

LAWYERS

HELP

CHILDREN
FAMILIES
IMMIGRANTS
VICTIMS
WORKERS
BUSINESSES
DEMOCRACY
SOCIETY
THE PLANET
WILL YOU?



WHY LAW?

WHY NOW? WHY YOU?

Now more than ever, society needs legal professionals who understand the enormous responsibility they carry in upholding the rule of law. Members of the bar are the gatekeepers to a fair and just society that values individual rights and provides protections for due process under the law. They are the tenacious guardians of the Constitution and trusted advisors from Main Street to Wall Street. They are called to a higher standard to make a greater degree of impact.

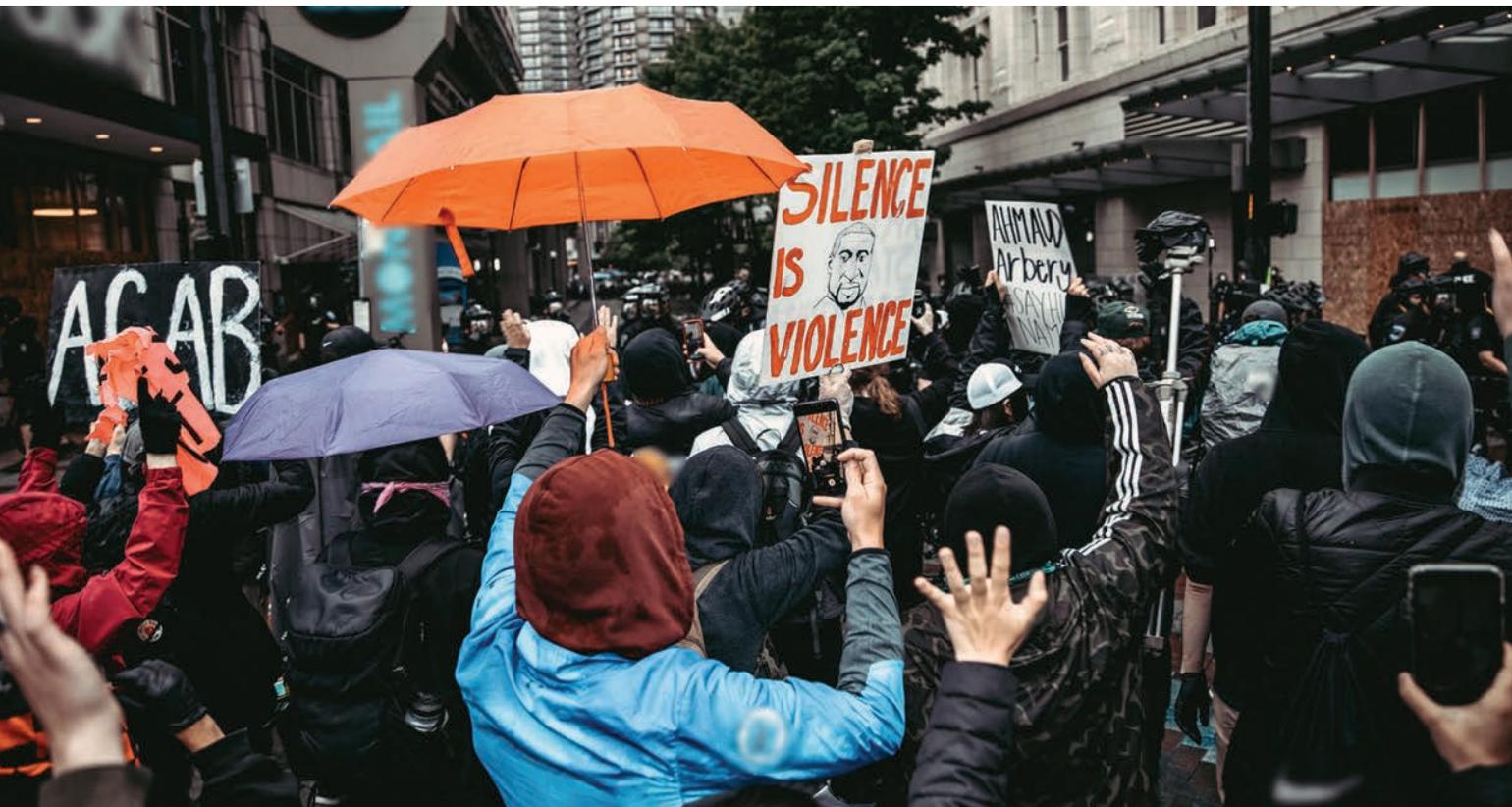
In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, lawyers are called upon to demand, define, and defend justice.

WILL YOU?



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Lawyers play a unique and vital role in society. They were present at many of the critical moments in history. They are advocates for their clients when the chips are down, when the consequences are serious—when it matters the most.





CHALLENGE

At Western New England University, you will learn the theory and practical application of law. Our curriculum integrates traditional classroom instruction in legal doctrine, analysis, and problem-solving with experiential learning in a range of clinical settings. These include simulation courses, client representation, externship programs, and cocurricular activities. Building on the knowledge and skills taught in the classroom, these practice settings challenge students to integrate their analysis with professional experience to enrich their understanding of the law and the role lawyers play in defending its principles.

BUILD ON OUR COMMUNITY VALUES

The School of Law strives to create a community that reflects the diversity of the society around us and that models what we most honor in the law: reason, civility, justice, fairness, process, and respect for differences of background and position. We share an enthusiasm for legal study, both in and outside the classroom, an appreciation of what law and lawyers are capable of accomplishing for the betterment of society, and a commitment to personal and professional excellence.

Welcome from the Dean of Admissions

What impact will you make with your law degree? Whether you craft a path in public interest law, corporate law, working in government, or anywhere else—Western New England University School of Law gives you the tools to get there. With our nationally recognized faculty, student-centered education, multitude of practical learning opportunities, and engaged alumni, we help you decide where you want to go, and to achieve your goals.

Teaching real-world lawyers has been our mission for over 100 years. Founded in 1919, we started with the simple goal of helping people from all walks of life gain the skills and knowledge needed to go back to their communities as lawyers who serve families, businesses, and society. Over a century later, we can celebrate how much we have grown as an institution, and that our alumni now practice around the country and overseas; we can also celebrate the fact that our ethos of student-centered education has not changed at all.

What does this mean? You will work closely with our award-winning professors to develop the critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills needed to excel as a lawyer. As an upper-level student, you will choose from incredible opportunities for practical lawyering. In our nine clinics, students work with real clients; they help low-income entrepreneurs with start-up businesses, they work on international human rights issues, and they represent criminal defendants in court. Student externs help federal and state judges write opinions; they work with the U.S. Attorney's office, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and many other government agencies. Students on our national award-winning competition teams travel around the country to compete against other law schools in areas such as First Amendment rights, taxation, negotiation, and international law. In short, you will gain the skills you need to become an effective lawyer, all while earning law school credit.

Whatever path you take, at Western New England you are part of our tight-knit community, from classrooms and externships to student organizations and competition teams, and with alumni mentors who are a vital part of helping the School of Law continue to flourish in our second century. We welcome you to explore our law school and learn more about the opportunities that await.





Anthony J. Orlando
Assistant Dean of Admissions
Western New England University
School of Law



The study of law is a science. The practice of law is an art. Here you will experience both.

Western New England University School of Law will inspire and support you to become a true student of law and a skilled practitioner. Here, you will learn the science of legal study as a methodology to analyze legal and social issues. You will develop the ability to perform careful research and write thorough and precise legal memoranda and scholarly papers. You will be prepared to draw upon your growing body of knowledge to artfully articulate persuasive legal arguments.

The School of Law enjoys a close-knit collegial environment where students interact with faculty and peers in and out of the classroom. You will have abundant opportunities to get to know professors who will help lead you on the pathway to reach your personal goals and ambitions.

Blake Law Center





ACADEMICS

PRACTICAL LAWYERING FOR REAL WORLD PRACTICE

In the legal field, there is no substitute for experience. At Western New England University, we help you develop the practical skills lawyers use and apply them in a professional context. The legal principles you learn in your first year will be put into action in your second and third years. You can assist real clients in one of our many clinics, gain experience through an externship, research and write a scholarly note for *The Western New England Law Review*, participate in a moot court or other competition team, or receive credit through study abroad experiences.

PREPARED FOR CLASS—AND THE BAR

Bar preparation is integrated directly into the JD experience. The School of Law has partnered with The BARBRI Group, one of the nation's leaders in bar exam preparation. This exciting partnership provides additional material, support, and assessment tools to faculty and students. The BARBRI materials include tools for introducing first year students to the mechanics and type of assessments used on the bar exam, taking a practice bar exam in year two, and mastering how to best respond to bar exam essay writing and answering multiple choice questions in year three. In addition, the assessments at each stage allow the Assistant Dean of Academic and Bar Success to create personalized study plans to remediate weak performance areas and help with future class selection. The BARBRI partnership gives our students a unique opportunity to maximize bar exam preparedness, and prepare them to take the bar exam with confidence.



Justin Dion, Assistant Dean of Academic and Bar Success, Professor of Legal Skills

60+

The School of Law offers access to over 60 externship sites to gain valuable experience to complement classroom learning.

PROGRAMS

The School of Law offers a number of programs leading to the Juris Doctor (JD). Full-time faculty members teach all foundational day and evening courses, ensuring consistency in teaching excellence and academic rigor across all programs.



Full-time Juris Doctor

The three-year, full-time program offers all required courses during the day. Students complete the required portion of the curriculum in one and one-half years, using the remaining time to pursue specific areas of interest through elective courses.

Part-time Day Juris Doctor

With classes during the day, the part-time day program offers a lighter schedule for those with family or work commitments or with a desire to focus more intensely on each subject. Many part-time day students transfer to the full-time JD program after successfully completing the first year and are then able to graduate in three years. Students may complete the program in four years by taking elective courses during two summer terms. Alternatively, students may elect to complete the program in four and one-half years, without taking summer classes.

Part-time Evening Juris Doctor

The part-time evening program offers all required and elective courses during evening hours. To add to the convenience, 1L classes are offered in a hybrid format, with students on campus two evenings per week and online two evenings per week. Students can complete the program in four years by taking elective courses during the summer terms. Alternatively, students may elect to complete the program in four and one-half years, without taking summer classes.

DUAL DEGREES. DOUBLE THE IMPACT.

Through our Dual Degree programs, the School of Law provides an accelerated, affordable path to your goal of simultaneously earning both a law degree and master's degree. Choose from programs offered through the University's Colleges of Business and Engineering or in collaboration with partner institutions.

Western New England University Programs

JD/LLM in Elder Law and Estate Planning

Our online, live, synchronous LLM program teaches the practical aspects of drafting estate plans, administering the settlement of estates, and representing clients and families. JD/LLM dual degree students can complete the program in four years of full-time study. During JD study, students may enroll in eight credits of LLM coursework, amounting to one third of the LLM program requirements, saving both time and tuition. Upon completion of the JD program, students may continue to complete 16 additional credits to earn the LLM. LLM Delivery: online; 4 years.

JD/MBA

This program focuses on leadership development and provides the opportunity to pursue four areas of concentration: Accounting, Communication, Leadership, or Public Relations. Beyond corporate law, the MBA is a credential that can open doors to opportunities in virtually any legal specialty. MBA Course Delivery: online; 3 years.



JD/MS in Accounting

Broaden your opportunities in public accounting, industry, finance, tech, and government agencies or in estate planning with an MS in Accounting that also will prepare you to sit for the CPA Exam (MA & CT). You may also pursue a concentration on Forensic Accounting & Fraud Investigation. MSA Course Delivery: online; 3 years.

JD/MS in Organizational Leadership

The law and any organization need ethical leaders who understand how to manage people and processes, and effect change. Taught by outstanding Business faculty, this program provides foundational skills and insights to last a lifetime. MS in Organizational Leadership Course Delivery: online; 3 years.

JD/MS in Sport Leadership and Coaching

Taught by our expert Sport Management faculty with expertise in leadership, sport agency, facilities management, and collegiate sports, this unique program offers coursework in oversight, compliance, ethics, and sport analytics. MS in Sport Leadership Course Delivery: online/in-class with two short-term residencies offered at the beginning and the end of the program; 3 years.

Business programs are accredited by AACSB-International.

JD/MS in Engineering Management

Pairing a JD with this degree will help you bring a legal perspective to managing people, resources, and processes in an engineering environment. Candidates for the program must have a four-year undergraduate degree in engineering or a closely related field from an accredited college or university; online with some optional in-class evening sessions; 4 years.

Partnership Programs

JD/Master of Social Work (Springfield College)

Offered in partnership with neighboring Springfield College, the JD/MSW program prepares you to work in such practice areas as disability law, family law, juvenile law, juvenile justice, mental health, social welfare policy, domestic violence, law enforcement, human rights, and legal aid services; 4 years. Learn more at springfield.edu/ssw.

JD/Master of Regional Planning (UMass Amherst)

Combining a JD with a Master of Regional Planning from University of Massachusetts Amherst will give you a powerful skillset whether your interests are in physical, environmental, social, cultural, economic, legal, or political facets of planning and law; 4 years. Learn more at umass.edu/larp/dual-degree/mrp-jd.

THE LL.M. IN ELDER LAW AND ESTATE PLANNING

Western New England offers the only live and online LL.M. in Elder Law and Estate Planning program in the country. This interactive program prepares students to advocate for elders and meet the growing demand for estate planning and taxation counseling resulting from the retirement of the baby boom generation—the largest transfer of wealth in U.S. history.

CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations enable you to customize your legal education to gain added depth in practice areas you feel most passionate about.



Transactional Law Practice

Students in this concentration are exposed to a wide range of topics in corporate and commercial, estate planning, and real estate law. In addition to the required foundational and elective coursework, students complete a practical skills course such as the Small Business Clinic, Real Estate Practicum, or Federal Income Tax Simulation.

Criminal Law

Criminal law and procedure courses prepare our graduates to work in all facets of the criminal justice system—as prosecutors and defense attorneys, in government, and private practice. Students also gain lawyering skills through experiential learning in the Prosecution Clinic or Defense Practicum.

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Legal issues relating to gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity are at the forefront of many areas of law. Taught by our outstanding faculty of LGBTQ Law pioneers, this concentration focuses on individual rights and social justice movements and offers practical lawyering components via the Global Justice Clinic or Legal Aid Clinic.



International and Comparative Law

Forward-looking lawyers must anticipate that their practices will involve transnational issues. Students in this concentration may specialize in areas of interest including immigration law, human rights, national and international security, or International Criminal Justice. The Immigration Practicum and Global Justice Clinic provide practical experience in this area of law, while Gender Law in Israel affords the opportunity to travel abroad.

Public Interest Practice

With a focus on access to justice, this concentration opens doors to a wide array of career paths ranging from positions with nonprofit organizations to the government sector. This includes the representation of children or criminal defendants, the provision of services to low income individuals, as well as impact litigation. Dynamic course offerings include Cannabis Law, Civil Rights Police Misconduct, Critical Race Theory, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Justice, and Law & Social Change. Students can participate in the Legal Aid Clinic, Global Justice Clinic, or Family Law Mediation Clinic.

19,448

hours were spent in clinic or externship placements by Western New England University law students in 2021-2022

EXPERIENCE

SIMULATIONS

Our curriculum offers a multitude of simulation courses in which you will spend an entire semester going step-by-step through a particular practice area. Simulation courses present a valuable opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of precisely how cases unfold.

Simulation courses include:

- Criminal Procedure Simulation
- Estate Planning
- Federal Income Tax Simulation
- Federal Litigation: Pretrial
- Legislation
- Mediation
- Negotiation, Mediation, and Arbitration
- Transactional Lawyering Seminar
- Trial Methods

CLINICS

Every student who wants to participate in a clinical experience is guaranteed placement. Clinics provide opportunities to work with actual clients, under the supervision of a practicing attorney or faculty member. Western New England students contributed over 19,400 hours in free legal services to the community last year through clinics and externships.

A clinical experience is an excellent way to gain experience walking in the shoes of a legal professional and feel the satisfaction of helping clients reach their goals. Since our clinics are both litigation-oriented and transactional, you have the opportunity to experience the type of law that you prefer. In fact, Western New England University was one of the first law schools in the nation to offer transactional law clinics.

Your legal clinic opportunities include:

- Criminal Defense
- Criminal Prosecution
- Family Law Mediation
- Global Justice
- Legal Aid Clinics (includes Immigration Unit, Veterans Unit, General Civil Practice Unit)
- Real Estate
- Small Business

100%

of our students graduate with experiential education through clinics, externships, simulations, and moot court.



“When you’re in law school, yes, you learn the law, you learn different types of law, but being in a clinic, you’re able to see how it actually is. You’re able to go to court, view how the lawyers do what they do, be in courtrooms, and then you’re actually doing the work—you’re filing motions to suppress, motions to dismiss, you’re doing all of these different types of things, and I feel that’s most valuable.”

Kiki Oyegoke-Olafimihan '22
Bronx, NY
Criminal Defense Extern,
Nicoletti & Brown

MOOT COURT TEAMS

Want to perfect your research, writing, and oral advocacy skills? Do you need to gain confidence presenting a case in court? Are you looking for an exceptional way to gain experience? One of our award-winning moot court teams could be what you're looking for. Team members fine-tune their skills, learn to work as a team, and perform under pressure.



Western New England University has sponsored moot court teams in numerous competitions, including:

- ABA Law Student Tax Challenge
- ABA Negotiation Moot Court
- American Association for Justice Trial Moot Court
- First Amendment Moot Court
- Jessup International Law Moot Court
- National Environmental Law Moot Court
- National Moot Court
- Transactional Lawyering Meet
- Williams Moot Court
- National Veterans Law

Western New England University has enjoyed much success with our moot court teams. Recent notable accomplishments include:

- Regional Finalist, National Moot Court, 2022
- Regional Semifinalist, National Moot Court, 2021
- 1st Place "Best Written Submission" in ABA National Law School Tax Challenge, 2020
- 2nd Place in ABA Law School Tax Challenge, 2019
- 3rd Place in ABA National Negotiation Competition, 2018
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in ABA Region 1 Negotiation Competition (two teams tied for 7th place in the National Competition), 2017
- Semifinalists, National ABA Negotiation Competition, 2016
- Regional Semifinalist, Transactional Lawyering Meet, 2016
- Regional Semifinalist, Transactional Lawyering Meet, 2015
- Finalist, Regional ABA Negotiation Competition, 2015
- Quarterfinalists, Jeffery G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, 2015
- Regional Semifinalist, Transactional Lawyering Meet, 2014

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND LAW REVIEW

Whether it is writing a student note, editing professors' articles, or producing the three annual publications, work on *The Western New England Law Review* is the ultimate way to get the most out of your law school experience. *The Western New England Law Review* is published by students and showcases their scholarly work and that of legal scholars from across the country. The Editorial Board, and Senior and Junior Staff are comprised of students who are selected based on first-year class rank or a writing competition. For each issue of the *Law Review*, Junior Staff members have the opportunity to write a scholarly piece called a student note that may be selected for publication in *Law Review* or another law school journal.



“Being on the National Moot Court team this past year was such a great experience. Going in, I knew that I wanted to work on my oral advocacy, and having such individual attention and coaching from a team of professors was invaluable. I could really see myself building upon my skillset with each passing moot.

“It was great to be paired up with another student as a team. We had the chance to collaborate and learn from one another while contributing to the team’s success.

“I hadn’t realized how interested future employers would be in my moot court participation until I started looking for my summer placement. Having the competition on my résumé really made me stand out and gave me a great experience to talk about in interviews.

Sara Sam-Njogu 3L
Longmeadow, MA



“In addition to studying law, I am also the daughter of hardworking parents who proved to me the importance of walking miles in others’ shoes and contextualizing life from their lens. An externship in personal injury presented me with the opportunity to entangle the core principles of my upbringing with a WNE law education. Clients, for instance, seek the advocacy of personal-injury lawyers during one of the more difficult moments in their lives. It was a rather humanizing experience to see attorneys fight for clients’ rights amidst the interests of unethical individuals, companies, or corporations. My externship experience brought ‘lawyering’ into focus, allowing me to earn academic credit while learning the rigors of daily practice in a specific area of law. This experience-based education allowed me to build upon both my advocacy skills and academic skills, such as research and writing, legal analysis, interviewing, and communication. My experience was truly invaluable.”

**Amara Barbiero '22
North Haven, CT**

**Externship: Pellegrini, Seeley,
Ryan & Blakesley**

EXTERNSHIPS



Through externships, you will work directly with judges or alongside attorneys in public interest organizations, government agencies, corporations, or private law firms. Externs conduct research, prepare legal documents, and apply other lawyering skills. Externships also provide excellent exposure to professionals who can offer both advice and career insights. As the only law school in western Massachusetts, the School of Law has a monopoly on placements, offering access to over 60 externship sites each year where students may gain valuable experience to complement their curriculum.

SAMPLING OF EXTERNSHIP SITES

Baystate Medical Center
 City of Springfield
 Committee for Public Counsel Services
 Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
 District Attorneys' Offices
 Department of Children and Families
 Hampden County Juvenile Court
 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
 Massachusetts Superior Court
 Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
 Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
 Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
 Probate and Family Courts
 Springfield District Court
 Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut
 U.S. Attorney's Office
 U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review
 U.S. District Courts
 U.S. Postal Service

SOCIAL JUSTICE

ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

The Center for Social Justice enriches the rigorous education and practical training that the School of Law currently provides, as well as actively enhances social justice in our community and beyond.

The Center for Social Justice utilizes five primary avenues to advance its goals.

- 1. Research:** identify, study, and unveil root causes of systemic social injustice and design actionable, client-centered solutions.
- 2. Education:** leverage the nationally-recognized scholarship of our faculty and institutional resources to enrich educational and practical training opportunities.
- 3. Advocacy:** identify and address unmet legal needs in our community and develop multidimensional, holistic approaches to local, national, and global social justice issues.
- 4. Innovation:** commit to innovation and work toward creative solutions in areas such as consumer rights and the intersection of law and technology.

5. Public Engagement: facilitate critical discourse in academic and community circles and provide Know Your Rights information to the public.

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION, OUR INITIATIVES BREAK NEW GROUND

The Center continually generates new opportunities and collaborations for students, faculty, other volunteers, and our partners to not only research social justice solutions, but to put those ideas to action through active, in-house pro bono projects. Current projects include:

- Sealing and Expungement Initiative
- Virtual Court User Experience Observation Project
- Racial Justice Sentencing Projects
- Consumer Debt Initiative
- The Cost of Gun Violence in Springfield
- Addressing Racism as a Social Determinant of Health Through Restorative Racial Healing Dialogue
- Gender Affirming Identification Project
- Access to Technology Lab Projects



Ariel Clemmer
Director, WNE Center for Social Justice





“Last summer, I applied for an LGBT-specific stipend and, with the Center’s Staff Attorney Jessica Marcellino and another student volunteer, started a new initiative called the Gender Affirming Identification Project, where we essentially set up a system from nothing to help people in Massachusetts change their names, gender markers, birth certificates, passports, etc. We actually generated everything and made a self-help guide for people who didn’t necessarily need our help but wanted to do it themselves.

“In 2009, I wrote a book about this and about changing gender, because, if you wanted to do this, there was no clearinghouse of information about all the things you had to do; it didn’t exist. So when I came here, it was like an extension of the work I’d already been doing.

“Now I’m working as an extern for the Consumer Debt Initiative within our Center for Social Justice, where we help people in marginalized communities. We saved them \$250,000 last year in small debts they owed on credit cards and other loans.”

Rosa Lee Klanski 3L
Farmington, CT
Extern, Consumer Debt Initiative
WNE Center for Social Justice

DIALOGUE

World-renowned scholars. Well-respected litigators. Published authors. Throughout the year, the Blake Law Center welcomes legal professionals to promote dialogue on issues impacting law and society. Several organizations invite speakers to campus to cover a variety of thought-provoking topics.

Some organizations bringing speakers to campus include:

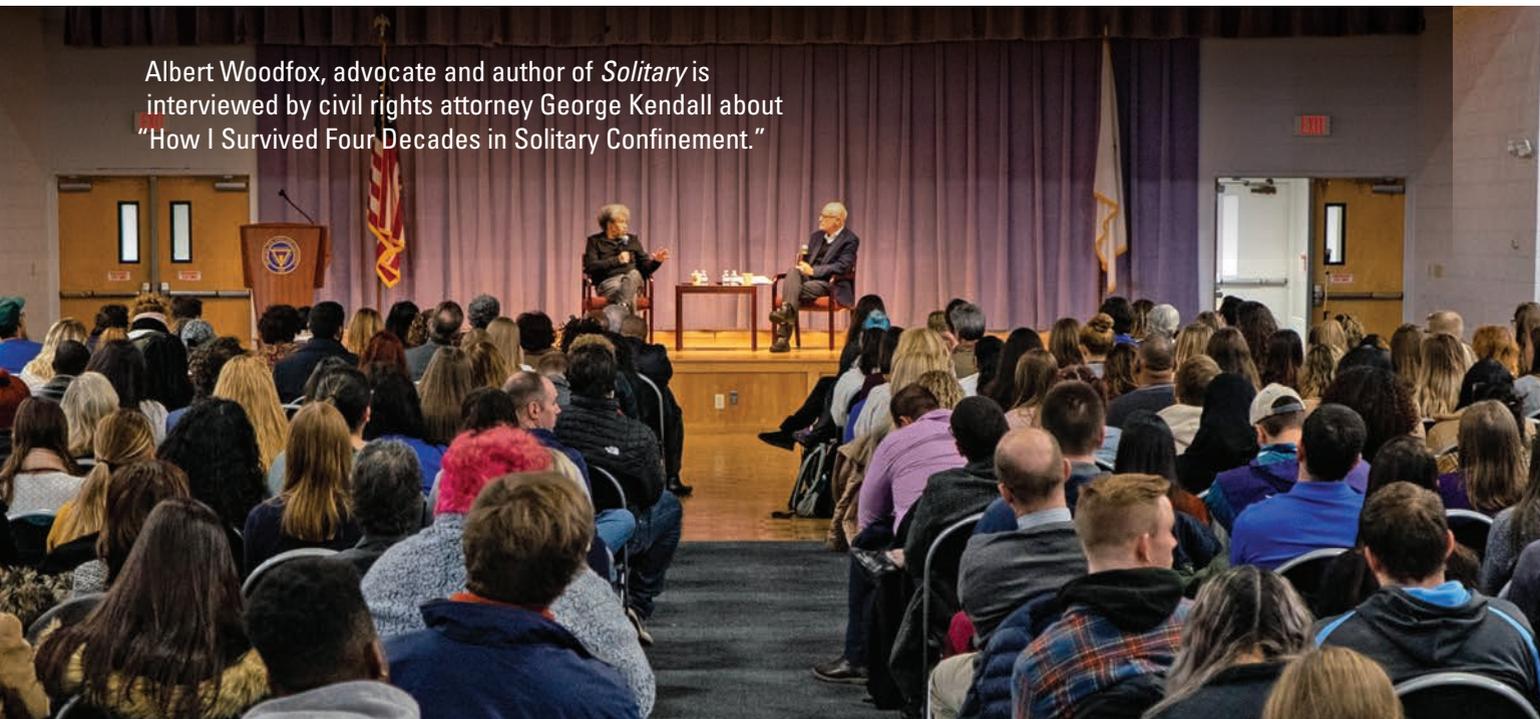
- Clason Speaker Series
- Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Color of Law Roundtable
- Institute for Legislative and Governmental Affairs
- Career Services Office
- Center for Social Justice
- Student clubs and organizations

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Institute for Legislative and Governmental Affairs provides an important platform for discussion and debate for law students and alumni, the University community, and the general public. Each fall, the Institute presents a review of Supreme Court decisions by School of Law faculty.

Through the Institute, students also gain further exposure through course offerings (including Legislation and Administrative Law), independent studies, internships, and externships, which provide a thorough understanding of how to interpret and draft statutes as well as the intricacies of the legislative process.

Albert Woodfox, advocate and author of *Solitary* is interviewed by civil rights attorney George Kendall about "How I Survived Four Decades in Solitary Confinement."



ORGANIZATIONS

Western New England University sponsors dozens of student organizations where you can hone your skills in a specific aspect of the law, discuss common issues with like-minded students, or just unwind and have some fun.

A Sampling of Student Organizations:

- American Bar Association/ Law Student Division
- Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
- Business Law Association
- Environmental Law Coalition
- Family Law Association
- Federalist Society
- Health Law Society
- Latino/a Law Student Association
- *Lex Brevis* (student newspaper)
- National Lawyers Guild
- OUTlaw (LGBTQ-Straight Alliance)
- Public Interest Law Association
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
- Real Estate Law Association
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Student Bar Association
- Women's Law Association

"I'm involved with the Sports and Entertainment Law Association, which was dormant prior to my first year. At the end of my first year, a classmate and I were studying together and said, 'hey, this would be a great idea; this is a great outlet for business law because sports law is a bit of a legal fiction; it's just business law within the context of sports.' I saw there was a lot of crossover between the sports industry and other types of law, like arbitration and land use. So I figured, what better way to get practice that could not only help us if we practice traditional law jobs, but also provide an opportunity for students to have that sports outlet?"

"Additionally, I was elected president of the Student Bar Association. I'm very much looking forward to supporting the needs of the students here. The faculty and administration were the ones who helped me adjust to the climate here. I feel like it's put me in a position to succeed, and I can use the same sort of approach to helping first-year, second-year, and evening students in acclimating to the law school. I do think that it takes a village, and I want to be a part of that."

Scott DeCapua 3L
Milford, MA
President, Student Bar Association



FACULTY



FACULTY FOCUSED ON YOU.

Our faculty has worked in large firms, as solo practitioners, with major governmental agencies, for Fortune 500 corporations, as public defenders, district attorneys, special counsel to governmental representatives, and law clerks in the United States Courts of Appeals.

Now they are here for you.



Our full-time faculty members have distinguished academic and professional credentials and are inspiring classroom teachers. Their professional experiences range from criminal defense for the District of Columbia, to work for the ACLU on discrimination based on sexual identification and gender identity, to appellate litigation in labor relations, and work at the National Senior Citizens Law Center. Their ongoing scholarship contributes to many fields from human rights to entrepreneurship and constitutional law.

<< Jennifer Levi

Professor of Law

Professor Levi has dedicated her career to fighting for the rights of women; children; the poor; and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender clients. As director of GLAD's Transgender Rights project, Professor Levi has played an active role in litigating precedent-setting cases establishing basic rights for LGBTQ people, including the right of same-sex couples to marry (*Goodridge et al. v. Dept. Public Health*), a transgender student's right to attend school, and was one of two transgender attorneys leading the transgender military ban fight in *Doe v. Trump* and *Stockman v. Trump*. She is the 2018 recipient of the ABA's Stonewall Award.



<< René Reich-Graefe

Professor of Law

Professor Reich-Graefe teaches and writes in the fields of U.S. and international business organizations, corporate governance, and commercial transactions, broadly conceived. Prior to coming to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar, he served as a law clerk at the Berlin Court of Appeals in Germany and practiced as a corporate and financial lawyer at the former international law firm of Coudert Brothers LLP. He is the faculty coach of the award-winning ABA Negotiation Team.



<< Bridgette Baldwin

Professor of Law

Professor Baldwin, PhD, is the author of *Wisconsin Works? Race, Gender And Accountability in the Workfare Era*. Her scholarship has examined the intersection of the Ninth Amendment and social movements, as well as the convergence of race, class, and gender on welfare reform legislation. Prior to teaching, she worked as an in-house counsel for a major insurance company, with the law firm of James P. Nunemaker & Associates, and as a staff attorney for Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society in New York City and the Bronx Defenders.

INNOVATION

Exhibiting grace under pressure, thinking on your feet, and mastering the art of persuasion are skills that come with being a successful lawyer. Some may say those skills are learned on the job through trial and error, but at Western New England University, innovative additions to the curriculum are giving our students opportunities to learn professional skills long before graduation.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

The Introduction to Law course is a four-day intensive introductory course designed to familiarize students with the purposes and pedagogy of law school, provide techniques and strategies for learning the law, introduce important background concepts that are essential to the study of law, and provide a smooth transition to the classroom.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

In the spring, first-year students learn how their courses apply to real-world problem solving through the Introduction to the Legal Profession course. In this intensive and immersive week-long simulation, student teams are assigned to mock legal firms tasked with handling a legal matter. Practicing legal professionals, including alumni, play the roles of senior partners. Students interview clients, strategize the case, and negotiate a settlement.





FAMILY LAW AND MEDIATION PROGRAM

Western New England University is the only law school in the Commonwealth working with the family court system to develop the next generation of family law mediators through an innovative two-course sequence: a classroom-centered course in mediation in the fall that meets the standard for 40 hours of classroom instruction typically required for mediators, followed by the Family Law Mediation Clinic, which provides students with supervised fieldwork as a mediator. After completing the sequence, students have both the required classroom instruction and the supervised fieldwork necessary to qualify as third-party neutrals on most court and agency lists.

MARIJUANA LAW AND POLICY COURSE

With a growing number of states, including Massachusetts, passing legislation legalizing marijuana, Western New England University School of Law now offers a course called "Marijuana Law and Policy." This course takes an in-depth look at the history and current evolving approaches to marijuana regulation, including preemption, legal, professional, and business ethics, and enforcement policy.

U.S. TRADEMARK PILOT PROGRAM

Entrepreneurial thinking is a mindset cultivated across the campus of Western New England University. Through the Small Business Law Clinic, law students work with local entrepreneurs. They advise startups on a range of legal issues. The clinic is a site for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Pilot Program, which gives our students the opportunity to prosecute a trademark application from start to finish over the course of a semester.

CULTURE

THRIVE IN A CULTURE OF COLLEGIALITY

Western New England University is a great place to start your legal journey. In our inclusive and collegial environment, you will feel welcomed and supported. Set on 215 acres in a residential neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England University has been named by onlineschoolscenter.com among the 30 most beautiful campuses to visit in the fall (we ranked #11 nationwide!).

STUDENT BODY PROFILE

Some of our students enroll directly after completing their undergraduate studies, while others have worked for years in legal or other fields before beginning this new chapter of their lives. Our part-time students hold jobs in a wide range of professions while pursuing a JD. A broad range of social and academic backgrounds and a variety of undergraduate degrees are represented in the student population. Everyone brings something different to the School of Law community.

2021 ENTERING CLASS

25% Students of Color

20-50 Age Range (average 26)

32% Male

68% Female





CAMPUS

THE BLAKE LAW CENTER

Twenty-first century legal education demands a modern learning environment. That's what you'll find at the Blake Law Center, which provides you with a highly personal and technologically advanced educational facility. Our students gather in the many social spaces and take advantage of lecturers and alumni networking opportunities in the Law School Common, our expansive lobby. For study and research, they enjoy the benefits of our multimedia classrooms, state-of-the-art library, high-tech moot courtroom, and fully wireless facility.

LAW LIBRARY

The three-story Law Library includes everything from historic legal texts to up-to-date digital collections, plus comfortable space to study and conduct research.

This modern legal research facility features:

- Seminar and meeting rooms
- Computers for student use as well as a robust wireless system
- Access to research services such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, and Bloomberg Law

J. GERARD PELLEGRINI MOOT COURT ROOM

The J. Gerard Pellegrini Moot Court Room features the technology found in today's multimedia courtrooms, including:

- Cameras to record proceedings so students can have their own copy for review
- A projection system that displays documents and exhibits used by attorneys and students in mock trials
- Electronic submission of evidence to the judge
- Modern audio, video, and computer technology



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Full- and part-time students have access to the resources of the Center for Health and Wellness located on campus in the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy.

ANTHONY S. CAPRIO ALUMNI HEALTHFUL LIVING CENTER

The 123,000 square-foot Anthony S. Caprio Alumni Healthful Living Center (CAHLC) offers you a place to unwind and stay in shape.

The CAHLC features:

- Fitness center
- Aerobics room
- Basketball courts
- Indoor track
- Racquetball, handball, and squash courts
- An eight-lane pool



FOOD FOR THOUGHT—THE UNIVERSITY COMMONS

Whether you need your Starbucks® to jumpstart your day, a quiet corner to grab a snack and study, or want to meet up with friends or professors for lunch or dinner, the new University Commons has got you covered. From a delicious sub shop to the Grille Works for breakfast or lunchtime sandwiches, grab and go snacks and salads, to our full-service, two-story student dining facility, it's no wonder the Commons have become the perfect hangout for law students.



CAREERS

Your relationship with the Office of Career Services is one of the most important connections you will make at the School of Law. It begins as a student and continues throughout your career. Its staff is ready to assist you with developing job search strategies to launch your career and will be here for you as you advance in the profession.

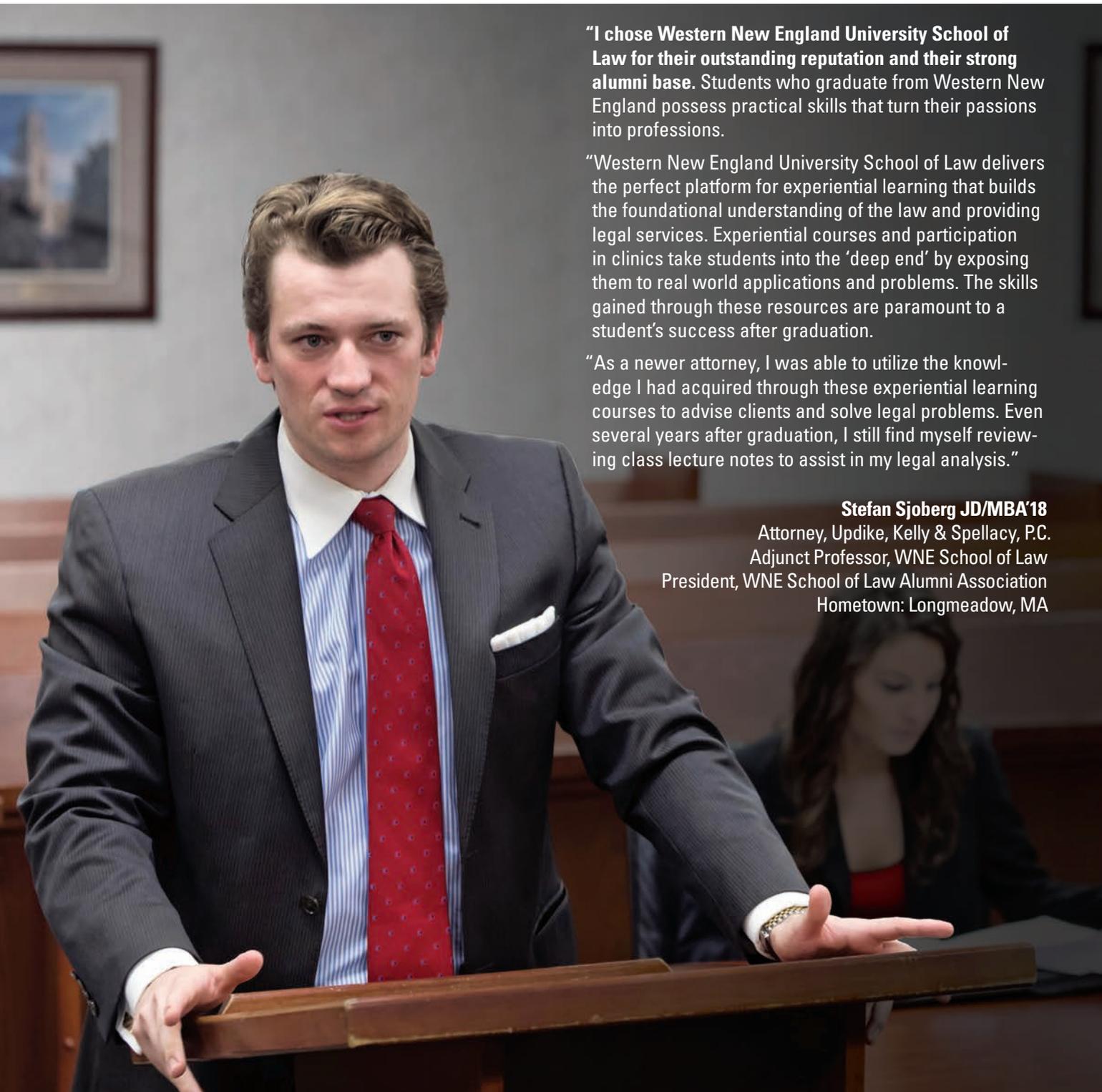
Services for law students start right away. All first-year students meet one-to-one with a career advisor in order to help identify a professional development plan of experiential opportunities during law school to complement their legal interests. You are also encouraged to participate in the First-Year Mentor Program, through which you are paired with an attorney. Other services include:

- Advisors to help you formulate career plans, devise a job-search strategy, refine application materials, and provide mock interviews
- Information on law firms, government agencies, corporations, public interest employers, clerkships, fellowships, study abroad, and more
- Symplicity, an online system offering jobs, fellowships, internships, externships, and clerkships
- Frequent panels and information sessions on topics such as current hiring practices, industry trends, employment opportunities, and types of law
- Reciprocity with career services at other law schools and access to the Intercollegiate Job Bank



“Bacon Wilson has employed students from Western New England University as law clerks for over 30 years. We are fortunate to have been able to hire students who excel in their law studies, and have carried that over to their performance as law clerks. The students whom we have hired perform research and writing for attorneys throughout our office, and they have become a valuable resource upon which we rely in the representation of our clients. We have found Western New England students to be not only well-educated, but also ambitious, practical, and directed towards the real-world practice of law. In fact, a number of attorneys who work in our office previously clerked for us while they attended Western New England.”

Attorney Paul Rothschild
Bacon Wilson P.C.
Springfield, MA

A man in a dark grey pinstriped suit, white shirt, and red tie with a small pattern is speaking at a wooden podium. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. In the background, a woman with long dark hair is seated at a desk, looking down. The setting appears to be a courtroom or a formal lecture hall.

"I chose Western New England University School of Law for their outstanding reputation and their strong alumni base. Students who graduate from Western New England possess practical skills that turn their passions into professions.

"Western New England University School of Law delivers the perfect platform for experiential learning that builds the foundational understanding of the law and providing legal services. Experiential courses and participation in clinics take students into the 'deep end' by exposing them to real world applications and problems. The skills gained through these resources are paramount to a student's success after graduation.

"As a newer attorney, I was able to utilize the knowledge I had acquired through these experiential learning courses to advise clients and solve legal problems. Even several years after graduation, I still find myself reviewing class lecture notes to assist in my legal analysis."

Stefan Sjoberg JD/MBA'18

Attorney, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

Adjunct Professor, WNE School of Law

President, WNE School of Law Alumni Association

Hometown: Longmeadow, MA

ALUMNI

Alumni are actively engaged in the School of Law community. At the annual Law Mentor Networking Reception, students mingle and meet with alumni members of the bench and bar. These mentors then share their expertise to help introduce students to different aspects of the profession, and provide general advice and support. Students also benefit from our alumni who volunteer as guest lecturers and moot court judges, or serve as consultants for competition teams.

Beyond the region, School of Law alumni work nationwide and internationally across the legal spectrum and in business, government, and nonprofits.

Many of our graduates are employed in solo or small firms. Others are partners in large private firms or represent the interests of major corporations. Our graduates work at district attorney offices; with public defenders; at local, state, and federal agencies; and in public interest law organizations. Some work for law enforcement agencies and in the armed services. Numerous alumni apply their legal education in business and related areas, ranging from healthcare to human resources. Some teach at colleges and law schools, and more than 140 alumni have become members of the judiciary.

Western New England School of Law, with more than 8,500 graduates, is fortunate to have a strong, supportive alumni community.



8,500

alumni live and practice in all 50 states including the District of Columbia, several U.S. territories, with some residing in Europe, Canada, and Asia.

“The education I received at Western New England University School of Law was both theoretical and practical. I learned from accomplished teachers and highly experienced practitioners of the law, who empowered me with the foundational and pragmatic aspects of lawyering. These skills allowed me to quickly advance as a trial lawyer and, in many ways, to be ready to take on the job of the chief law enforcement officer of the county. I also benefit from a robust alumni network, of which many are colleagues, defense lawyers, and judges, who all work to make our system of criminal justice strong in Hampden County.”

Anthony Gulluni '03/L'07
Hampden County District Attorney
Hometown: Springfield, MA



COMMUNITY

THE PIONEER VALLEY

Whether you are from another part of the country or are a New England native, you will find the Pioneer Valley is an ideal place to attend law school. Springfield, located on the banks of the Connecticut River, is a “city in the country” which provides Western New England students with the best of both worlds. Our central location means you’re never far from the places you want to visit.

The Pioneer Valley offers an affordable cost of living compared to large metropolitan areas. Western New England University provides on-campus housing and plenty of well-lit parking for law students.

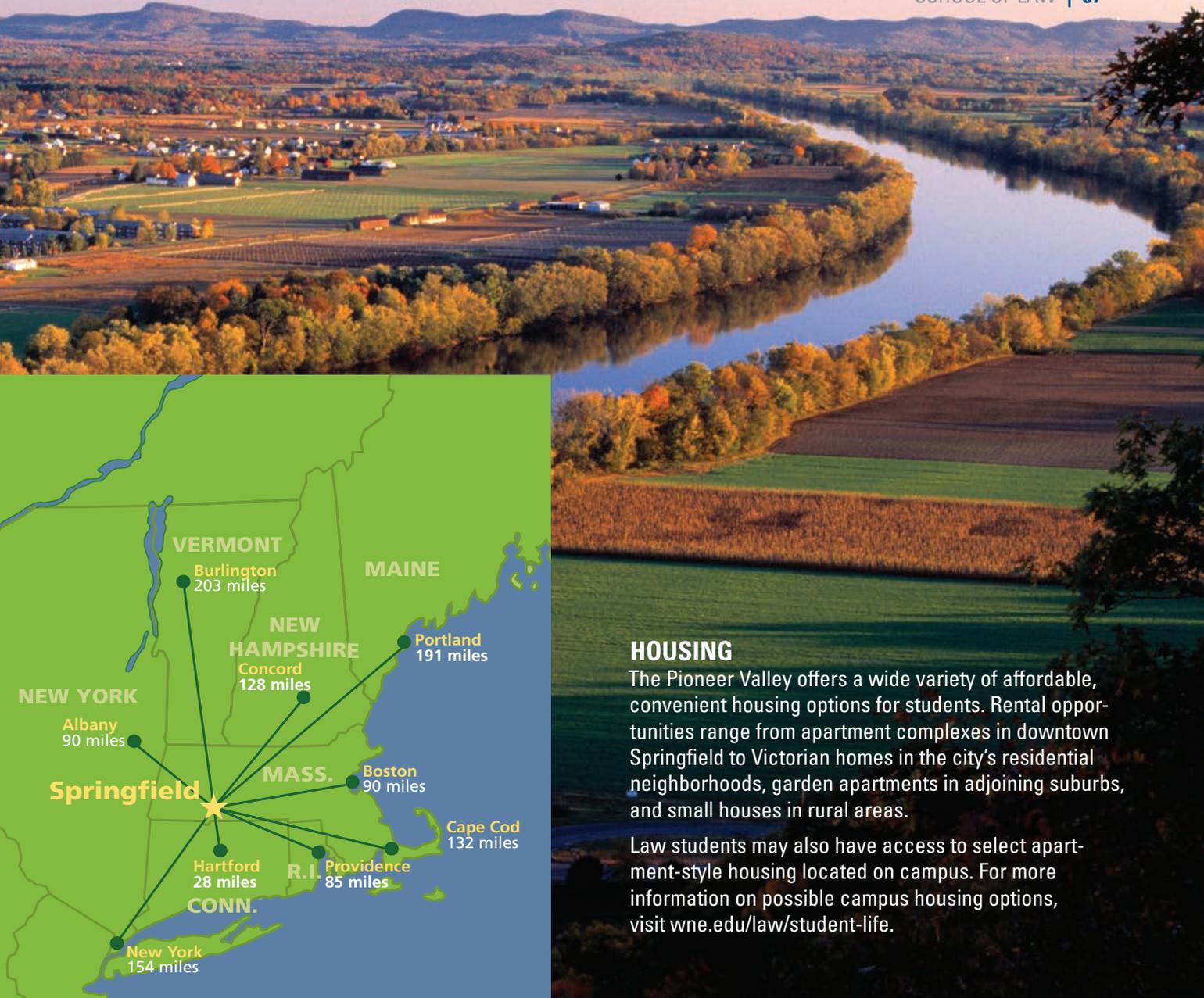
The area offers a rich cultural history and a diverse population. It offers a wide variety of academic institutions, including 30 colleges and universities in New England’s “Knowledge Corridor” along the Connecticut River Valley. Springfield has been named among the most LGBTQ-friendly cities in the U.S. (*The Advocate*). Just a little to the north, the college towns of Northampton and Amherst also offer inclusive communities that provide varied cultural opportunities.

Away from your studies, there’s never a dull moment, as the Valley is home to a vibrant music scene, Six Flags New England, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, theaters, museums, the Big E, and AHL hockey.

The City of Springfield is enjoying a renaissance with major investments in the downtown dining and entertainment district spearheaded by the new \$950 million MGM Springfield Resort and Casino.

As Massachusetts’ only ABA-accredited law school west of the greater Boston area, our students have tremendous opportunities to gain practical experience in public, private, and nonprofit settings in the Pioneer Valley. Western New England University’s central location also puts you in a great position to pursue jobs throughout the Northeast.





HOUSING

The Pioneer Valley offers a wide variety of affordable, convenient housing options for students. Rental opportunities range from apartment complexes in downtown Springfield to Victorian homes in the city's residential neighborhoods, garden apartments in adjoining suburbs, and small houses in rural areas.

Law students may also have access to select apartment-style housing located on campus. For more information on possible campus housing options, visit wne.edu/law/student-life.







JOSEPH J. DELISO SR. HALL

We Inspire
Creativity

LOCATION

The School's central location places students in the middle of an active court system and legal community. State and federal courthouses; offices of the Attorney General, District Attorney, and Public Defender; and many small, medium, and large law firms in the Springfield/Hartford region represent opportunities for externships and full- and part-time employment.

Many graduates are also employed at major corporations and nonprofits, including MassMutual Financial Group, Baystate Medical Center, American Outdoor Brands Corp., General Dynamics, Big Y Foods, Techsight, and MGM Springfield.

Major northern Connecticut employers include LEGO Systems, United Technologies, Pratt & Whitney, Travelers, The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., and other insurance carriers located in Hartford, known as the "insurance capital of the world."

Springfield's location at the intersection of Interstate 91 and Interstate 90 (the Massachusetts Turnpike) makes it an excellent starting point for job prospecting in New York City, Boston, Hartford, Albany, Providence, or for recreational trips to the Berkshires, Cape Cod, or Vermont. The city is served by Bradley International Airport, Amtrak, and frequent bus service.

90

miles to Boston, 28 miles to Hartford, and just 154 miles to NYC, the School of Law is an ideal central location for launching your career.





VETERANS



Build on the knowledge and experiences developed in the military and channel your passion to serve others into a career in law. Combining a legal education with your military experience can make you an attractive job candidate whether you want to pursue a career in JAG programs, Veterans Services, or any other legal specialty.

Western New England University is proud to support the GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Program. In fact, most students enrolling under the Yellow Ribbon Program will be able to attend Western New England University tuition free. Spouses and family members of veterans may also be eligible to receive education assistance.

Our School of Law admissions staff understands the challenges veterans and their family members face when applying to law school. We are committed to supporting veterans and their families and helping you navigate the application process and the steps to utilize military and educational benefits for tuition and housing costs.

Visit wne.edu/law-veterans to learn more about resources to start your journey.

You served us and now we are ready to serve you!



“When I got out of active duty, I was not sure where my path would lead me. It wasn’t until I entered the VA system and met other Veterans in the community that I realized there was a need for advocates. After learning about the possible ways that I could help, I decided law school was the best fit. I was able to connect with an amazing Admissions Office and receive guidance on how I could achieve my goals.

“I was encouraged and given mentorship from day one. Once some of the professors got wind of my background and passions, I was encouraged to apply for the Veteran’s Legal Aid Clinic. Now, I am truly excited about the opportunity to help the Veteran Community through the Clinic in the fall. WNE School of Law has been more than supportive and accommodating with my goals and needs. I have become a stronger speaker, listener, and person since I have come to the WNE Law family.”

Amanda Cooper '21

Army Combat Veteran
Veteran’s Advocate, Legal Aid Clinic for Veterans
Cofounder & Treasurer,
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
Hometown: Tampa, FL

ADMISSIONS

Each year, the Admissions Committee assembles a talented, interesting, and diverse class of students. We enroll a class whose members come from various races and ethnicities, ages, academic and professional backgrounds, and geographical areas.

All completed applications are carefully reviewed to determine whether the applicant possesses the academic preparation and motivation necessary to complete the demanding workload of law school. Committee members attempt to gauge each applicant's prior academic performance, expected academic performance, and writing skills. While LSAT scores and undergraduate GPA are important factors, the Admissions Committee also considers personal statements, letters of recommendation, and supplemental materials.

We encourage you to submit your application early, as admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis. The Admissions Committee begins admitting applicants in December and completes the majority of its work by April. Although we will accept applications through the summer, our priority application deadline is March 15.

JD ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

Visit wne.edu/law/become-a-student for a full description of all required admissions materials.

- Application
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Personal statement
- Résumé
- CAS Report
- Transcripts
- LSAT

All items must be submitted through LSAC.org.

To apply to the LLM in Elder Law and Estate Planning please visit wne.edu/law/become-a-student.

Transfer and visiting students must also submit a complete law school transcript and a letter from your current dean stating you are in good academic standing.

For students who earned an undergraduate degree at an institution in which English was not the primary language, please submit your Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score with your application materials.



FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

Approximately 90% of our students receive some form of financial aid. There are numerous options available to students to finance their education, from government-sponsored to private loans.

Law students are eligible for graduate student loans. As a law student, you will be evaluated for eligibility for financial assistance as an independent adult individual, not as a dependent child.

To see a complete list of loan options and more information on each option, visit wne.edu/law/cost-and-aid.

ACADEMIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Western New England University offers generous scholarship packages to help students offset the costs of attending law school. Last year, 87% of students received scholarships. Applicants are automatically considered for scholarship aid. For a full list of scholarship opportunities, visit wne.edu/law/cost-and-aid.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES JR. SCHOLARSHIPS

In honor of the distinguished career of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., each year the School of Law awards several full-tuition scholarships to students who show a high level of academic aptitude and a desire to take an active role in the law school community.





VISITING

No publication can take the place of a personal visit. We invite you to join us on campus and meet with our faculty, students, and administrators. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, tour our facilities, and get a sense of what makes us a special institution.

OPEN HOUSES

During these scheduled programs, you will have the opportunity to sit in on a mock law class, attend informational panel sessions, tour the Blake Law Center with a current student, and meet with faculty.

Prospective Student Open House

Admitted Student Open House

Prospective Student Part-time Info Session

Diversity Law Day

Visit our website at wne.edu/law for dates and to RSVP.

INDIVIDUAL VISITS

If you are unable to attend one of our Open Houses, please contact the Admissions Office to schedule an individual visit. We will arrange for you to sit in on a first-year class, tour the facility with a current student, and, if you wish, meet with an admissions officer.

Western New England University School of Law is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, 312-988-6738.

This bulletin is neither a contract nor an offer of a contract. The information it contains was accurate at the time of publication. Fees, deadlines, academic requirements, courses, degree programs, and other matters described in this bulletin may change without notice. Not all courses, clubs, or activities are offered each academic year and faculty assignments may change.





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admissions@law.wne.edu

wne.edu/law

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PERMIT NO. 896

Western New England University is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetics, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Assistant Vice President and Director of Human Resources, Western New England University, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684. Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, J.V. McCormack P.O.C.H., Room 222, Boston, MA 02109

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