



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

(Updated Fall 2007)

Welcome to the John Sherman Myers & Alvina Reckman Myers Law Center, our state-of-the-art facility located in the nation's capital. WCL first occupied this six-story, 185,000 square foot building in January, 1996. This date coincided with our 100th year anniversary.

The Law Center's designers studied 30 other law schools in order to create the most effective legal learning environment. This facility incorporates classrooms and courtrooms equipped with modern technology, but also fosters more informal exchanges between students and faculty with its open meeting spaces and lounge areas on each level. This visitor guide describes points of interest throughout the building. Enjoy this self-guided tour, and please feel free to ask students, faculty, or staff questions about the building or their experiences. You will find that there are few other prestigious law schools so comfortable and friendly.

FIRST FLOOR

Los Pobres del Mundo and Shiffman Classrooms, Room 100 and Room 101

- Both of these classrooms are used primarily for first- and second-year required classes.

Legal Writing Center, Suite 129

- This suite houses the offices for the Legal Rhetoric program. First-year students take a required two-semester Legal Rhetoric course in which they learn the fundamental lawyering skills of legal reasoning, analysis, writing, research, and advocacy.

Office of Career & Professional Development and Office of Public Interest, Suite 122

- Staffed by six full-time counselors, the Office of Career & Professional Development (OCPD) coordinates on-campus and regional recruitment programs. In addition to working with current students, OCPD also counsels WCL alumni seeking assistance with salary negotiations, job relocations, and other professional development. The Office of Public Interest coordinates the Pro Bono Honors Pledge Program, the Public Interest/Public Service (PIPS) Scholarship, the 1L Public Interest Roundtable Series, the IMBY Public Service Day, and the Public Interest Wire Newsletter. Most importantly, the Office of Public Interest helps highlight student achievement in public interest and pro bono and provides recognition for these accomplishments.

The Goodman Rare Book Room, Room 121

- This unique collection includes over 250 volumes of early American and English legal texts, including the first American edition of William Blackstone's *Commentaries*, a 1531 edition of *Registrum Brevium* (believed to be the first English law book printed from movable type), and the first edition of Oliver Wendell Holmes' *The Common Law*, published in 1881.

The Pence Law Library

- As you walk in, turn left to enter the Reserve Room. Users may research freely among the numerous reference books, law treatises, government publications, and microfiche.
- The library offers an in-house collection of more than half a million volumes, plus access to a vast amount of information in digital format. We subscribe to LexisNexis, Westlaw, BNA, HeinOnline, LLMC and many other databases. These tools can be accessed from the Law Library web site onsite or remotely anywhere in the world.
- All of the library seating is also equipped with wired/wireless access for laptop computer use through which students have unlimited access to the Internet.
- In addition to wireless access, the library has computer research stations located on the first and second floor.

SECOND FLOOR

- The entire second floor encompasses the computer lab, additional library holdings, and study areas. Walk up the main library staircase to the second floor or use the elevator near the glass enclosed reading room.

Computer Lab

- The lab is located at the back of the second floor behind the first set of bookshelves.
- There are 14 student work stations and the area is staffed by a full-time lab manager and part-time. Students also have access to 18 work stations in the Lab classroom located near the HelpDesk.
- Keep walking – get a feel for the expansiveness and openness of the library. There is ample space for studying individually or 14 study rooms for groups. There are also rooms reserved especially for adaptive technologies and lactation needs.
- Exit the Library and take the elevators to the third floor.

THIRD FLOOR

The Dean's Suite

- After exiting the elevator follow signs to Rooms 356-381. You will see a sign entitled “Dean’s Suite,” enter the impressive wooden doors. This reception area is known as the “Law School Living Room.” The Dean hosts special functions in this area. This suite includes the Office of the Dean, Office of Academic Affairs, and the Office of Finance and Administration.

Administrative Offices

- The remainder of the third floor comprises faculty and administrative offices including:

Office of Media Relations – Room 356

International Legal Studies– Suite 309, This suite houses the admissions office for the LLM Program in International Legal Studies. Each year more than 150 attorneys, most of whom earned their law degree outside the U.S., come to WCL to specialize in different areas of international law. Our JD students interact with LLM students in upper-level course offerings and through student activities.

Office of the Registrar – Suite 304

Office of Institutional Development and Alumni Relations – Suite 373

Student Services and Office of Diversity Services – Suite 301

FOURTH FLOOR

Externship Program, Suite 413

- Exit the Dean’s Suite and turn left. Follow the hallway and take the staircase on your right. At the top of the stairs walk right towards the open lounge. You will see information about our Externship Program. More than 350 students participate in an Externship each year, mostly working at government agencies, non-governmental organizations, or non-profit institutions. You are welcome to take copies of information on the wall outside the Externship Director’s Office of stop by Room 413 on the other side of the door to speak with the Program Coordinator.
- From the lounge area outside the Externship Office facing the windows, turn left and proceed down the hallway. Take a left at the first hallway and stop once you come to the elevator lobby area. From here you can view the Clinical Program student work area.

Clinical Program and Clinic Work Areas, Suite 417

- The Clinical Program functions similarly to a law firm in that second and third-year students actually represent, defend, and prosecute individuals. WCL’s top ranked clinical program offers ten clinics ranging from international human rights law to tax law.
- **It is important that we do not disturb the clinics.** You can view the student attorneys’ work space from the windows along the hallway by Suite 417. Please note that half of the fourth floor is dedicated to the clinic area and contains the following: ***Interview Rooms, Student Workstations (equipped with computers and phones), Clinic Library, Clinic Faculty Offices, and Conference Room.***

Edward Bou Classroom, Room 402

- After viewing the clinic area, pass through the elevator area and follow signs to Room 402. **Please do not enter if there is a class in session.**
- First year sections typically use this classroom. The chairs are non-fixed, allowing for maximum comfort, space and visibility for each student.
- Immediately next to this classroom is a set of stairs. Take these stairs up to the fifth floor.

FIFTH FLOOR

Financial Aid Office, Suite 505

- Walk down the hallway to your right, pass Classroom 503 and then turn right. The Financial Aid Office will be in front of you. Financial aid applications and information are available in the reception area.
- Walk back towards the elevators and follow the sign to Suite 507.

Office of Admissions, Suite 507

- Information regarding JD admissions is available in the reception area. Call 202-274-4101 to sign up for an information session, tour, and/or class visit.

Program on Law & Government, Suite 515

- This program office houses the admissions office for the LLM Program on Law & Government and faculty members who teach administrative law, constitutional law, legislative and regulatory process, media and the law, national security law, and health law. The Program also coordinates the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project and hosts special events and conferences.

Weinstein Moot Courtroom, Room 528

- As you exit the Program on Law & Government, walk straight and then bear left. Upon entry, note the wood paneled jury box and the authentic decor of the room. There are video cameras and monitors, microphones, and powerful audio speakers.
- There is a Judge's bench and witness box that provide a realistic simulation experience for students competing in Moot Court Competitions and Trial Advocacy Program courses. Attached to the courtroom is a Judge's Chamber.

Student Bar Association Lounge

- Exit the Weinstein Moot Courtroom, make a sharp right at the wall of lockers and then a left at the end of the hall. This area was designed as an open space for informal meetings and to provide storage space for our more than 50 student organizations. This suite also houses two conference rooms for student meetings and new flat screen computer terminals.

SIXTH FLOOR

Mooers-Morella Ceremonial Courtroom, Room 603

- Take the stairs and follow signs to Room 603.
- This is one of the largest rooms in the building, capable of seating 150-200 observers. It is used as a competition courtroom and a conference center. In recent years, five justices of the U.S. Supreme Court (Requist, Ginsburg, O'Connor, Scalia, and Breyer) have addressed students in this courtroom. Many of WCL's conferences and special events are covered by C-Span and recorded from this courtroom.

Dr. Louis P. Levitt Lecture Hall, Room 602

- This large lecture hall seats 150 students. It is used for classes and conference events.
- Continue past this classroom, make a right and walk down the hallway.

As with most of the 6th floor, the premier space in the building is reserved for student use. Each of the

publication offices have large meeting/editing areas. Open the doors and look inside.

Journal of Gender, Social Policy, & the Law, Suite 632

- This journal publishes pieces on cutting-edge legal issues dealing with gender and social policy issues.

Human Rights Brief, Room 629

- A publication of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the brief reports on developments in international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as provides concise legal analysis of current human rights issues.

Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Room 631

- This student publication focuses on reconciling the tensions between environmental sustainability, economic development, and human welfare.

Administrative Law Review, Suite 622

- The ALR is published four times annually by WCL students in conjunction with the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. The ALR boasts more than 7,000 subscribers across the country.

American University Law Review, Suite 616

- The Law Review is both the oldest journal at WCL. Each year, its approximately one hundred member student team publishes six books.

Business Law Brief, Criminal Law Brief, and The Modern American, Suite 615

- These publications devote articles to business, the criminal justice system, and analyzing diversity and the law respectively.

American University International Law Review, Suite 610

- The legal community is well aware of WCL's international law reputation. Student involvement in this journal is an excellent way to enhance international law knowledge and contacts.

Student Lounges

This study and social area contains student mailboxes, announcement boards and class assignments. Here, students may relax, find out about social and organizational events, or prepare for class.

Dining Hall

- This area is used for daily meals and special events. It is common to see faculty and students eating together. Students can purchase food with either a meal card or cash. This area is also open for studying and often students bring food from home or from local sandwich shops.

YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR TOUR!

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Washington College of Law. More information about our program offerings and special events can be found on our web site at www.wcl.american.edu.

In 2002, WCL expanded to encompass part of the lower level at 4910 Massachusetts Avenue, one block from our main building. The site houses our program offices including: the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Grants and Programs; Humphrey Fellowship Program; International Arbitration Program; National Institute of Corrections Project; National Institute of Military Justice; Office of Publications and Marketing; Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education; Women and International Law Program; Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property; International Arbitration Program; and the War Crimes Research Office.