

UCI Law

UC Irvine School of Law is the first public law school in California in nearly 50 years. Fulfilling a longstanding vision of the campus, the school opened its doors to its first class of 60 law students in fall 2009. In May 2017 our Inaugural Class celebrated the first five-year reunion. Today, the Law School has 48 full-time faculty members and 420 students. The School of Law is an innovative and visionary law school focused on training talented and passionate lawyers and driven by academic excellence, intellectual rigor and a commitment to enrich our communities through public service. From the outset, our goal has been to create one of the top law schools in the country and to prepare our students for the practice of law at the highest levels of the profession. UC Irvine School of Law combines the best of a large and renowned academic institution with a collegial, supportive and friendly environment.

The Law School ranks highly and receives tremendous accolades. In 2015, its first year of eligibility, UCI Law ranked No. 30 by U.S. News & World Report out of 200 ABA-accredited law schools in the country. This was the highest debut ranking by any new law school in U.S. News history. UCI Law ranked No. 28 overall in 2016 and 2017, and No. 21 in 2018. In 2018, U.S. News also ranked UCI Law No. 13 in Clinical Training, No. 21 in Intellectual Property Law, in the top 13 in student diversity. Additionally, UCI Law is No. 5 in student/faculty ratio among the top 25 schools.

Other national accolades include:

- A 2015 study by the University of St. Thomas School of Law measured the scholarly impact of law school faculties. UCI Law ranked No. 6 behind Yale, Harvard, Chicago, NYU and Stanford.
- In the National Jurist 2018 list of Best Schools for Practical Training, UCI Law ranked No. 4 overall with an A+ grade, one of only 10 law schools nationally to receive top honors.
- In the 2016 Law School Survey of Student Engagement, the vast majority of our students rated their entire educational experience as “Excellent,” far exceeding our peer schools and the national average.
- UCI Law ranked No. 7 in a recent ranking of student placement in prestigious federal judicial clerkships, and ranked No. 2 among California law schools

Our students’ post-graduation professional opportunities are outstanding and include federal judicial clerkships, large, medium and small law firm employment and public interest legal positions locally and nationally.

The Law School faculty are accomplished thought leaders from around the country with a broad range of expertise. Our curriculum is innovative, challenging and hands-on, and emphasizes strategic problem-solving. Clinical education is a cornerstone of the experience at UC Irvine School of Law. Every student must participate in one of the core clinics, listed below. Students develop practical legal skills through public interest work in these areas:

Core Clinics

Appellate Litigation

Community & Economic Development

Criminal Justice

Domestic Violence

Environmental Law

Immigrant Rights
Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology
International Justice

Elective Clinics

Civil Rights Litigation
Department of Fair Employment and Housing
International Human Rights
Reproductive Justice

Moreover, the Law School's commitment to public service is demonstrated by the large number of students participating in extra-curricular pro bono projects every year. Since we opened our doors to students in 2009, more than 90 percent of all UCI Law graduates have participated in the school's Pro Bono program, completing more than 70,000 hours.

The Law School is also highly interdisciplinary, with many faculty members from across campus holding joint appointments and many law faculty holding appointments in other departments. Students can take courses in other fields and can earn joint degrees in almost any area. A robust array of programs complements our curriculum, including a regular speaker series and a myriad of student organizations.

The UC Irvine School of Law Centers and Institutes provide in-depth impact by forging interdisciplinary partnerships with leaders from around the world. These include:

- Center for African Business, Law & Entrepreneurship
- Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy
- Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession
- Center on Globalization, Law and Society
- Center for Land, Environment, and Natural Resources
- Center on Law, Equality and Race
- Center in Law, Society and Culture
- UCI Center for Legal Philosophy
- Civil Justice Research Institute
- Competition, Antitrust Law, and Innovation Forum (CALIF)
- UCI Cybersecurity Policy & Research Institute
- UCI Initiative to End Family Violence
- Korea Law Center
- The Long U.S.-China Institute