

Washington University School of Law

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THE BASICS

Washington University School of Law (known as WUSTL Law or WULS) was established in 1867 and is, according to the school, “the oldest, continuously operating law school west of the Mississippi River.” It was accredited by the ABA in 1923.

The school is located in the western edge of St. Louis, MO. It is a private school, and charges in-state and out-of-state students the same amount in tuition. With estimated living costs, students can expect to pay just over \$63,000 a year.

WULS is average in size, with a total enrollment of around 850 students, and an incoming class size of approximately 260 students. It has a number of prominent alumni, including state Supreme Court Justices, and a former Director of the FBI and CIA.

The school has a very strong reputation in the Midwest. The majority of WULS grads find employment there; the East Coast is also a big WULS employment market. In the West Coast, however, the school isn’t very well known, and grads may have trouble securing interviews and jobs there.

WULS has a solid number of academic and extracurricular opportunities: 7 in-house clinics, 4 practical externships within the country, a number of international practical externships, 11 study abroad programs, the ability for students to create their own joint-degree program with any of WUSTL’s graduate or professional schools, 3 scholarly journals, and 43 student organizations.

Application deadline: 3/1

Application fee: \$70

Financial aid deadline: 3/1

Type of school: Private

Tuition and fees: \$44,125 (2010-2011)

Admissions: Rolling (decisions by April 15)

Acceptance percentage: 27% (2009)

Incoming class size: 261 (2009)

Early Action/Early Decision available: No

Part-time program available: No (Exceptions possible)

GPA AND STANDARDIZED TESTS

LSAT 25th - 75th percentile range: 161 - 168

GPA 25th - 75th percentile range: 3.30 - 3.80

TOEFL not required for international applicants.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Letters of recommendation: 2 required (more accepted)

Required essays: Personal statement (2-3 pages)

Optional essays: “Why WULS?” (short answer)

Dean’s Certification: None required

Additional documentation: Résumé (required)

WULS: The PowerScore Perspective

Midwest excellence

If you're looking to obtain legal employment in the Midwest, then you've come to the right place. WULS is extremely well regarded in the region, and is undoubtedly one of the best schools there. According to the school's Career Services Office, over 40% of the class of 2008 found employment in the West North Central and East North Central states. The school also has good representation in East Coast legal markets, with 30% of the class finding employment in the South and Mid-Atlantic states. Not so great are graduates' West Coast prospects. Although St. Louis is known as the "Gateway to the West," the same cannot be said of WULS. Out of all the regions in the country, the West is the one where the school is known the least and where students have the hardest time getting jobs. In fact, only 8% of the class of 2008 was able to secure employment there.

Exceptional clinics

The school's clinical and practical program has been ranked as one of the best in the nation, and for good reason: Not only does it have seven in-house clinical offerings, but it also has four practical externships that place students in government and non-profit organizations in Missouri, Delaware, Illinois, as well as Indian reservations (through the American Indian Law Summer Program) in South Dakota, California, and states in the Southwest U.S. In addition, students can embark on practical externships internationally through one of the school's programs in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Clinical and externship opportunities are available year-round, which allows the school to boast that it "guarantees every interested student at least one clinical opportunity during his or her second or third year of law school." If you're looking to enhance your legal education with hands-on practice, WULS will make sure you can do so.

Awesome trial advocacy training

The school's trial advocacy program is fantastic: It has a wide variety of skills courses and clinical courses available for students (with space guaranteed for all students at some point during their legal education), and also has nine different moot court, trial advocacy, client counseling, negotiation, and mediation teams that participate in twenty-two intramural, regional, national, and international competitions. The program consistently ranks as one of the best in the nation, and has the awards to prove it (in fact, according to the school, WULS' performance record in the Phillip C. Jessup International

Law Moot Court competition, the largest moot court competition in the world, is "a mark equaled only by Harvard [Law]").

Great facilities

Although Anheuser-Busch Hall, the law school building, was inaugurated almost 15 years ago, it still remains beautiful and functional. The halls are wide, the ceilings are high, and the windows are huge and fill the common areas with natural light. The building is almost cathedral-like in its construction, with vaulted ceilings soaring three stories high. The school's Crowder Courtyard, located in the middle of the building and covered by a glass ceiling, doesn't just offer a flood of sunlight during the day, it is also the site of a variety of school functions, including the much-loved weekly Friday Happy Hours thrown by the school's student organizations. The school's law library embodies everything a law library should be: Dark wood, plentiful muted lighting, chandeliers, and two-story windows. And looks aren't all the building has going for it; it is also well-connected, providing students with building-wide wireless internet and a multitude of plugs and ethernet jacks.

A note for international applicants

Although the school "welcomes applications from international students," applying comes at a cost: "Admitted international students," says the school's Admissions Office, "are required to provide financial records documenting that funds are available to pay for the full cost of law school attendance and living expenses in order to receive student visas." International students should

not expect any financial aid from the school if admitted.

Still a lot of spirit in St. Louis

While the city's long-standing reputation as a rather dangerous place to live has overshadowed much of what it has to offer, the truth is that St. Louis has progressively become more and more safe. But safety is not all the city has going for it. It also has a vibrant music scene that centers on jazz, blues, and R&B. Rock and roll icon Chuck Berry, a native of St. Louis, still performs there multiple times a year, and a large number of well-known musicians and musical groups call St. Louis home. In addition, the city has a delectable collection of restaurants, and is particularly well-known for its Italian cuisine. The performing arts are also alive and well there, with the city's symphony orchestra, opera, and ballet company providing cultural entertainment.

If you're looking to obtain legal employment in the Midwest, then you've come to the right place. WULS is extremely well regarded in the region, and is undoubtedly one of the best schools there.

ACCEPTANCE RATES

Full-time: 27% (987 of 3,690 admitted)

Part-time: N/A

GPA AND LSAT SCORES

GPA - 75th percentile: 3.80

GPA - Median: 3.70

GPA - 25th percentile: 3.30

LSAT - 75th percentile: 168

LSAT - Median: 167

LSAT - 25th percentile: 161

ENROLLMENT AND ETHNICITY

African-American: 39 (M); 51 (F); 10.5% of student body

American Indian: 5 (M); 1 (F); 0.7% of student body

Asian-American: 45 (M); 48 (F); 10.9% of student body

Caucasian: 263 (M); 161 (F); 49.5% of student body

Hispanic: 5 (M); 6 (F); 1.3% of student body

Mexican-American: 4 (M); 0 (F); 0.5% of student body

Puerto Rican: 2 (M); 1 (F); 0.4% of student body

International: 34 (M); 23 (F); 6.7% of student body

Non-Reported: 101 (M); 67 (F); 19.6% of student body

TRANSFERS (FIRST-YEAR) AND ATTRITION

Transfers in: 46

Transfers out: 12

1L attrition: 15 (0 Academic, 15 Other)

2L attrition: 5 (0 Academic, 5 Other)

3L attrition: 0 (0 Academic, 0 Other)

FINANCIAL AID

Merit aid available? Yes

Grants and scholarships available? Yes

Students receiving grants: 517, 61.6% of student body

Median grant amount: \$20,000

LRAP program available? Yes

All WULS applicants are automatically considered for merit aid. In addition, the school has the Webster Society Scholarship, Walter Moran Farmer Scholarship, and Buder Scholarship for American Indian Law Students, all of which provide up to three years full tuition (some with stipend).

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Wireless network availability? Yes

Number of wired connections available: 814

Hours per week the library is open: 120

Study seating capacity inside the library: 486

Number of full-time professional librarians: 9

CAREER SERVICES

On-campus Career Services Office? Yes

Number of full-time career services staffers? 10

Career services specializations: Career planning, public interest, judicial clerkships, fellowships, firms, business.

On-Campus Interview (OCI) program? Yes. WULS also has extensive off-campus interview programs.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS*

**All statistics are 9 months after graduation*

Employment status known: 259, 97.4% of class

Employment status unknown: 7, 2.6% of class

Employed: 246, 95.0% of class

Pursuing graduate degrees: 4, 1.5% of class

Unemployed: 8, 3.1% of class

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Academia: 5, 2.0% of class

Business and Industry: 25, 10.2% of class

Government: 26, 10.6% of class

Judicial Clerkship: 26, 10.6% of class

Law Firms: 152, 61.8% of class

Public Interest: 5, 2.0% of class

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Less than one-third of WULS graduates stay in the St. Louis area. The WULS Class of 2008 relocated to thirty different states, the District of Columbia, and four foreign counties.

Students employed in-state: 22.8%

Students employed in foreign countries: 3.7%

Number of states where students are employed: 30

ALUMNI NETWORK

The largest concentrations of WULS alumni are found in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York. WULS alumni are heavily involved in the WULS admissions process, and also participate in the Mock Interview Program put together by the WULS Career Services Office.

WULS also regularly reaches out to alumni to speak at panels and attend admitted student events.

BAR PASSAGE RATES

First-time takers: 248 (87.50% reporting)

Average school pass rate: 91.21%

Average state pass rate: 88.52%

Average pass rate difference: 2.69%

WULS: The School

WULS is known for the strength of its clinical and appellate advocacy programs (which have been ranked among the best in the nation). It also focuses heavily on interdisciplinary academics, and has a large number of classes that are taught by professors in one of the university's other departments and graduate schools.

Incoming class size: 261 (2009)

Typical first-year section size: 96

CURRICULUM

WULS first-year students take **Contracts, Property, Torts, Legal Practice I: Objective Analysis and Reasoning**, and **Legal Research Methodologies** (a full-year course) in the fall. They take **Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law I, Criminal Law, Legal Practice II: Advocacy**, and the second half of **Legal Research Methodologies** in the spring.

The second and third years of study are composed completely of elective courses, save for an **upper-level writing seminar**, an **ethics course**, and an **"applied lawyering/professional skills" course**, which are required for graduation. As per the school, "students are encouraged to take courses from the following areas: clinical education & trial advocacy program; corporate, commercial & business law; intellectual property; and international law."

In order to graduate, students must have an overall cumulative grade-point average of 79 or higher.

FACULTY

Student-to-faculty ratio: 10.7 : 1

WULS prominent faculty includes:

Susan Frelich Appleton, a family law expert.

Kathleen F. Brickey, a criminal law scholar specializing in corporate and white-collar crime.

Gerrit De Geest, an expert in law and economics, and comparative law.

Barbara Flagg, a constitutional law, critical race theory, federal jurisdiction, and jurisprudence scholar.

Michael M. Greenfield, an authority in consumer law, sales contracts, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

CLINICS: WULS has seven in-house legal clinics available for students. They include the Appellate Clinic, Civil Justice Clinic, Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic, Congressional & Administrative Law Clinic, Criminal Justice Clinic, Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Clinic, and Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic. In addition, the school also has a number of state and international clinical externships.

EXTERNSHIPS: The school's American Indian Law Summer Program places students with legal departments within Indian reservations; the Corporate Judicial Placement works with the Delaware Supreme Court; the Government Lawyering Externship works with the U.S. Attorney's Office; and the Lawyering Practice Externship places students with government and non-profit organizations. In addition, students can embark on international legal externships in Africa, Asia, and Europe, work as part-time law clerks with judges in Missouri and Illinois, or create their own practical program through a supervised practicum.

STUDY ABROAD: In addition to international externships, students can also engage in academic study abroad. WULS has semester-exchange programs with eleven law schools (located in The Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Portugal, China, the Republic of Korea, Republic of China, Northern Ireland, Italy, and Hong Kong), and a six-week summer program with the school's Institute for Global Justice in The Netherlands. Students can also create their own study abroad program (with administration approval), or participate in other ABA-approved law schools' summer programs.

JOINT DEGREE: WULS offers students the opportunity to create their own joint-degree Masters or PhD programs with the university's John M. Olin School of Business, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, or Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS

WULS has three student-edited scholarly journals: *Washington University Law Review*, *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy*, and *Washington University Global Studies Law Review*.

MOCK TRIAL AND MOOT COURT

The school has an extensive trial and advocacy program that participates in moot court, trial advocacy, and dispute resolution contests. Its program has teams that participate in intramural, regional, national, and international competitions. Students can focus on eight different "areas of interest" when selecting which moot court teams they want to try out for.

• NOTABLE ALUMNI •

Among WULS' notable alumni are **Charles Nagel**, Class of 1872, United States Secretary of Commerce and Labor from 1909 to 1913, and founder of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; **Raymond Gruender** JD/MBA '87, judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit; **Douglas Kelly** '73, General Counsel for Wachovia Securities; **Ray Wexler** '67, Chief Tax Officer at General Motors Corporation; **Richard B. Teitelman** '73, Justice on the Supreme Court of Missouri; **Philip D. Shelton** '72, past President and Executive Director for the Law School Admission Council (LSAC); **Louis B. Susman** '62, current U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom; and **William H. Webster** '49, chairman of the Homeland Security Advisory Council and former director of both the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Alumni count the positive atmosphere at the school as one of its greatest attributes. “The staff and administration are incredibly nice,” says one grad. “Maybe there is something to that whole ‘Midwesterners are nicer’ saying,” jokes another.

The “Midwestern niceness” isn’t just limited to the administration, either. Professors are also deemed “great.” “The faculty truly does have an open-door policy,” says an alum. “I never felt like I was inconveniencing any of them.” And they combine this openness and availability with academic excellence: “Professors are brilliant. And most of them are great teachers, too. That was an unexpected bonus.”

There are a few gripes about the school’s grading practices: “The school has a mandatory curve, which is a little of a pain. I always felt like the grades I got were influenced by it.” In addition, “the school doesn’t let everyone know what their rank is, which I found a little annoying.” As per WULS, “only JD students in the top 5% are informed of their rank.” However, it is perhaps because of the curve and lack of overall ranking that “there really isn’t a very intense competitive environment at the school. Everyone wants to do well, but there isn’t a lot of talk of ‘what did you get’ or ‘what are your grades.’ It makes it easier to see your classmates as people rather than numbers to beat.”

The school has around 850 JD students overall, which is average for the schools on this list. Says an alum: “I liked the size of the school. I had a number of different groups of friends, and I didn’t see the same people all the time.”

WULS provides students with a great vehicle if their goal is to obtain employment in the region: “The school really has a great rep in the Midwest. If you’re looking for a job in St. Louis, or even Chicago, you’ll have a ton of resources.” However, “it’s a little harder to get interviews with firms on the coasts, especially the West Coast.”

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government at WULS. They relay the interests of the student body to the faculty and administration, and also administer funding for the other WULS student organizations. In addition, they also provide a number of other services to the WULS student body, including keeping a database of outlines for many first-year and upper-level courses.

One of the most popular events at WULS is the weekly Friday Happy Hours put on by different student organizations. These events offer beer, food, and music in the school’s indoor courtyard.

- Africa Public Interest Law & Dispute Resolution Project
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Barely Legal Theater
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- China Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Corporate Law Society
- Devil’s Advocate
- Education Law & Policy Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Equal Justice Works (EJW)
- Family Law Society (FLS)
- Federalist Society
- Golf Club
- Graduate-Professional Council
- Honor Council
- Immigration Law Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- Jewish Law Society
- JD/MBA Association
- Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA)
- Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)
- Law School Democrats
- Law Students for Choice
- Law Students For Life
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Security Law Society
- OUTLAW
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Public Interest Law Society (PILS)
- Real Estate and Law Society
- Running Club
- Sidebar Wine Society
- South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)
- Sport Shooting Society
- Sports & Entertainment Law Society (SLES)
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Student Health Lawyer’s Association (SHLA)
- Student Law Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Women’s Law Caucus (WLC)

• CLASS PROFILE •

In 2010, Washington University School of Law received 4,386 applications requesting admission to the Class of 2013.

Of those admitted, 276 eventually matriculated.

The median GPA for this entering class was 3.7.

The 25th and 75th GPA percentiles were 3.3 and 3.8, respectively.

The median LSAT score was 167.

The 25th and 75th percentile LSAT scores were 162 and 168.

38% of the class identified themselves as minority students.

The median age of an incoming student in the Class of 2013 was 23.

The students in this class represented 142 different colleges and undergraduate institutions.

The institutions with the greatest number of students in the class

were Washington University, the University of Missouri—Columbia, the University of Illinois—Champaign, and Duke University.

The Class of 2013 hailed from 36 different U.S. states, the District of Columbia, England, Jamaica, South Korea, and Zimbabwe.

The states with the greatest representation were California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

WULS: The City

Setting: Urban

WULS calls the city of St. Louis, MO home. The school is located in the university's Danforth Campus on the west end of the city, near the suburbs of University City, Richmond Heights, and Clayton. Students talk about the accessibility of affordable housing, the great variety of bars, restaurants, and clubs in the nearby "Loop" area, and the safety of the St. Louis suburbs.

LIVING EXPENSES

The school is about average in cost of living for the schools on this list, coming in at an estimated \$19,000 for the academic year. Housing, however, is surprisingly inexpensive for such a major metropolitan area, and students say they cut expenses by "living with roommates and taking advantage of free food at the law school."

Estimated academic year living expenses*

Room and board	\$12,000.00
Books and supplies	\$2,000.00
Personal/Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$19,000.00

**Values provided by WULS*

HOUSING

WULS does not have graduate student housing available on campus. However, it provides a great deal of guidance for students during their off-campus housing search, including "housing days" and roommate-finding resources. Most students live in the nearby areas of University City, Clayton, and Brentwood.

On-campus housing available? N
Average apartment rental cost (1 BR/1 BA) \$630/mo

DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2006 population of St. Louis, MO to be 347,181 people, with 60.6% of the population between 18 and 65 years of age. 19.1% of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher.

Population density in the St. Louis area (as per the 2000 census) is 5,623 persons per square mile.

The 2000 census puts the ethnic makeup of the city as 43.8% white, 2.0% of Hispanic or Latino origin, 51.2% African American, 0.3% American Indian or Alaskan native, 2.0% Asian, less than 0.1% native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1.9% from two or more races.

PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The school has parking available for students, all of which is permit-only. Parking is available in various facilities around the Danforth Campus, and the Millbrook Parking Facility is located right across the street from the school. Permits are available for purchase from the WUSTL's Parking and Transportation Services. Law students can purchase parking permits at the rate of \$459 a year.

Getting around St. Louis is easy: The city is serviced by a number of interstate highways, and has a comprehensive road system. Traffic can be a problem, though, and parking can sometimes be difficult to find. Students that want to avoid the traffic and parking issues can use the city's light rail system, MetroLink.

The city is served by the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

AREA ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Gateway Arch, St. Louis' most recognizable landmark (and tallest man-made structure in the United States), is also one of the most popular attractions in the city: Over four million people visit the Arch each year. In addition to providing rides to the top of the Arch, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial also features a museum, movie theater, and souvenir shops.

Forest Park, located very close to WULS, offers visitors 1,300 acres featuring lakes, walking trails, and biking paths.

The city has a great variety of cultural sites, museums, and gardens, including the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, and Missouri Botanical Gardens.

St. Louis' musical scene is a vibrant one: Clubs featuring live music events, particularly jazz, blues, and R&B, are prevalent and open every night of the week.

For the sports enthusiast, the city has the St. Louis Blues (NHL), St. Louis Cardinals (MLB), and St. Louis Rams (NFL).

CITY MUST-DOs

Students count riding to the top of the Gateway Arch as one of the weekend must-dos around the city. "If you can score tickets to a Cardinals or Rams game, then you have to go," says an alum.

The city is known for having one of the best St. Patrick's Day Parades in the nation, with 250,000+ spectators flooding the streets to partake in the festivities. In between studying, many students make time to visit *The Hill*, a well-known Italian neighborhood, which hosts some of the city's top Italian restaurants and bakeries.