

LLM Specializations in Intellectual Property

American University Washington College of Law (WCL) recently added two LLM degrees to its internationally recognized intellectual property curriculum. With over 25 regularly offered intellectual property and information-law courses, one of the nation's first intellectual property legal clinics, numerous externship, study abroad and experiential learning programs, and an active and expanding Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, WCL offers an unparalleled opportunity to pursue the advanced study of intellectual property law.

WCL is located in the nation's capital, a short distance from the halls of Congress, the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court, WCL and thus is literally in the center of U.S. intellectual property policy and law making. WCL has also long been at the center of international law and policy studies, with more than 150 lawyers from over 60 countries pursuing LLM degrees in International Legal Studies every year. The two LLM programs in intellectual property focus on these two unique strengths of the scholarly experience at WCL: one LLM, administered by the Program on Law and Government, focuses on U.S. Intellectual Property Law and Policy; another, administered by the International Legal Studies Program, focuses on International and Comparative Protection of Intellectual Property.

International and Comparative Protection of Intellectual Property

The specialization in international and comparative protection of intellectual property is designed to expose students to the full range of legal and policy problems and conflicts that arise from domestic and international regulation of copyrights, trademarks, and patents. Increasingly, minimum protections in these areas are being established in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, including the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Accordingly, the specialization will involve significant exposure to international trade law, as well as the legal history and comparative analysis of domestic intellectual property regimes.

Thematic topics include:

- relations between international intellectual property and trade regimes;
- economic and social impacts of converting culture and information into private property;
- rights of indigenous communities to access and benefit from traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions;
- impacts of intellectual property protection regimes on economic development;
- conflicts and balances between intellectual property protection and human and civil rights.



For more information, contact:

Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property
www.pijip.org

International Legal Studies Program
www.wcl.american.edu/ilsp

Program on Law and Government
www.wcl.american.edu/llmlawandgov

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In order to qualify for the specialization, a student must complete 16 credits hours from approved course offerings and complete a research paper of publishable quality on the subject of their specialization. A list of pre-approved course offerings can be found at www.pijip.org. In addition, students may petition the Director of ILSP to obtain credit for a course in an IP-related subject area that is not on the list of pre-approved courses. The research paper may be completed through an approved course, independent study or through another course that permits an IP-focused paper.

Intellectual Property Law and Policy

The specialization in intellectual property law and policy, administered by the Program on Law and Government, is designed to train students in advanced study of the regulation of intellectual property and information dissemination in the U.S. The specialization focuses on the study of how the law deals with information as a commodity.

Course work examines:

- balancing incentives for creativity and innovation with access to cultural and essential public goods;
- fundamental policy conflicts animating intellectual property jurisprudence;
- impacts of globalization of intellectual property norms on human rights, sovereignty and economic development;
- intellectual property formation in the different branches of government;
- concepts of the public interest in intellectual property law.

In order to qualify for the specialization in intellectual Property, a student must complete 12 credits hours from approved course offerings. A list of approved course offerings can be found at www.pijip.org. In addition, students may petition to obtain credit for a course in an IP-related subject area that is not on the list of pre-approved courses.

The Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property

Each of Washington College of Law's LLM specializations in intellectual property is supported by the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP). PIJIP promotes public interest approaches to intellectual property law through research, scholarship, public events, advocacy, and provision of legal and consulting services. PIJIP includes WCL's internationally recognized intellectual property, communications, and information-law faculty; operates a pioneering intellectual property legal clinic; sponsors numerous events, conferences, and symposia; and conducts research on cutting edge legal issues that help shape the way people access information, goods and services. LLM students are invited to participate in PIJIP research projects and events and often take a lead role in their planning and execution.

PIJIP Faculty and Staff

Associate Director

Sean Flynn

Faculty

Christine Haight Farley , Co-Director

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