

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AT WCL

American University Washington College of Law (WCL) offers an unparalleled opportunity to pursue the advanced study of intellectual property law. The law school offers a full range of intellectual property and information law courses, one of the nation's first intellectual property legal clinics, numerous events and projects organized by its path-breaking Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, and a location in Washington D.C.—the center of U.S. and international intellectual property law and policy making.

Intellectual Property Curriculum

Although J.D. students do not formally concentrate in a field of study, the curriculum at WCL is designed to enable J.D. students to develop a broad and deep expertise in IP and information law subjects. In addition to an extensive and expanding course list (see below), WCL is one of the only law schools in the nation to permit first year law school students to take Introduction to Intellectual Property, thus enabling concentrated study in advanced IP topics during the latter two years of the program.

Glushko-Samuelsan Intellectual Property Law Clinic

WCL houses one of the first intellectual property law clinics in the nation, the Glushko-Samuelsan Intellectual Property Law Clinic. Students in the year-long clinic represent a wide range of IP clients who would not otherwise be able to afford high-quality representation, including creative artists, non-profit organizations, small inventors and entrepreneurs, scholars, and traditional communities. Students provide clients legal advice and represent them in a variety of forums, including U.S. and international agencies (e.g. Copyright Office, Patent and Trademark Office, World Intellectual Property Organization), as amicus curiae in federal appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and in legislative advocacy before the U.S. Congress.

Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP)

WCL's IP program is unique in its efforts to infuse IP and information law analysis and practice with a commitment to promoting social justice. This commitment arises from a recognition that IP protections do more than create incentives to create and innovate, they structure the distribution of essential cultural and scientific resources in ways that can have direct and unjust social, class and global impacts. Through research, scholarship, public events, advocacy, and provision of legal and consulting services, the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP) promotes approaches to domestic and international IP and information laws that further the achievement of human rights and social justice. WCL students participate in PIJIP activities in numerous ways, including as research assistants, event planners and project coordinators.



Intellectual Property and Related Courses

Introduction to Intellectual Property, Law & Policy (first-year course)
Intellectual Property, Law & Policy
Copyright
Trademark Law
Patent Law
International and Comparative Copyright
International and Comparative Trademark Law
International and Comparative Patent Law
Advanced Copyright Law and Policy
Patent Prosecution
Glushko-Samuelsan Intellectual Property Clinic
Advanced IP: Human Rights and Development
Intellectual Property Management
International Contracts & the Transfer of IP Rights
IP Protection and Enforcement
Intellectual Property Management
Patent Acquisition and Exploitation
Law and the Visual Arts
Entertainment Law
Law of Professional Sports
Law in the Information Society
Law and Cyberspace
Media Law
First Amendment
E-Commerce Law and Drafting
Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection
Biotechnology and the Law
Computer Crime
Law of Information Privacy
Communications Law
Telecommunications Law & Regulation
Antitrust Law
International Trade Law
International Business Transactions
Legal Issues in International Business
International Telecommunications

PIJIP Project Areas

- Access to Medicines
- Fair Use and Public Media
- IP/Gender
- IP Policy and Law Reform
- Trade, Human Rights and Development
- Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions

Externship Opportunities

Among the many advantages of studying law in Washington, D.C., is the opportunity to integrate practical experience with the theory of the classroom. WCL's Supervised Externship Program provides academic credit for unpaid legal work for at least 140 hours over the course of a semester. WCL externs have worked in a wide variety of IP-focused organizations, including with the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, legislative committees of Congress, and non-profit organizations and associations that advocate for the interests of IP owners or the consumers of IP-protected products.

Career opportunities

WCL alumni occupy high level positions in leading IP law firms, non-governmental organizations and in government offices throughout the nation. Given WCL's location, alumni have a particularly strong presence in Washington D.C., where some of the nation's largest and most prestigious IP institutions are based. Example of Alumni in IP professions include:

- Administrative Law Judges and Patent Examiners at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Offices
- officials and lawyers in NASA, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Energy and other federal agencies

- IP and media law partners in the nation's largest law firms and in the leading IP specialty firms
- counsel and executives in leading technology companies, including General Electric, Siemens Corporation and IBM
- officers and counsel in U.S. and international public policy advocacy organizations and industry associations
- founders and top executives of start-up technology companies
- executives and counsel in the largest media companies in the world, including Associated Press, Warner Brothers and Time Warner
- IP counsel for numerous fortune 500 companies

IP Related Student Organizations

Intellectual Property Law Society
Health Law and Justice Initiative
International Trade Law Society
Law & Government Society
Sports & Entertainment Law Society

For more information, contact: Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property

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