

The City University of New York
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW
Law in the Service of Human Needs

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Flushing, NY 11367



FACT SHEET 2009-2010

School Founded: 1983; this school year marks our 25th anniversary.

School Philosophy: Dual mission of preparing students to become excellent public-interest lawyers and providing access to the legal profession for members of traditionally underrepresented communities. CUNY Law's mission is to graduate highly skilled attorneys who will practice "Law in the Service of Human Needs." CUNY Law offers a full-time, day J.D. program.

Innovative Programs of Note:

- [Nationally ranked Clinical Program](#) (including clinics for battered women, immigrants and refugees, the elderly, and international women's rights) requires third-year students to practice law under faculty supervision at one of the largest law firms in Queens: Main Street Legal Services, Inc.
- [Community Legal Resource Network](#) 300 alumni attorneys in solo- or small-firm practice who connect to share ideas, refer clients to one another, and network via list-servs, forums and e-mail.
- [The New York City Law Review](#) is our student-run scholarly journal.
- [Writing Center](#) that offers workshops and tutoring with three highly-qualified Fellows, each of whom is a Ph.D. candidate. Center is supervised by a skilled practicing attorney and award-winning writer.
- [Pipeline to Justice Program](#) enhances access to the profession and admission to law school for students from groups under-represented in and under-served by the profession.
- [Center for Diversity in the Profession](#), the only such program in the nation, seeks to expand the quality and quantity of minorities joining the legal profession.
- [Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality](#), the only such program in the nation.
- [Immigrant Initiatives Program](#) allows students to work directly with newly arrived immigrants and enhance their lawyering skills .
- **The best of a traditional law school curricula**, plus an emphasis on lawyering skills, habits, and values, as well as required courses that hit the core of public interest/public service practice in the 21st century: Liberty, Equality, and Due Process; Law and Family Relations; and Public Institutions.

Student-Faculty Ratio: 10:1

Total Number of Students: 406 (1st Year: 165, 2nd Year: 115, 3rd Year: 126)

Average age, 1st-year students: 26

First-year students of color: 37%

New York State Bar passage rate: 83%

Tuition (per semester)

In State: \$5,120; Fees, 856; Total, \$5,306

Out-of-State: \$7,400; Fees, 856; Total, \$9,366

Faculty diversity: 37% of tenured and tenure-track faculty of color

Graduates (2008) who take positions in public interest/public service: 70% (highest in the nation)

Financial Aid: Need-based and merit-based aid available (Dean's Scholars program, Graduate Fellows program, 20th Anniversary scholarship program).

National Recognition and School Firsts:

- **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg** of the U.S. Supreme Court has called CUNY Law "an institution of incomparable value" for its "tireless advancement of public interest law."
- **2007 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Study on Educating Lawyers** cited CUNY School of Law as one of the few law schools that successfully integrates practical, clinical lawyering skills with doctrine and ethical concerns.
- **2008 U.S. News & World Report** ranks CUNY Law as 4th in the nation for its "clinical training." Ranks school in the top 15 most diverse law schools in the nation.
- **The Princeton Review 2009** cites CUNY Law as the most welcoming in the country for older students, and 4th most diverse law faculty in the nation.
- **ABA Official Guide to Law Schools** (2008) ranks CUNY Law as the most diverse law school in New York State.
- **2006 Law School Survey of Student Engagement** noted that CUNY Law students reported significantly higher rates of collaborative work and inclusion of diverse perspectives in class discussions and assignments.

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Faculty Director of Clinical Programs at Harvard Law School has praised CUNY Law: "With all due respect to my legal institution and others, in my view CUNY Law School is the premier legal institution in the country and the world for training lawyers who are committed and dedicated to the public interest."