

University of California at Los Angeles School of Law

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THE BASICS

The **University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law** was founded in 1949. It was the first public law school in Southern California, and is one of the younger schools on this list. UCLA was accredited by the ABA in 1950.

The law school is located on UCLA's 400+ acre campus in West Los Angeles. Bordered by affluent Bel Air and upscale Westwood, UCLA has an excellent overall location within Los Angeles.

The cost of attendance mimics the school's upscale surroundings: California residents pay just over \$62,000 a year, while out-of-state students will deal with a \$72,000 price tag. The University of California system recently increased tuition and fees, and UCLA Law saw an average increase of around \$5,000 in yearly attendance costs for all students.

With a total enrollment slightly over 1,000 students, the school is on the larger end of the scale for the schools in this publication. But, UCLA Law helps create a feeling of intra-class intimacy by featuring small section sizes of 40 to 80 during the 1L year.

UCLA Law has an extremely strong reputation, especially in California and the West.

The school has a solid variety of academic and extracurricular offerings for its students: 29 clinics, 13 journals, and over 30 students organizations.

Application deadline: 11/15 (Early); 2/1 (Regular)

Application fee: \$75

Financial aid deadline: 3/2

Type of school: Public

Tuition and fees: \$40,616 (R); \$50,639 (NR) (2010 - 2011)

Admissions: Rolling (most decisions by end of April)

Acceptance percentage: 17% (2009)

Incoming class size: 320 (2009)

Early Action/Early Decision available: Yes, binding

Part-time program available: No

GPA AND STANDARDIZED TESTS

LSAT 25th - 75th percentile range: 164 - 169 (2009)

GPA 25th - 75th percentile range: 3.57 - 3.88 (2009)

TOEFL not required for international applicants.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Letters of recommendation: 2 required (3 maximum)

Required essays: Personal statement (2-page limit)

Optional essays: "Distinctive contributions to UCLA"

Dean's Certification: None required

Additional documentation: Résumé (required); Epstein Program Application and essays (if applicable)

UCLA Law: The PowerScore Perspective

A location USC Law wishes it had

When it comes to Los Angeles-area law schools, UCLA has an optimal location, with easy access to the beaches to the west and Beverly Hills just to the east. Plus, UCLA has its own version of a college town, Westwood. The Westwood area is relaxed, lush, and tree-lined. Just about anything you might need is within a few blocks' walk: restaurants, supermarkets, shops, bars, and nightclubs. There are also various movie theaters and upscale hotels in the vicinity of the university. Students love the law school's location, and don't often need to venture out of the area.

Gorgeous campus

It's not just the neighborhood that is great, the campus is beautiful, too. Sprawling and grand, it embodies California in its green lawns, plentiful sunny spaces, and soaring buildings. Students (both graduate and undergraduate) can be seen studying outside, talking with friends, or simply enjoying the sun.

Don't forget the weather

They don't call California the Golden State for nothing. Los Angeles is one of the sunnier cities in the U.S., with the sun shining over 70% of the daytime hours. This makes for generally glorious weather (just don't get so distracted that you forget to study!).

Exceptional faculty

For a relatively young school, UCLA Law has an exceptionally talented and published faculty. From well-known legal commentators like Eugene Volokh, to legal scholars like Khaled Abou El Fadl and activists like Kimberlé Crenshaw, UCLA law's professor roster reads like a list of well-known academic legal eagles. Despite their star power, however, students often talk about the approachability and availability of their instructors, and speak of their engaging (though often unconventional) teaching styles.

Plenty of on-campus housing

Although the school does not guarantee housing for its students, it does have plenty of university-owned and -operated housing available for those students who want to live on-campus. The cost of living on-campus is very competitive to the rents of the surrounding area, and is often lower. UCLA has graduate housing for single students, married students, and married students with families. For students who prefer to live off-campus, there are plenty of options in Westwood and the large residential areas south of Wilshire Boulevard.

California is where its at

When close to 90% of the student body ends up working in California, that definitely tells you something about the overall employment prospects for the school and the preferences of the students. Although the Office of Career Services bring in employers from all over the country to interview UCLA Law students, the fact is that most simply choose to remain in California. This is a definite plus to those looking to study, live, and work in the Golden State, but it may be a drawback for those seeking jobs in the South or East after graduation.

Low national representation

The 13% of students who choose to work outside of California do so in only 15 other states. This can definitely hamper the overall brand recognition of your degree, particularly when you find yourself competing for East Coast jobs with graduates of top East Coast schools.

While everyone in the country knows UCLA, some employers may have no experience at all with UCLA Law grads.

Interested in entertainment law? This is the place

Especially notable is UCLA's Entertainment and Media Law and Policy Program. Los Angeles is the hub of the entertainment industry, and UCLA is one of the best schools in the nation (if not the best) for students seeking to enter the entertainment law industry. The program begins in the second year of school, and introduces students to all of the legal facets of the field. The school also offers an Entertainment Law Review journal that focuses on the subject.

When it comes to Los Angeles-area law schools, **UCLA has an optimal location**, with easy access to the beaches to the west and Beverly Hills just to the east. Plus, UCLA has its own version of a college town, Westwood. **Students love the law school's location**, and don't often need to venture out of the area.

Tuition hike

During 2010, significant press coverage was dedicated to the tuition increases taking place at California's public universities. Much of the hubbub surrounded the undergraduate programs; however, the graduate schools did not escape unscathed. UCLA Law, for example, saw its tuition increased from \$35,327 for California residents to \$40,616; out-of-state students saw their tuition increased by \$4,672 to over \$50,000. This is a considerable amount, particularly when you take into account that most schools only have a 2-3% annual tuition increase (in-state student tuition went up 15% at UCLA Law). With California's deepening budget crisis, there is no guarantee that this kind of increase won't happen again. Budget-conscious students would do well to consider this as they look into attending UCLA Law.

ACCEPTANCE RATES

Full-time: 17% (1,383 of 8,255 admitted)
Part-time: N/A

GPA AND LSAT SCORES

GPA - 75th percentile: 3.88
GPA - Median: 3.75
GPA - 25th percentile: 3.57

LSAT - 75th percentile: 169
LSAT - Median: 168
LSAT - 25th percentile: 164

ENROLLMENT AND ETHNICITY

African-American: 24 (M); 22 (F); 4.6% of student body
American Indian: 8 (M); 4 (F); 1.2% of student body
Asian-American: 77 (M); 105 (F); 18.0% of student body
Caucasian: 252 (M); 186 (F); 43.3% of student body
Hispanic: 13 (M); 17 (F); 3.0% of student body
Mexican-American: 25 (M); 32 (F); 5.6% of student body
Puerto Rican: 2 (M); 0 (F); 0.2% of student body
International: 10 (M); 10 (F); 2.0% of student body
Non-Reported: 110 (M); 114 (F); 22.2% of student body

TRANSFERS (FIRST-YEAR) AND ATTRITION

Transfers in: 46
Transfers out: 9

1L attrition: 14 (0 Academic, 14 Other)
2L attrition: 3 (0 Academic, 3 Other)
3L attrition: 3 (0 Academic, 3 Other)

FINANCIAL AID

Merit aid available? Yes
Grants and scholarships available? Yes
Students receiving grants: 682, 67.5% of student body
Median grant amount: \$10,670.00
LRAP program available? Yes

UCLA Law's Office of Financial Aid states that over 87% of UCLA Law students are currently receiving some form of financial aid (federal loans, private loans, institutional funds, grants, or scholarships). UCLA Law also participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program for armed forces veterans.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Wireless network availability? Yes
Number of wired connections available: 1,820
Hours per week the library is open: 97
Study seating capacity inside the library: 774
Number of full-time professional librarians: 15

CAREER SERVICES

On-campus Career Services Office? Yes
Number of full-time career services staffers? 9
Career services specializations: private sector, judicial clerkships, LL.M. employment, public interest
On-Campus Interview (OCI) program? Yes. The school has one in August, and one in September. In addition, the school facilitates on-campus interviews during the spring.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS*

**All statistics are 9 months after graduation*

Employment status known: 337, 100.0% of class
Employment status unknown: 0, 0.0% of class
Employed: 323, 95.8% of class
Pursuing graduate degrees: 5, 1.5% of class
Unemployed: 3, 0.9% of class

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Academia: 6, 1.9% of class
Business and Industry: 22, 6.8% of class
Government: 25, 7.7% of class
Judicial Clerkship: 34, 10.5% of class
Law Firms: 206, 63.8% of class
Public Interest: 28, 8.7% of class

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

California (both northern and southern) is by far the biggest employment market for UCLA Law grads, although some students also obtain employment in the Midwest and Northwest states.

Students employed in-state: 87.0%
Students employed in foreign countries: 0.3%
Number of states where students are employed: 16

In addition to the regions listed above, UCLA Law grads also look to New York and Washington, D.C. for positions.

ALUMNI NETWORK

The UCLA Law alumni network is over 15,000 strong. The alumni network is very loyal, and alumni often donate their time and money to the school. The school, in turn, provides them with many alumni events, in addition to employment assistance through OCS.

BAR PASSAGE RATES

First-time takers: 311 (92.28% reporting)
Average school pass rate: 88.50%
Average state pass rate: 78.07%
Average pass rate difference: 10.43%

UCLA Law: The School

UCLA Law is one of top two law schools in Los Angeles, California (the other is USC). The school does a great job of making each incoming class feel like part of a much smaller community through small section and class sizes, and a great student-to-faculty ratio.

Incoming class size: 320 (2009)

Typical first-year section size: 80

CURRICULUM

All UCLA Law first-year students must take a fairly typical slate of first year courses, including **Contracts, Lawyering Skills: Theory and Practice, Criminal Law I, Property, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Constitutional Law I.**

UCLA Law prides itself on the amount of resources that it puts into the **Lawyering Skills** program (often known as Legal Research and Writing at other law schools), and seeks to show students the practical use of their skills through simulated cases.

In addition to the fairly expansive offerings of the J.D. program, UCLA also offers five areas of specialization that ultimately produce a certificate in addition to the regular J.D. degree: Business Law & Policy Program, Critical Race Studies, David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law & Policy, Law and Philosophy Program, and the aforementioned Entertainment and Media Law and Policy Program.

FACULTY

Student-to-faculty ratio: 11.3 : 1

UCLA Law's prominent faculty include:

Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl, a leading authority on Islamic Law and Islam, as well as a human rights expert.

Eugene Volokh, expert on the First Amendment, cyberspace law, harassment law, and gun control, and founder of popular weblog *The Volokh Conspiracy*.

Frances Elisabeth Olsen, expert in feminist legal theory.

Kimberlé W. Crenshaw, Critical Race Theory Movement leader.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

CLINICS: The school has 18 **in-house clinics**. They include: Appellate Advocacy Clinic, Bankruptcy Transactions Course: Negotiating and Confirming Chapter 11 Plans, Civil Rights Litigation Clinic, Complex Litigation: Depositions and Discovery Clinic, Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, Community Economic Development, Mediation Clinic, Public Policy Advocacy, Regulatory Lawyering, Street Law, Tribal Legal Development Clinic, Trial Advocacy Clinic, Capital Punishment Clinic, Fact Investigation and Discovery in Complex Matters Clinic, Immigration Clinic, International Justice Clinic, Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy, and Criminal Defense Clinic. UCLA Law also has 7 "**transactional clinics**" (which focus on teaching business law in practical contexts): Creating Value Through Renegotiating Basic Business Agreements, Mergers & Acquisitions Transaction Planning, Public Offerings, Venture Capital Formation and Financing, Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions, Sports and the Law Clinical, and Community Economic Development.

STUDY ABROAD: UCLA Law has some International exchange programs with a handful of schools, and they also allow students to individually do a term abroad by petition.

JOINT DEGREE: UCLA Law offers JD/MA (in Afro-American Studies, American Indian Studies, or Urban Planning), JD/MBA, JD/PhD (Philosophy), JD/MPH, JD/MPP, and JD/MSW degrees. The school also has joint programs with other universities.

JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS

The school has 13 student-edited journals: *Asian Pacific American Law Journal*, *Chicano/a - Latino/a Law Review*, *The Dukeminier Awards Journal of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law*, *Entertainment Law Review*, *Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*, *Journal of International Law & Foreign Affairs*, *Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*, *Journal of Law & Technology*, *Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal*, *National Black Law Journal*, *Pacific Basin Law Journal*, *UCLA Law Review*, and *Women's Law Journal*.

MOCK TRIAL AND MOOT COURT

UCLA Law has a **Mock Trial Association**, which puts on the UCLA Trial Advocacy Tournament (the winners of which are invited to represent the school in competitions at the state and national level), as well as a **Moot Court Program** (open to 2Ls and 3Ls), which puts on various competitions aimed at selecting students to represent UCLA Law in international, national, and state competitions.

• NOTABLE ALUMNI •

UCLA Law's list of prominent alumni include businessmen and businesswomen, judges, politicians, and academics (among many others). Among them, you will find **Albert J. Moore** '78, one of the creators of the UCLA Law clinical program, author of various trial technique books, and former business litigator; **Alex Kozinski** '75, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; **Mark F. Grady** '73, UCLA Law professor, former dean of George Mason University School of Law, and law and economics expert; **Congressman Henry Waxman** '64; Federal Appeal Judge in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals **Kim McLane Wardlaw** '79, **Kenneth Ziffren** '65, Partner, Ziffren Brittenham LLP—one of the largest entertainment law firms in the country, and **Janice Rogers Brown** '77, Federal judge on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

As one of the top law schools in California, UCLA Law attracts the cream of the crop. “Everyone here is crazy smart,” says one student. “I am constantly amazed at the level at which my classmates analyze what we are learning in class.”

UCLA is part of the public University of California system, which means that the largest percentage of applicants the law school receives each year is made up of California residents. Although the school says no preference is given to California residents during the admissions process, the most recent incoming class (see **Class Profile** below) was 67% California residents.

Each class is relatively large (around 320 students), which means that the total law school student body is also large, but the school makes a concerted effort to make each incoming student feel at ease through smaller class sizes and even smaller section sizes (with Lawyering Skills having the smallest first-year section size). “I never really felt overwhelmed by the size of the school,” says a grad. “It always felt pretty manageable, especially in the last two years where each class was pretty small.”

The school’s location is one of the aspects students enjoy the most. Located in the upscale Westwood neighborhood in Los Angeles, the school allows students to live and study within walking distance of just about everything they might need: Restaurants, shopping, and nightlife. And this ability to walk around doesn’t go unnoticed by UCLA Law students: “I love that I can leave campus or my apartment and walk to get whatever I need. I couldn’t do that anywhere else in L.A. Westwood’s really nice and safe.” says a student.

Student life overall is enjoyable. “First year was rough, but I think that would be the case with any law school,” says a grad. “I think UCLA did a really great job of easing me into the law student life.”

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

UCLA Law currently lists 37 student organizations, including chapters of national organizations (such as the Black Law Students Association, National Lawyers Guild, OUTlaw and the J. Reuben Clark Law Society) as well as UCLA-specific groups such as the Advocates for Children and Teens, Law and Economics Society, and Students Helping Assure Racial Equity, Justice and Diversity.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government at UCLA Law. The SBA, among other things, gives the students a voice within the school, acting as the liaison between the students, faculty, and administration; provides funding for student organizations and; organizes the annual Law Revue (a show put on by law students for law students, often parodying law student and lawyer life); and creates and manages weekly student events to promote cohesion and friendship among each class and through the law school.

- Advocates for Children and Teens
- American Constitution Society of Los Angeles
- Animal Law Society
- Asian/Pacific Islander Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Business Law Association
- China Law Association
- Disability Law Society
- El Centro Legal Clinics
- Entertainment Law Association
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Immigration Law Society
- Innocence Project
- International Law Society
- International Human Rights Law Association
- Jewish Law Students Association
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- La Raza Law Student Association
- Law and Economics Society
- Law Students for Justice in Palestine
- Mobile Clinic
- Mock Trial Association
- Moot Court Honors Program
- Muslim Law Students Association
- Ms. JD National Women’s Law Student Organization
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association
- OUTlaw
- Phi Delta Phi
- Public Interest Law Fund
- South Asian Law Students Association
- Sports Law Federation
- Student Bar Association
- Students Helping Assure Racial Equity, Justice and Diversity
- Veterans Society
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

• CLASS PROFILE •

UCLA Law received a total of 8,748 applications for the class of 2013. Of those, 1,436 were accepted (an acceptance percentage of 16%).

310 students eventually matriculated.

The UCLA Law class of 2013 had a 25th percentile GPA of 3.56, and a 75th percentile GPA of 3.87. The class of 2012 had very similar numbers, with the 25th and 75th percentiles coming in at 3.57 and 3.88.

It had a 25th percentile LSAT score of

165, and a 75th percentile score of 170. The class of 2012 had a slightly lower range, with 25th and 75th percentiles at 164 and 169.

The class of 2013 was 49% female, and 51% male.

37% of the class was composed of students of color.

Students ranged in age from 20 to 43; the average age was 25.

California residents made up 67% of

the class, while 33% of the class were non-residents.

The class hailed from 33 U.S. states and 7 foreign countries.

103 undergraduate institutions were represented by this incoming class, with most students coming from UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, Duke University, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Cornell University, University of Southern California, Princeton University, and Yale University.

UCLA Law: The City

Setting: Urban

Although the school's address lists Los Angeles as its city, the school itself is located in Westwood, parts of which could very well be termed high-end suburbia. Anything students might want or need is within a six- to seven-block radius around the UCLA campus. Students love their home: "Westwood is one of the best parts of going to school at UCLA," says one happy student.

LIVING EXPENSES

UCLA Law's Office of Financial Aid provides a very detailed breakdown of costs for both students living off-campus and students living with their parents (given that so many students are California residents, a large number of them may well be living at home to conserve costs. The numbers reproduced below are for students living off-campus.

Estimated academic year living expenses*

Housing/Board/Utilities	\$14,294.25
Books and Supplies	\$1,953.00
Transportation (incl. UCLA parking permit)	\$2,574.00
Personal/Miscellaneous	\$2,616.75
TOTAL	\$21,438.00

**Values provided by UCLA Law*

HOUSING

Students either live off-campus or in University-owned and -operated housing. Some of the most popular neighborhoods to live in outside of Westwood are Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Century City, Culver City, Palms, Venice, and West Hollywood. The most popular on-campus building for UCLA Law students is Weyburn Terrace.

On-campus housing available?	Y
Average apartment rental cost (1 BR/1 BA)	\$1,260/mo

DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2006 population of Los Angeles, CA to be 3,849,378 people, with 63.7% of the population between 18 and 65 years of age. 25.5% of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher.

Population density in the Los Angeles area (as per the 2000 census) is 7,877 persons per square mile.

The 2000 census puts the ethnic makeup of the city as 46.9% white, 46.5% of Hispanic or Latino origin, 11.2% African American, 0.8% American Indian or Alaskan native, 10.0% Asian, 0.2% native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 5.2% from two or more races.

PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Traffic jams and parking are "huge headaches in L.A.," say students and grads. "If you don't have to use your car, don't." Getting a UCLA parking pass (included in the student budget) is a must if you plan to drive your car to campus and want to find parking. "Having a car is nice, but don't use it every day," advises one grad.

Most Angelenos use a car to get around; however, if you want to use public transportation, Los Angeles has a comprehensive bus system in addition to light rail and subway systems. Plus, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus offers \$.35 rides during the school year to all UCLA students (and the main bus station for the Big Blue Bus is just a few blocks from the law school).

Los Angeles is primarily serviced by the Los Angeles International Airport.

AREA ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

When it comes to things to do and sites to see, there is very little that you can't do or find in Los Angeles. The list of attractions in the city is huge.

UCLA itself has many, many social and cultural attractions built in: The UCLA athletic teams (known as the Bruins) have events throughout the academic year, and the Geffen Playhouse puts on a number of theater productions as well. Art exhibitions at the Fowler and Hammer Museums are also available year-round, and concerts and film screenings are available at locations all over campus on an almost daily basis.

Within Los Angeles, you can find just about any type of cuisine or nightlife you could want. Popular tourist attractions (like Grauman's Chinese Theater, Rodeo Drive, and the Hollywood Walk of Fame) are interspersed with science and history museums, and tours of the city.

CITY MUST-DOs

Students say they don't have much time to venture far from the school's Westwood campus, so much of the entertainment they find is right in the blocks around UCLA.

However, when they have a few hours to spare, students like to hit the beach or go out for a night of fun in one of a variety of areas, including Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, the Sunset Strip, or Beverly Hills.

For those looking for a weekend away, L.A. is perfectly situated, and students enjoy "trips to Santa Barbara and Wine Country," "going up North to ski, or taking a weekend trip to Vegas, although it's hard to find the time."