

WHAT IS HEALTH LAW?

Health care is a heavily regulated and complex market that comprises a large segment of the United States economy (approximately 1/7 of GDP). The health care system faces ongoing challenges from private and public payers, drug and medical device manufacturers, health care providers and suppliers, and federal and state governments. Given that the landscape of the health care industry is constantly changing, health lawyers must maintain a level of knowledge and expertise in a variety of fields, particularly in areas such as fraud and abuse prevention; compliance; patient privacy; federal and state governmental coverage; coding and reimbursement issues; provider relations; medical research; biotechnology; access to quality health care; business transactions; and both criminal and civil litigation. Health lawyers represent clients in specialty areas such as corporate, administrative, securities, contracts, intellectual property, tax, and litigation, and may have to deal with ethical and bioethical issues such as violation of professional ethics, human research protocols, and patients' rights.

Health industry organizations (including hospitals and hospital systems; physicians, dentists, and other practitioners; nursing homes; home care companies; pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers; insurers; and medical research and teaching institutions), need both in-house general counsel, as well as special counsel on particularly complex matters. Representing such health industry clients requires expertise in all aspects of the law affecting these business entities.

COURSES

The "foundation" courses give students a big-picture view of the health law specialty area, where faculty introduce the statutory and regulatory framework upon which the rationale and structure of the area is based.

Health Law: Examines basic assumptions about the fields of health care financing and delivery. The course focuses on the four major pillars of health law: access, financing, quality, and personhood. Topics include statutory and common law obligations of health care providers to render care and civil rights issues within the health care arena; include private insurance, government programs to finance care for specific populations, and efforts to control costs within public and private systems; definitions of quality, systems of measurement, informed consent and standards of care, and regulatory versus free-market approaches; rationing of services and ethical decisions. The course examines health reform models.

Fraud and Abuse in the health care industry:

Health care fraud and its resultant increasing costs to taxpayers and the government have had an enormous adverse impact on patients, providers, payers, and workers. This class examines fraud and abuse in the delivery of health care, a major priority of federal and state enforcement, through discussions of the major criminal and civil laws and regulations that combat various forms of health care fraud, health care anti-fraud enforcement efforts by the FBI and Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General, sanctions, and compliance programs. Course materials include case studies and hypotheticals arising from private practice situations.

Current Issues in Health Law and Policy:

Provides an overview of coverage and reimbursement issues, the legislative and regulatory processes governing the U.S. health care system, the new Medicare Modernization Act and prescription drug benefit, employer-sponsored health care, the problem of the uninsured, federal ERISA law and state regulation of insurance, HIPAA and patient privacy protections, health care reform proposals (past and present), AIDS, advances in biotechnology, and other recent developments in health care policy.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Food and Drug Law
Biotechnology and the Law
Bioethics and Health Care
Psychiatry and the Law
Antitrust and Health Care
Disability and the Law
AIDS and the Law
Reproductive Rights
International Health and Human Rights
Insurance Law
Medical Malpractice
The Right To Die and Assisted Suicide
Expert Scientific Evidence
Federal Regulatory Practice
Administrative Law
Advanced Problems In Administrative Law and Regulatory Policy
Elder Law: Policies and Practice
Corporate Crime
Mental Health Law

ENVIRONMENT

This LLM concentration is the newest in WCL's Program on Law and Government offerings. Bringing together lawyers from across the country and other nations, this program utilizes lectures, group exercises, and practical simulations in the education of its LLM students.

Students may also earn academic credit for work experience through internships and externships with health care associations, government agencies, corporations and law firms focusing on health industry clients. The Student Health Law Association, its quarterly newsletter, and the Health and Human Rights Initiative, all provide focal points for assembly and scholarship for those students particularly interested in the field.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

www.wcl.american.edu/lawandgov

OR MAIL THE REPLY CARD TO:

CORRINE PARVER

HEALTH LAW PROJECT

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Fax: 202.274.4116

Please send more information on the LLM Program on Law and Government, including admission requirements, costs and application procedures for the LLM.

Name

Employer

Position title

Address

E-mail address

Home telephone

Work telephone

Degree and granting institution, or date of bar exam that enables you to practice law.

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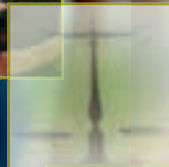
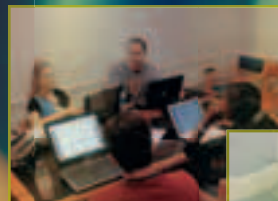
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LAW
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Where Attorneys Meet To Study Health Law

LLM Program on Law and Government offers an LLM concentration in health law and policy



WASHINGTON, DC

THE "UNINSURED"

SKYROCKETING HEALTH CARE COSTS

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE CRISIS

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT

PRIVACY OF PATIENT HEALTH INFORMATION

Health law is now a universe unto itself. We have a unique opportunity at WCL to educate lawyers about laws regulating biotechnology, medical devices, product reimbursement, health industry and provider business transactions, pharmaceuticals, psychiatry, medical malpractice, the health insurance system and other complex dynamics of health care law.

"What could be better than equipping the next generation of lawyers with the specialized legal tools necessary to represent creatively, intelligently, and diligently the vast array of businesses and agencies in our nation's health industry?"

Corrine Parver
Director, Health Law Project and
Adjunct Professor of Law



WCL Program on Law and Government: Health Law Project

With our population continuing to age and health care consuming between 10 to 14 percent of the GDP, America needs lawyers who have the specialized skills necessary to provide expert legal services to the public and the health care industry. American University Washington College of Law's LLM Program on Law and Government now offers a Health Law concentration to lawyers seeking a health law expertise. A nationally-ranked institution with a distinguished faculty, WCL is an ideal place to acquire the mixture of public and private expertise necessary in health law practice today.

Beginning in the Fall of 2005, students, including practitioners, can earn an advanced law degree as they learn to negotiate the intricacies of the American health care system and master its dynamics and complexities. Entering in the Fall or Spring, students will typically complete the LLM program in one year. Attorneys in the health law concentration will share learning experiences with the more than 50 students already enrolled in the five other LLM Program on Law and Government focus areas, including: Administrative Law and Practice, Constitutional and Civil Rights, Regulatory Law and Policy, and Business and Financial Regulation.