguments. The Appellate Advocacy Team members are selected at the end of each spring semester. Students submit an appellate brief writing sample and then present an oral argument. All students selected for the Team must enroll in Appellate Advocacy in the fall (2 units) and Honors Appellate Advocacy in the spring (2 units). Additionally, one unit is awarded for each competition in which a student participates.

The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution is responsible for selecting and coaching most of the mediation, arbitration, and client counseling competitions teams.

Moot Court Board

The Moot Court Board is the student organization responsible for planning and executing Pepperdine's Intraschool competitions each year. In addition, the Board hosts the National Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition, where law schools from across the country send their top teams to compete. The Board is a separate entity from the Interschool Competition Team. However, the Board does support the team by serving as judges for the team's oral argument practice rounds. Students who are interested in supporting the advocacy program are encouraged to participate as a board member. Interviews for board positions are held at the end of the spring semester and board members, who satisfy the hour requirement, earn one unit of credit for participation for the year.

Trial Advocacy Board

The Trial Advocacy Board is a student organization that oversees and manages the preparation and training of second and third year law students that compete in Interschool trial advocacy competitions nationwide. The primary purposes of the Trial Advocacy Board are to promote and encourage student participation in trial advocacy, as well as, to provide students with the practical experience necessary to succeed as trial lawyers. The Trial Advocacy Board hosts many events, including the Cross-Examination Competition and the Cipolla Closing Argument Competition. Each academic year, Pepperdine's trial teams compete in approximately seven to eight national competitions.

ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA, AND SPORTS LAW PROGRAM

The Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law Program (EMS Law) provides a forum for law students interested in the fields of entertainment, media, and sports law to gain knowledge and experience in the EMS industry, to engage with alumni and experts, to participate in conferences, competitions, and externships, and to earn a Certificate in EMS Law.

Certificate in Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law

<https://law.pepperdine.edu/degrees-programs/certificates/entertainment-media-sports/>

The Certificate in Entertainment, Media and Sports Law is a 12 unit program available for students who are in the process of completing a Pepperdine Caruso Law degree.

Foundational Courses: At least 6 units of foundational courses must be completed.

- LAW 912 Copyright Law OR LAW 2512 Intellectual Property Survey; AND,
- LAW 1622 Entertainment Law OR LAW 1252 Sports Law

Other Courses: At least 6 units of the following EMS law courses must be completed.

- Any foundational course (listed above) beyond the minimum requirements
- LAW 1852 Communications Law (2-3)
- LAW 2282 Dispute Resolution: Selected Issues in the Entertainment Industry (2)
- LAW 932 Entertainment Law Seminar—Film Industry (2)
- LAW 942 Entertainment Law Seminar—Music Industry (2)
- LAW 2122 Entertainment Law Seminar—Television Industry (2)
- LAW 2113 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech, Religion, and Related Rights (2-3)
- LAW 274 International Entertainment and Copyright Law (London) (2-3)
- LAW 2142 Internet Law (2-3)
- LAW 2782 Licensing (2)
- LAW 1863 Media and the Law (2-3)
- LAW 2282 Olympic and International Sports Dispute Resolution (2)
- LAW 1 Selection and Participation in EMS-DR Competitions (1)
- LAW 922 Trademarks, Unfair Competition, and Unfair Trade Practices (2)

EMS Student Moot Court, Negotiation, and Arbitration Competitions

Another important component of EMS activities involves working with students to participate in advocacy programs at national sports and entertainment dispute resolution competitions. These competitions provide students the opportunities to gain experience in the field of sports and entertainment, to showcase their talents and receive feedback from lawyers, judges, and experts in the EMS industry. Pepperdine Caruso School of Law students regularly participate in numerous entertainment and sports related advocacy and dispute resolution competitions.

Additionally, for over twenty years, Pepperdine Caruso Law has hosted the National Entertainment Moot Court Competition under the leadership of the student Moot Court board.

EMS Externships

As part of Pepperdine's overall externship program, many Pepperdine Caruso Law students interested in EMS Law receive academic credit for EMS-themed externships both during the school year and over the summer. These include placements at major studios, video game companies, record companies, sports teams, etc.

Other EMS Opportunities

EMS Law also works closely with the Pepperdine Caruso Law student Sports Entertainment Law Society (SELS) to host a range of EMS themed activities including EMS Industry Expert Conversations and Speakers Series, conferences, trainings/classes, and sharing leads to externships and job opportunities. Pepperdine also allows interdisciplinary coursework and other programming with the Graziadio School of Business and the University's Institute for Entertainment, Media and Sports (IEMS). EMS Law also leverages the expertise of the Career Development Office and EMS Law alumni and experts to help guide our students in industry externships and jobs.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Program	Summer	Fall	Spring
Augsburg	X		
Hauteville	varies	varies	varies
London		X	
Washington, DC			X

How do I decide which program to attend?

London: Established in 1981, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law’s London Program offers second- and third-year students from Caruso and other ABA-approved law schools the opportunity to study, work on externships, participate in moot activities, and travel during the fall semester.

Students learn with British and American professors and expert practitioners in international, foreign, and comparative law, with emphasis on human rights, international commerce, and alternative dispute resolution. Students have the opportunity to work for academic credit with global firms, government agencies, entertainment companies, or nongovernmental organizations. Students can also gain exceptional experience in moot competitions with British law students and lawyers. The London program advances students’ careers in one of the world’s most important and diverse cities.

Washington, DC: Established in 2011, the Washington, DC Externship Semester provides students the practical experience of working for the federal government, non-profits, and DC firms, giving context to how federal law and policy are formed and enforced.

Washington DC students also complete coursework designed to complement their externships, engage with speakers working at the top of their respective fields, and network with area alumni who are deeply vested in providing mentorship to our Washington DC Semester students. Specifically designed to build practical skills to prepare students for post-grad employment, the Washington DC Semester gives students an enriching learning experience that also sets them apart from their competition. More about the Washington, DC semester is found under “Clinics and Externships” in this Orange Book.

Augsburg, Germany: Through an exchange program with the [University of Augsburg](#), Pepperdine students in the Juris Doctor program may attend the [Augsburg Summer Program on European and International Economic Law](#). Offered every June and July, the Augsburg Summer Program is one of the oldest and most successful summer schools in Germany.

Hauteville, Switzerland: Pepperdine University’s newest campus is located at the Chateau d’Hauteville, just outside Vevey, Switzerland. It offers courses and other opportunities from time to time.

Can I do more than one program?

Yes, you can combine a summer and fall or two semesters away from the Malibu campus as long as it does not exceed one-third of the number of units needed to graduate and ensure your other requirements are met. Please note that although feasible, participating in more than one program requires careful academic planning to ensure you complete all of the required courses and graded-units requirements.

Where do I find more information on each of these programs?

Detailed information and application forms are all online under the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law web page: <http://law.pepperdine.edu/experiential-learning/global-programs/>

LONDON EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Fall Semester)

The London Program offers an International Externship Program during the fall semester. Externships in London are an invaluable experience in professional formation and preparation for practice. Students gain impressive work experience, excellent supervision and mentorship, and exposure to sophisticated practice areas.

Externships are unpaid field placements for academic credit in supervised law practice with barristers, solicitors, U.S. law firms, government offices, or nongovernmental organizations.

For more information, please visit the London Program website, located at <https://law.pepperdine.edu/experiential-learning/global-programs/london/courses-and-events.htm>.

WASHINGTON, DC, EXTERNSHIP SEMESTER (Spring Semester)

Washington, DC, Semester Overview

In the Washington, DC Externship Semester, students complete full-time (36-40 hours/week) legal externships in federal agencies, courts, Congress, nonprofits, and law and lobbying firms, while completing coursework designed to complement their externships. Specifically, in *Lawyering in the Nation's Capital*, students study the role of the attorney working in and around the three branches of government, learning how they shape law and policy nationwide. In *Advanced Legal Writing*, students learn to produce grammatically correct, logically cohesive, and analytically sound legal analyses—skills that translate directly to students' externships. Washington Semester students may earn up to 14 units for their externship and course work, and they may also participate in and earn credit for their work on journals, moot-court team, and trial team.

Washington Semester students enjoy tours of Washington, DC institutions, such as the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol. In addition, a mentoring program and networking events are designed to tie students into the alumni community and equip students with resources to help secure postgraduate employment.

Why Participate in DC?

Students Planning a Washington, DC Career: For students planning a career in Washington, DC, the semester will prepare you, giving you the skills, experience, and network to effectively compete for jobs in

DC, while demonstrating to prospective employers your commitment to the Washington, DC, area.

Students Planning a Career Outside of Washington, DC: Only about one-third of Washington Semester students return to Washington to work after graduation. For students planning a career in California or other parts of the country, the Washington Semester provides an exceptional opportunity for them to differentiate themselves from their competitors. Employers greatly value the knowledge Washington students gain firsthand about how policy, law, and regulation are developed and challenged. Similarly, Washington Semester students understand government relations and the national regulatory environment, gaining insight and perspective that is valuable in any legal field.

For more information: Please visit the Washington, DC Semester website, located at law.pepperdine.edu/experiential-learning/clinical-education/washington-dc/.

LAW JOURNALS

1. Students that finish the 1L year in the top ten percent of the class may “grade on” to a journal of their choice, completing only the subcheck portion of the application.
2. Students that finish the 1L year between the top ten percent and the top fifty percent of the class may attempt to “write on” to *Pepperdine Law Review* (PLR). “Write on” means to submit a short case note at the end of the 1L year.
3. All students, regardless of class rank, may attempt to “write on” to:
 - a. *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal* (DRLJ); or
 - b. *Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship & the Law* (JBEL).
4. The Write-On Competition occurs during the early part of the summer break.
5. Journals make their final staff selections in the middle of the summer break.
6. Students receive 2 units in each semester of their 2L year and 1 unit in each semester of their 3L year.

Pepperdine Law Review

Pepperdine Law Review is a scholarly legal journal edited and published by students at Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law. Members of Law Review are selected on the basis of academic excellence and outstanding scholarship, and membership on Law Review is recognized as both an honor and a unique educational experience. Law Review members edit a variety of articles written by professors, lawyers, judges, legislators, and other scholars. Members also draft their own Comments or Notes on legal developments and significant cases for potential publication.

Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal

Since 2000, the *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal* (DRLJ) has been committed to publishing articles that explore Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) under various contexts. With support from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, DRLJ seeks to facilitate intellectual discourse on the evolving field of ADR through scholarship and symposia. DRLJ membership is most often sought by students earning a Certificate or Masters in Dispute Resolution concurrently with their J.D. Degree.

Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship & the Law

The *Pepperdine Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship, and the Law* (JBEL) provides an outlet for aspiring lawyers, professionals, and judges to explore the future of law as it evolves to meet the demands of the modern business landscape. Members are afforded a unique opportunity to take advantage of JBEL’s affiliation with the *Geoffrey H. Palmer Center for Entrepreneurship and the Law* to advance their business acumen. Other opportunities throughout the year include networking, mentorship, and advice from our distinguished Board of Advisors, composed of Pepperdine Alumni.

CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS

This section contains information on the following clinics and externships:

- JD Clinics
 - Disaster Relief Clinic
 - Faith and Family Mediation Clinic
 - Legal Aid Clinic
 - Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
 - Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic
 - Restoration and Justice Clinic

- Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics and the Ken Starr Institute for Faith, Law, and Practice
 - Religious Liberty Clinic

- Palmer Center Clinic:
 - Startup Law Clinic

- Straus Clinic:
 - Mediation Clinic

- Externships:
 - JD Externship Program
 - London Program Externships
 - Washington, DC, Externship Semester

JD CLINICS

Clinics are the Caruso School of Law's in-house, pro bono, public interest law practice. Each clinic is a 3-unit elective course in which students work with live clients and real cases under faculty direction. Students synthesize doctrinal knowledge and technical skills in a client-centered practice with discipline, wisdom, creativity, integrity, and purpose. Clinics count toward the 15-unit experiential learning requirement.

Unless otherwise noted, most clinics do not have any application process but are open-enrollment classes, capped at 10 students. If there is not an application process, students will be admitted according to the timing of their registration.

For more information, visit:

law.pepperdine.edu/experiential-learning/clinical-education/clinics/

Disaster Relief Clinic

The Disaster Relief Clinic provides pro bono legal services to people who have lost homes or property in natural disasters. The Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 clinics will serve neighbors who suffered in the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires. Its work focuses on FEMA applications and appeals, insurance matters, renters' rights, and rebuilding issues.

The work of the clinic will include direct representation, limited-scope advice and counsel, field clinics, and community education. Students will have significant client contact and will be able to work on multiple matters for clients in great need throughout the semester.

Faith and Family Mediation Clinic

The Faith and Family Mediation Clinic practices at the intersection of California family law, interfaith and intercultural work, Jewish law and practice, and alternative dispute resolution and mediation. Clinic faculty and students provide mediation services to families in civil and religious courts.

For divorcing Jewish couples, parties often must receive a religious divorce in addition to a civil divorce. The Clinic collaborates with the Jewish Divorce Assistance Center of Los Angeles (JDAC), a non-profit organization focused on reaching amicable resolutions to civil and Jewish divorces through mediation and other supportive techniques.

The Faith and Family Mediation Clinic is open to students of all faiths and no faith. The course is interdisciplinary with a parallel focus on California divorce law and the history and evolution of Jewish divorce law as well as divorce in the context of other religions (e.g. Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam, & Sikhism). Jewish religious divorce practices and procedures provide students with an additional framework to deepen their understanding of the mediation process.

Using case law and clinical experience covering all aspects of negotiating and filing California state divorce stipulated judgments, students learn to draft proposed settlement agreements and prepare and file divorce papers, including parenting arrangements, child support, asset division, spousal maintenance, and agreement clauses relating to religious practices. Students also learn how to effectuate Jewish divorce decrees and will observe Jewish divorce ceremonies in religious courts. Students observe and participate in formal mediation with JDAC clients under the supervision of the professor of the course.

Legal Aid Clinic

In the Legal Aid Clinic, students seek justice on behalf of those whose voices are not easily heard. Through partnerships with Union Rescue Mission and Covenant House of California, the Legal Aid Clinic provides direct legal assistance to teens and adults who are overcoming homelessness and poverty in Hollywood and Los Angeles' skid row.

From day one, clinic students are face to face with those in need, building rapport, interviewing and fact finding, and guiding vulnerable clients as they navigate the judicial system or government bureaucracy. Students assist clients with pressing legal issues that threaten their stability, including reentry legal services, seeking the dismissal of criminal convictions; family law issues relating to child support, child custody and visitation; human trafficking and victim advocacy; resolution of warrants; assistance with government benefits; consumer and debt issues.

In addition to the seminar on campus, client-facing work will be primarily virtual, with some pop up clinics and community education events throughout the semester.

Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic helps taxpayers navigate the challenges of the tax system through pro bono representation as well as community education and outreach. Representation in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) include audits, appeals, collection matters, federal tax litigation, and state tax matters (in certain cases, as long as the issues are the result of an IRS controversy).

In accordance with IRS grant requirements, the Clinic provides tax controversy services free of charge to taxpayers whose income does not exceed 250 percent of the annual Federal Poverty Guidelines, with a few exceptions for other cases.

In addition to the seminar on campus, client-facing work will be primarily virtual, with some pop up clinics and community education events throughout the semester.

Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic

The Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic requires a one year commitment. Second year students can participate in the spring of their second year and fall of their third year. Over the course of the year, students, in teams of two, will represent a client in an appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Students will be required to review the appellate record, research the legal issues presented by the case, prepare the opening and reply briefs, and argue the case before a panel of Ninth Circuit judges. The clinic's clients will be drawn from the Ninth Circuit's pro bono docket and will usually involve a civil rights claim. The students will be under the supervision of a partner at the appellate law firm Horvitz & Levy LLP.

The workload required to prepare high quality appellate briefs and to prepare for oral argument is demanding. The formal in class time will include a two hour evening class at the law school meeting once a week and a separate four hour block of supervised clinic work time during which the students can work on the various aspects of their case under the supervision of the clinic director. This three hour weekly block will occur at the clinic director's appellate law office in Burbank.

Students who are interested must apply by preparing a statement of interest explaining the student's interest in appellate law. The application should also include the student's resume, transcript, writing sample and three references. Only two new students can be admitted each semester. The students will be selected based upon the following factors: a demonstrated interest in appellate law, excellent research and writing skills, and general academic excellence.

Restoration and Justice Clinic

The Restoration and Justice Clinic represents victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and other gender-based crimes. The Clinic is housed in the law school and partners with legal and social service agencies in Southern California to facilitate comprehensive services for our clients and to provide experiences in multidisciplinary practice for our students. The Clinic's approach to gender-based violence cases is a holistic one, encompassing civil and criminal law remedies and advocacy to ensure that the survivor's legal needs are met. Pro bono legal services are provided in a variety of matters - both civil and criminal - including family law, domestic violence restraining orders, legal remedies available under the Violence Against Women Act, advocacy for victims and witnesses, and dismissal of criminal convictions.

Students in the clinic are trained to provide direct services to clinic clients, develop sensitivity and competence for representing low-income survivors, and conduct outreach and educational advocacy to inform survivors, service providers, and other interested stakeholders (law enforcement, courts, agencies, legislators, etc.) about victims' legal rights and remedies designed to address gender-based violence.

NOOTBAAR INSTITUTE ON LAW, RELIGION, AND ETHICS AND THE KEN STARR INSTITUTE FOR FAITH, LAW, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Religious Liberty Clinic

This clinic will enroll 6 - 8 students in a seminar-style class that will include active, supervised practice in cases protecting religious liberties rights. Students in the clinic will explore enduring questions relating to how civil governments treat the religious beliefs, expressions, and institutions of their citizens and residents and will receive practical, firsthand experience with religious liberties litigation and support the provision of high-quality legal services to clients in religious liberties litigation. Students must apply in the Spring to be considered for the Religious Liberty Clinic by filling out an application (link below), or by sending a resume and short statement explaining interest in the clinic to clinicallaw@pepperdine.edu.

PALMER CENTER CLINIC

Startup Law Clinic

The Startup Law Clinic at Pepperdine Caruso Law is an initiative designed to train law students to serve entrepreneurs of startups (primarily in the technology sector) with formation, capitalization, corporate governance, user agreements, angel investor financings and venture capital transactions. This initiative will provide Pepperdine law students with valuable and practical experience in the entrepreneurial and startup sector. The Clinic will provide guidance and expertise to entrepreneurs in preparation for a startup's formation and initial capital investment as well as in negotiating the legal and business terms of the investment. Students must apply by filling out an application online, which can be found here: <https://startuplawyer.formstack.com/forms/slstudent>.

STRAUS INSTITUTE CLINIC

Mediation Clinic

The Mediation Clinic provides an immersion into the skills, practice, ethics, and professionalism of mediation in a faculty-supervised setting. Students who have completed the prerequisite of *Mediation Theory and Practice* develop their skills as mediators through frequent and regular practice with disputants in Los Angeles or Ventura County Superior Courts. Collectively, students mediate one thousand cases for the citizens of Los Angeles County each year. The Mediation Clinic not only hones negotiation and mediation skills, but also allows students to serve our community's courts by making an impact on service delivery. Clinic Mediators report that their role in impacting citizens' experiences of the justice system through facilitated negotiations is highly rewarding. The Mediation Clinic requires students' attendance at a two-hour class each week, and provides opportunities for students to serve as mediators in Superior Court. There is no final exam or paper; however, students must complete specified documentation for cases they mediate, including 1) a self-evaluation and 2) necessary supporting court paperwork. Students in the Mediation Clinic have the opportunity to mediate various types of cases, including landlord/tenant, employment, merchant/consumer, and contract cases in Small Claims Court. Students also mediate cases in the following additional contexts: Unlawful Detainers, Limited Jurisdiction, and Civil Harassment.

International Students seeking to enroll in a clinic or externship experience must be approved for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) prior to registering. Please contact the Office of International Student Services (OISS) for confirmation of eligibility.

The Mediation Clinic takes place in the Spring semester. Students must apply by preparing a brief statement about their interest in the clinic. Applications can be found here:

law.pepperdine.edu/straus/academic-programs/mediation-clinic/.

JD EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Externships are field placements where students earn academic credit for qualifying legal work under supervision of experienced lawyers. Externships enable students to integrate theoretical knowledge of the law with the development of professional skills through practical experience under the supervision of the faculty, the bench and the bar. These experiences offer students unique and invaluable perspectives on the practice of law and the role of lawyers in society.

Participating law students develop and practice essential lawyering skills with real clients and cases under the direction of experienced supervising attorneys. Externships increase students' opportunities to build relationships with lawyers in practice while applying their legal education to practical services for clients.

Eligibility

Second- and third-year law students and master's degree candidates are eligible to participate in an externship. Registration is contingent upon an overall GPA of 2.5 and approval from the Director of Externships. Externship placements are available across government, criminal law, entertainment, public interest, and judicial sectors, as well as in dispute resolution.

Placements

Prospective externs must secure their own placements. Current openings are available through Symplicity or the Career Development Office. New placements are eligible for approval if they meet the clinical program's educational objectives and afford adequate field supervision.

Private law firms will be approved if they are either (1) nonprofit public interest entities regardless of whether the student is paid or unpaid, or (2) a for-profit entity where the student is paid.

In order to build relationships, gather information, and provide support to placements during the course of the semester, someone from the Externship Program may conduct a site visit to field placements to discuss details about the placement, externs' progress, as well as other questions or concerns. Externship program staff will contact field supervisors directly and will schedule such visits at the convenience of the field supervisor.

Registration

Students complete the Externship Checklist, starting with completing an Understanding of Externship Guidelines. The Clinical Program Manager will register students for the course once the checklist is completed. Students can register for 1 to 10 units per term and are expected to work with their field supervisors and the Clinical Education Program to determine the appropriate number of units (each unit of externship credit requires 50 hours of completed field work). Students must finalize all of these steps by the add/drop deadline at the latest. After the add/drop deadline each term, students may not enroll in an externship or add or reduce units without approval from the Externship Director, Associate Dean for Clinical Education, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and only upon a showing of external, extenuating, and unforeseeable circumstances.

Workshop Requirements

All externs are required to participate in a contemporaneous, ongoing, guided reflection. First-time externs are required to enroll in a one-hour, bi-weekly workshop. Students who cannot attend a workshop must meet with a faculty advisor approved by the Director of Externships. Returning externs will be registered for a workshop, meeting twice each semester to discuss and reflect on their externship experience.

CAREER PATHWAYS GUIDE

During your first year of law school, you should begin to consider which areas of law interest you. To assist you with this process, the Career Development Office offers this Career Pathways Guide to provide you with detailed information regarding a variety of practice areas. This Guide will help you assess your interest in these practice areas and identify strategies and resources, including particular professors who may be able to advise you.

Antitrust

Antitrust laws protect consumers from unfair business practices while allowing companies to gain an edge over their competitors through lawful competitive means. Attorneys practicing antitrust law may work in a variety of settings, which includes government attorneys involved in the enforcement of antitrust laws for the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission, or for a state attorney general's office. Alternatively, they may work for private law firms as civil litigation attorneys involved in filing or defending lawsuits in both federal and state court against alleged violators of federal antitrust laws.

Appellate Law

Appellate lawyers represent clients in appeals before federal and state courts of appeal and, in select cases, before the United States Supreme Court. Unlike trial lawyers, appellate attorneys focus primarily on legal issues rather than factual disputes, analyzing the trial court record to identify potential errors of law and presenting those arguments through written briefs and oral argument. Their work often involves extensive legal research, sophisticated legal writing, and strategic framing of complex doctrinal questions. Appellate practitioners may work in specialized appellate practice groups at law firms, government offices such as state attorneys general or the U.S. Solicitor General's Office, public interest organizations, or as court clerks early in their careers. Because appellate advocacy emphasizes persuasive writing and deep knowledge of legal doctrine, attorneys in this field must develop exceptional analytical skills and the ability to explain complicated legal issues clearly to appellate judges.

Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy law concerns the rights of debtors and creditors in federal bankruptcy proceedings. During these proceedings, bankruptcy attorneys assist individuals in Chapter 7 liquidations and Chapter 13 repayment plans, or businesses involved in Chapter 11 reorganizations or liquidations, out-of-court settlements, and receiverships. Law firms usually specialize in representing either debtors or creditors. Firms that represent debtors and financially troubled companies advise on all aspects of the bankruptcy and restructuring process, and carefully analyze their clients' finances and business operations in order to fully understand their assets and liabilities. Firms that represent these debtors seek to preserve as much of the bankruptcy estate as possible against creditors' claims. In contrast, firms that represent creditors seek to maximize the amount their clients can recover from the bankruptcy estate in the shortest possible time frame.

Business and Corporate

Business law encompasses a wide range of practice areas, including, among others, corporate law, securities law, corporate finance, commercial law, bankruptcy, tax, intellectual property, business negotiations, venture financing, startup law, cross-border transactions, and labor and employment law. Business law attorneys may practice litigation or transactional law, and sometimes in both areas. However, most attorneys practicing corporate law are transactional lawyers. They represent companies in one or more of three areas: corporate governance and compliance, mergers and

acquisitions, and securities. Additionally, corporate attorneys may specialize in representing either public or private companies. Public companies are generally large businesses with many shareholders whose stocks trade on a public exchange like the New York Stock Exchange. Private companies are generally smaller companies with a small number of owners whose stocks do not trade on a public exchange. The extent to which a corporate attorney will specialize in a specific area often depends on the size of the corporate department in the law firm for which the attorney works – the larger the department, the more likely the attorney will be likely to specialize.

Civil Litigation

Litigation attorneys file and defend litigation matters in which their clients are involved. Often, in an effort to avoid litigation, these attorneys will engage in negotiations with opposing counsel and clients during various phases of a case, including during settlement discussions and court mandated settlement conferences. Litigators must possess general litigation and courtroom skills, as well as specific knowledge of substantive law in the types of litigation in which they specialize. General litigation skills include legal research, conducting discovery, taking and defending depositions, preparing witnesses, persuasive writing, motion practice, and trial and appellate experience. A junior litigation attorney's involvement in litigation will depend on the size of the firm or department in which he or she practices. In smaller law firms or when a firm's litigation practice is narrow in scope, the attorney will often be given significant responsibilities early in his or her career, and will participate more extensively in trial proceedings. In some large firms, early litigation practice may consist of research, writing memoranda, and engaging in discovery matters (especially document review). However, many large firms are making an effort to provide associates with early responsibility and are turning to contract (temporary) or staff attorneys for document review. Over time, litigation attorneys will develop skills such as drafting motions, conducting depositions, and appearing in court hearings. More experienced litigators will develop trial skills as first or second chair attorneys, conducting tasks such as direct and cross examinations of witnesses. Some litigation attorneys specialize in appellate work, arguing in front of state and federal appellate courts, and perhaps even the United States Supreme Court.

Criminal Law

Criminal lawyers represent the state or individuals in a wide range of criminal matters ranging from simple misdemeanor traffic violations to first degree murder. Criminal lawyers work at the trial or appellate level, and must have a good grasp of courtroom procedures and the Rules of Criminal Procedure. Lawyers working as prosecutors and public defenders work for a governmental agency at the federal, state, or local level. Lawyers engaged in non-indigent defense practice work for small or solo private practices. White collar defense lawyers generally work for large law firms.

Dispute Resolution (Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration, Conflict Management)

Dispute resolution is the focus of a diverse array of courses (on subjects such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, lawyer decision-making, psychology of conflict, and cross-cultural conflict) imparting knowledge and skills that play a key role in nearly all of the activities in which lawyers engage, and all arenas of practice. Lawyers involved in all forms of litigation usually end up resolving disputes at the negotiating table, often with the assistance of a professional mediator who facilitates settlement discussions. A thorough grounding in negotiation dynamics, psychological factors, and the impact of culture can enhance lawyer performance in negotiations. Commercial, employment and consumer attorneys may also represent clients in binding arbitration, a private alternative to going to court that is of particular importance in international commerce. Many companies employ a variety of mechanisms to manage conflict in the workplace, or other ongoing relationships, early and effectively. In addition to using dispute resolution tools and techniques in their traditional roles as legal counselors and advocates, experienced attorneys are also employing these skills and insights as mediators, arbitrators¹, neutral evaluators, dispute resolution systems designers, ombuds, settlement counsel, conflict coaches, and collaborative attorneys.

Entertainment or Sports Law

Entertainment law encompasses a wide range of litigation and transactional practice areas in situations where the client – usually an actor, musician, or athlete; a production company or studio; or a music, film, or television company – is involved in the entertainment industry. Common issues addressed by entertainment lawyers include intellectual property (especially licensing, trademark, and copyright issues), employment, contract, tort, labor and employment, bankruptcy, immigration, securities, agency, right of privacy, defamation, clearance of rights, product placement, advertising, criminal, tax, international, and insurance matters. Much of the legal work in the entertainment industry is transactional (i.e. contract drafting and negotiation); however, some situations such as employer-employee, profit participation, or alleged defamation often lead to litigation.

Environmental Law

Environmental law consists of statutes, treaties, common law, and other regulations that are intended to protect the environment from potential impacts or endangerment by human or business activities. Some environmental laws regulate the quantity and nature of human and business impacts, such as setting allowable levels of pollution. Attorneys practicing environmental law may work in a variety of settings, including as government attorneys involved in the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations for the federal Environmental Protection Agency or for various state agencies.

Alternatively, they may work for private law firms representing clients who have suffered injuries as a result of, for example, groundwater or airborne contaminants, or representing landowners whose property has been damaged by the discharge of toxic wastes or other pollutants. On the defense side, they may represent the individuals or businesses seeking to comply with applicable environmental laws or alleged to have caused environmental injuries.

¹ Please note that there are very few arbitrators who were not former judicial officers, so if you want to pursue a career as an arbitrator, you may first want to consider a career as a judge.

Family Law

Family law encompasses a wide variety of family-related matters. Family law attorneys negotiate and mediate on behalf of clients in child support, divorce, and adoption proceedings. In divorce proceedings, the attorney will determine a couple's reason for divorce, draft the divorce petition, and file necessary papers with the family law court. If there are children, the attorney will help mediate child custody, visitation, and support issues, and, if necessary, participate in hearings or litigation related to these matters. Attorneys may also negotiate, help mediate, and participate in hearings or litigation related to prenuptial or spousal support issues. Some family law attorneys represent clients or government agencies in domestic violence, dependency, and guardianship proceedings.

Health Law

Healthcare laws and regulations are developed and enforced through the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control.

Government lawyers are responsible for advising these agencies and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, among others, on various regulatory issues. Private healthcare attorneys draft legislation and regulations for submission before various state and federal legislative bodies and agencies, and are frequently called upon to comment and testify on proposed legislation affecting the healthcare industry. Private healthcare attorneys also work on the acquisition, financing, and reorganization of healthcare facilities; Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement advice and litigation; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliance, audits, and consultations; fraud and abuse compliance issues, investigations, and defense; litigation, including medical malpractice, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement disputes, nursing facility lawsuits, and wrongful death claims; and employment law matters for healthcare facilities and medical staff. Nonprofit and public interest attorneys in the healthcare field may also publicize health law issues through impact litigation.

High Tech and Intellectual Property Law

High tech and intellectual property lawyers represent companies and entrepreneurs engaged in technological innovations, including those in the computer, internet, software, entertainment, and biotechnology industries. These companies rely on intellectual property law to protect their intangible assets, and they encounter many other interesting and complex issues requiring legal advice, particularly in the areas of biotechnology, corporate transactions, employment law, copyright and trademark law, intellectual property litigation, patent law, licensing, and telecommunications. Attorneys practicing intellectual property law usually practice in one of five areas: patent (usually requires passing the Patent Bar Exam and admission to the Patent Bar), trademark, copyright, trade secret, or licensing, with some attorneys practicing in multiple categories. Admission to the Patent Bar is generally not required for attorneys practicing outside the patent practice area, but intellectual property courses during law school and a focus on STEM in undergraduate school is recommended.

Immigration Law

Immigration lawyers focus on the legal issues involved when a person leaves one country to live in another (immigration) and the process of becoming a citizen in the new country (naturalization). Many immigration lawyers are also involved in litigating deportation and asylum issues. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) presides over most immigration proceedings, which are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. Immigration litigation takes place in the DHS's administrative court system.

Insurance Law

Insurance policies are contracts between insurance companies and businesses or individuals that are designed to reduce and manage the risk of certain harmful occurrences. The insured pays a premium to an insurance company in exchange for a promise that the insurance company will cover damages in the event a covered harmful occurrence comes to pass. Insurance lawyers generally work in one of four areas: on insurance coverage issues (advising, negotiating, drafting, and consulting on insurance contracts); as insurance defense lawyers (defending insurance companies in litigation matters brought by insureds); as in-house counsel for an insurance company; and by providing insurance counseling services to individuals and businesses.

International Law

International law is divided into two general areas of specialization: international commercial law and international human rights law. International commercial attorneys practice in the areas of immigration and naturalization; international trade and finance; international real estate transactions and development projects; international mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures; international tax matters; and international intellectual property matters. International human rights lawyers may work for various international bodies, including the United Nations, International Court of Justice, European Court of Human Rights, and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, or for non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International. Foreign language skills are especially useful to attorneys practicing in this field.

Labor and Employment Law

Labor lawyers represent either businesses or labor unions in matters involving the law and regulations governing labor unions. Employment lawyers deal with the federal and state laws and regulations that govern the employer-employee relationship. Common legal issues include employee discrimination, occupational safety and health, employee benefits, wage and hour claims, and contractual matters such as “just cause” and termination. Employment lawyers are divided into two categories: those representing employers and those representing employees. While labor and employment lawyers typically practice as litigators, employment lawyers may also draft and negotiate employment agreements and employee benefit contracts.

Public Interest Law

The term “public interest law” describes the practice of law carried out under the auspices of a nonprofit organization for which the attorneys focus on issues that benefit the public generally such as civil rights, protections for disabled and underrepresented persons, the prevention or remediation of racial and gender discrimination, reformation of the legal and other professions, representation of labor unions, and promotion of campaign finance reform, among other issues. Public interest law practice contrasts with traditional civil and criminal practice where the focus is on achieving justice for an individual client. Most public interest law matters are civil rather than criminal in nature. Most clients of public interest organizations cannot afford to pay for legal services, and thus, other methods must be used to fund these organizations, including membership dues, charitable contributions, foundation grants, and, under certain statutes, attorneys’ fee awards paid by the defendant.

Real Estate

Real estate attorneys represent real estate investment trusts, lenders, developers, landlords, tenants, buyers, and sellers in all aspects of commercial real estate. Real estate attorneys may be generalists, but often will specialize in litigation or transactional matters within the real estate industry. Major real

estate transactions include acquisitions, dispositions, construction and development projects, financing work, commercial leases, and real estate workouts for troubled real estate loans. Real estate matters often involve landlord-tenant, land use, or environmental issues.

Tax

Tax law governs the taxation of income (corporate and personal) and the taxation of income and gains earned in connection with real, personal, or business property acquired through personal or professional efforts. In addition to income tax, other areas of taxation include employment, excise, sales, gift, inheritance, capital gains, and property taxes, among others. United States tax law is governed by federal, state, and local taxing agencies. Typical issues addressed by a tax attorney include taxation of income, taxation of capital gains, taxation of retirement pensions and social security contributions, inheritance taxes, taxation of gifts, estate taxation, consumption taxes (sales tax), and taxation of corporations. Tax attorneys have mastered the complexity of the tax system and help clients understand and comply with it. They typically fall into four categories: tax planners, who advise on and structure business transactions; controversy attorneys, who represent clients in litigation with taxing agencies, such as the IRS; compliance experts, who file tax returns and ensure conformity with tax laws; and hybrid tax attorneys, who perform some combination of these services and may also perform legislative and policy work as well.

Trusts and Estates

Trusts and estates are legal vehicles used to manage the personal affairs and the transfer of property of an individual in the event of that person's incapacity or death. They are also used to fulfill an individual's philanthropic purposes. Estate and gift tax planning attorneys counsel clients on wealth transfer strategies. They have expertise in estate litigation, business succession planning, wealth transfer planning, will and trust planning, charitable planning, prenuptial agreements, wealth transfer tax controversies, estate controversy litigation, estate administration, and fiduciary issues. They also deal with the probate process, living trusts, general tax issues, and power of attorney issues. The above practice areas include many of those in which Pepperdine Caruso School of Law alumni currently practice. There are other areas of practice not covered here. Please see a Career Development Office counselor for more information on other legal practice areas and nontraditional career paths such as business, academics, entrepreneurship, and non-attorney government work.

The Orange Book 2026 Contact Information

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