Dean’s Message

Rich course offerings, a low student-to-faculty ratio, and a friendly and energetic atmosphere – this is Alabama Law. Our law school is uniquely student-centered. Your time here will provide a firm foundation for your future success, however and wherever you use your degree. At Alabama Law, our professors publish and teach in cutting-edge fields. Our students work together to serve legal needs in the community. Here, you will be in a place where student groups invigorate the atmosphere through speakers and activities. Here, diversity of thought is celebrated, and lively discussion encouraged.

Alabama Law tuition has remained reasonable. Our reputation is strong. We are often listed as a “best value” in legal education and maintain a respected status among law schools and within the legal community.

Our alumni serve as the living proof of our success. For 140 years, Alabama Law has produced attorneys who become leaders locally, nationally, and globally. Our graduates do more than practice law – they shape the future.

So, talk to an admissions representative. Sit in on a class. Schedule a meeting with a professor. I am sure you will see that opportunities abound at Alabama Law.

William S. Brewbaker, III
Interim Dean
Interdisciplinary Offerings
The Law School offers joint degree and dual enrollment programs leading to an MBA, a PhD in Economics, a Master’s or PhD in Political Science, a Master’s in Public Administration, a Master’s in Social Work, or a Master’s in Civil Engineering. Apart from these programs, students may be dually enrolled in the Law School and most any other graduate program on campus. Law students may count up to 6 hours of graduate academic work from other departments toward the law degree requirements so long as the classes are taken after the student matriculates at the law school, are pre-approved by the Law School, and relate to the student’s law school curriculum.

International LLM and JSD Programs
Graduates who have already earned law degrees from law schools outside the U.S. may apply to the Law School’s International Graduate Program to earn the Master of Laws (LLM) degree. It is a one-year program in which students may elect to take courses aimed at developing knowledge in specific areas of the law - such as international business law, environmental law, or comparative law - or may tailor a custom course of study to suit individual interests or career goals.

Starting in August 2014, the Law School plans to enroll candidates for the Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) degree. This degree is designed for persons seeking the most advanced law degree, who are likely to pursue academic careers.

LLM in Taxation and LLM Concentration in Business Transactions
The Law School also offers tax and business courses through interactive, online LLM programs. JD students may apply up to 12 credits of online tax or business courses to the JD degree and may also earn a Master’s degree at the same time as the JD through a dual enrollment program.
You need not wait until graduation to start working on real-life legal problems. In fact, Alabama is one of the few law schools in the country that guarantees every student the opportunity to gain clinical experience before graduating.

During the second and third years, students may choose to participate in our law clinics. Under the guidance of clinic faculty, students provide direct legal services to actual clients. Several hundred individuals and organizations are aided annually by law clinic program students and staff who provide thousands of hours of free legal assistance.

**Alabama Law Clinics**
- Capital Defense Clinic
- Civil Law Clinic
- Community Development Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Domestic Violence Law Clinic
- Elder Law Clinic
- Foreclosure Relief Clinic
- Mediation Law Clinic

**Externships**
The Law School's Externship Program offers second- and third-year students experience in client advocacy, litigation, and the judicial process in a structured, supervised learning environment. Through the Externship Program, students earn course credit as they work under the direct supervision of attorneys and judges in the offices to which they are assigned. Summer and academic year externships are available in offices specializing in criminal and civil law, in non-profit and public interest organizations, and in the chambers of state and federal judges and magistrates.

The Federal Externship provides our students with opportunities to work full-time in Washington, D.C. in Congressional or Federal Executive Branch placements during the spring semester of the second or third year of study.
Law Journals

Students may participate in one of four student-edited law journals published at The University of Alabama School of Law. These journals — Alabama Law Review, The Journal of the Legal Profession, Law and Psychology Review, and Alabama Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law Review — provide students with opportunities in legal research, writing, and editing. Each year, students edit and publish articles on important legal topics written by scholars and practitioners from across the country. Generally, students are selected for the journals during the fall semester of their second year. Leadership positions are filled by third-year students who supervise the work of second-year students. In addition to editing articles written by scholars, students are expected to write at least one publishable article for their journal.

Trial Advocacy

Students may choose to participate in trial advocacy competitions during their second and third years. In trial advocacy, students take on the role of attorneys in a simulated trial setting. Students examine witnesses, offer and object to evidence, and give opening statements and closing arguments to jury panels. After a Trial Advocacy Competition Class tryout, students are selected for a special class section of Trial Advocacy II. Qualifying students compete on one or more of the Law School competition teams. Each year, Alabama Law attends prestigious trial advocacy competitions nationwide, and students regularly receive awards for their advocacy skills.

Moot Court

Alabama Law students travel to and compete in national and international moot court programs on a wide range of topics, including bankruptcy law, constitutional law, criminal law, employment law, environmental law, intellectual property law, labor law, public international law, and tax law. In moot court, students take on the role of lawyers in a simulated appellate court, often the United States Supreme Court. Most of the moot court team members are selected through an intra-school competition known as the Campbell Moot Court Competition. The competition, which takes place in the spring semester of the second year, usually includes about 70 competitors. Finalists argue before a distinguished panel of judges. In the last decade, the panel has included judges from nine of the 12 U.S. Courts of Appeals, and from about 20 states.
Serve the Community and the World

Public Interest
The Public Interest Institute of The University of Alabama School of Law is dedicated to the idea that the privilege of being an attorney calls for service to one’s community. The Public Interest Institute provides learning experiences, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and career counseling, while highlighting the need for legal assistance and fostering a lifelong commitment to pro bono legal service.

Certificate in Public Interest Law
Through classroom, clinical, and extracurricular experiences, the Certificate in Public Interest Law prepares students for work in public interest. To receive the certificate, students are required to complete specified coursework, including participation in a clinical course through one of Alabama Law’s eight clinic opportunities. In addition, students receiving the certificate are required to participate in at least 50 hours of law-related community service activities.
International Programs

After the first year of study, students may enroll in an international academic program. There are two semester-long international exchange programs—one with Tel Aviv University-Buchmann Faculty of Law and another with India’s National Law University of New Delhi. Summer study abroad options take students to the University of Fribourg in Fribourg, Switzerland, and to the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. Program coursework for the summer includes a survey of the host country’s law and a team-taught course focusing on comparative law. Additionally, law students from Australia and Switzerland come to Tuscaloosasa to study at our Law School each year.

Governmental Affairs Certificate

Recognizing the heritage of The University of Alabama School of Law as a training ground for leaders of our states’ and nation’s legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the Law School offers students the opportunity to obtain a Certificate in Governmental Affairs. To obtain the certificate, students must complete either the Federal Externship in Washington D.C. or an approved state government externship. In these externships, students devote a significant portion of their responsibilities to the process of policy development. Additionally, students will take two required courses and 12 credit hours from a list of selected courses. This coursework is designed to relate to the functioning of governmental institutions, acquaint students with tools that are useful in performing policy analysis, and provide an important policy background to matters that are frequently the subject of legislation and administrative regulation.
Student Body
Our student body is talented, diverse, and academically strong. Alabama Law students come from nearly 200 undergraduate institutions. Some students have extensive work experience in a wide range of fields, while others are newly graduated. Quite a few have post-graduate degrees. Our student body is made up of a number of residents who return to Alabama for law school and out-of-state students who are attracted to the opportunities that Alabama Law has to offer.

Almost 500 students are enrolled in The University of Alabama School of Law. It is not by accident that we have a student body of this size. We think this is an ideal size — translating to about a 10:1 student/faculty ratio — that gives students a diverse environment with plenty of personal attention.

Our students often have different professional goals. Although all are pursuing a Juris Doctor, some begin law school with the intent to practice in a particular field of law. Several intend to join law firms; others want to pursue a career in public interest law or to enter the profession as a solo practitioner. Some begin law school without having an idea as to what they will do. You will find that many students’ interests change over the course of their legal studies. Many narrow their legal interests while participating in clinical programs and externships or taking classes that spark intellectual curiosity.

Student Organizations
During law school, students form important and long-lasting relationships with their classmates. Joining a student organization is a great way to meet other first-year and upper-level students. At Alabama, our students have created a number of organizations that promote personal interests, foster professional development, and help students enjoy their time in law school. Students establish new organizations each year, so the number of student organizations continues to grow. Student organizations host “Get on Board Day” every fall, where they present information about their groups and invite new students to join.

The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa is best known as the home of The University of Alabama. The University has grown in recent years and now enrolls over 33,000 students. The Law School sits on the eastern edge of campus. Being a part of a major university allows law students to participate in classes outside the Law School, including being dually enrolled in other graduate programs; to participate in interest groups formed by graduate and undergraduate students from other areas of campus; and to enjoy cultural activities offered by the theatre, music, dance, and art departments. The campus boasts an exceptional student recreation center. Law students are also active in intramural teams from softball to flag football, from basketball to rugby.

Of course, the University is well known for its football team — the Crimson Tide. Law students sit together at the games and enjoy tailgating under the trees near the Law School. Students also enjoy following the other 10 NCAA sanctioned athletic teams sponsored by the University. The women’s gymnastics and softball teams as well as the men’s and women’s golf teams have been ranked among the top in the country over the last few years.

Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa is a dynamic city of about 100,000 residents with much to offer incoming law students. It is a growing community and the center of industry, commerce, healthcare, and education for the region commonly known as West Alabama. Tuscaloosa is located on the banks of the Black Warrior River and is named after the Choctaw chieftain Tuscaloosa. The river and nearby lakes and parks provide abundant opportunities for swimming, water-skiing, sailing, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation. With mild winter temperatures in the 50s, students can enjoy outdoor activities such as golfing and kayaking in every season. The campus, trails along the river, and bike paths offer scenic paths for runners, walkers, and bikers. Tuscaloosa hosts running, biking, and triathlon competitions throughout the year.

Birmingham, Alabama’s largest city, is only a short drive away. While housing in Tuscaloosa is available and very reasonable, some students enjoy the option of living in Birmingham and commuting to campus. Additionally, Atlanta, Memphis, Nashville, and New Orleans, along with the cultural and commercial experiences they offer, are just a short drive from Tuscaloosa. The sunny beaches of Alabama and Florida are close enough to enjoy on the weekends.
From spacious clinic offices to state-of-the-art classroom space, from the full-service cafeteria to the student study rooms, from the centralized recruiting interview rooms to the student bookstore, every aspect of the campus of Alabama Law is designed with student service in mind.

The School of Law is also home to the Bounds Law Library, which is a premier law library. It offers an impressive collection of traditional and electronic research materials. The library’s outstanding staff is committed to helping students, faculty, practicing attorneys, and judges make the most of this special resource.

The building contains two computer labs, one of which is available to law students 24 hours a day. To make note-taking on laptops more accessible, electrical outlets are available at each seat in large and medium-sized classrooms, as well as in the trial advocacy rooms. Students can take their exams on their laptops or in one of the computer labs, though handwriting is an option.
Alabama Law graduates are in demand. We know that going to law school is much more than a three-year educational experience. It is also the road to a career. We are proud of how well our alumni have done in finding their first job. We take even more pride in the outstanding careers that follow.

For most students, the first step in beginning a legal career is taking a state bar examination. On the exam, Alabama graduates have shown tremendous success. The national bar passage rate for our graduates is typically above 90 percent, a rate that is among some of the highest in the nation.

Of course, finding a job does not magically occur when you graduate. Some of the most important groundwork is laid prior to graduation, and our Career Services staff is here to help you navigate that process.

Federal Clerkships

At Alabama Law, we know that serving as a law clerk to a federal judge is one of the most important and prestigious placements for students following graduation. That is why we work so hard to see that our students have every advantage possible as they apply for these positions. In addition to multiple programs about clerkships, faculty members work individually with our students to prepare them for the application process and interviews. With placements over the years in more than 17 states and the District of Columbia, we are proud of our results. Alabama Law is one of the top ranked schools for federal clerkship placements for graduates. 2013 marks the fifth consecutive year that 10 or more Alabama Law graduates have been placed in federal judicial clerkships.

Prepare for a Lifetime of Professional Success

Career Services sponsors numerous workshops on résumé writing, cover letter wording, interviewing, networking, and developing job-seeking skills. The Career Services staff also works with students on a one-on-one basis to help them identify and meet their employment goals.

Our Career Services Office arranges interviews that occur on campus, at job fairs, in law firm offices, and by video conference. Additionally, the Career Services Office aggressively markets the Law School and its students to employers across the country. Alabama Law has a strong network of alumni, with graduates in 49 states and a number of countries around the world. A law degree from Alabama can take you anywhere you want to go.
Our faculty members recognize that their most important role is shaping the next generation of leaders, and they make time to do so. In fact, six of our faculty members have received the University’s highest award for teaching. Many spend hours working with students outside of the classroom, on course work, on law school programs, and on career opportunities. Beyond their roles as professors, faculty members advise students, organizations, and journals, as well as work alongside students on a variety of community service projects.

Alabama Law faculty members excel in teaching, research, and service. Our professors are a highly regarded and frequently published collection of experts. You will find their writings published in books and leading law journals. You will hear them interviewed on major television and radio programs and read their comments quoted in the nation’s preeminent newspapers.

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