

Fall 2013

JD Prospectus, 2013-2014

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ggulaw

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
2013-2014



GGU Law has a long tradition of opening the practice of law, contributing to a justice system that includes lawyers with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

At GGU Law, you will learn to integrate traditional legal knowledge, skills and values with wisdom, resilience, entrepreneurialism, compassion, and a deep sense of justice.

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean





Practice Based

GGU Law's goal is to prepare its students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and leaders with the flexibility to respond to changes in the legal profession. To that end, practical skills training is fully integrated with legal theory throughout the curriculum.

The academic experience is enhanced through unique programs and the contributions of noted scholars and practitioners. We pride ourselves on our rich tradition of substantive engagement with the legal community and the public at large. Our mission is to produce graduates with the skill, judgment, and moral compass to become exceptional lawyers and socially responsible members of the global community.



Perfect Location

GGU Law reflects the diversity, openness, and progressive values of San Francisco itself. The school's central location in the cultural and entrepreneurial heart of the city offers students unmatched access to major law firms, grassroots advocacy organizations, state and federal courthouses, and government agencies.



GGU's location in downtown San Francisco is perfect. Last semester I worked part-time at a law office a few blocks away from campus. When I'm not studying, I can surf on the western edge of the city at Ocean Beach.

Garrett Wheeler (JD 13)
Post-Bar Intern
State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Enforcement



Theory Meets Practice

GGU Law's innovative curriculum integrates practical skills training and professional development, preparing students to become savvy and socially responsible practitioners. Faculty members, generous with their time and talent, are adept at using the newest classroom technology and web-based teaching tools.

Our programs produce lawyers who possess a keen sense of professional identity developed through hands-on experience and client-centered interactions. GGU Law graduates enter the workforce well prepared for a rapidly changing legal marketplace.

Jared Cohen (JD 11)

College: San Diego State University

Activities and Internships:

Intern, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ronald Albers and Commissioner Marjorie Slabach, San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee

A photograph of Jared Cohen, a young man with dark hair, a beard, and glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling and holding the handlebar of a bicycle. The background is a brick wall.

GGU Law's supportive faculty and alumni helped boost my confidence as I contemplated starting my own practice. I am indebted to them and look forward to doing the same for others.



First Year Electives

Designed to introduce first-year students to the basics of legal practice through simulations and real-world problems, first year electives give students the opportunity to select one of more than a dozen courses that match their interests. Recent offerings include Ethics in Criminal Law, Supreme Court Litigation, Asylum Law, and White Collar Crime in Practice.

Practice Intensive Courses (PIC)

Practice Intensive Courses infuse substantive law with multiple opportunities for students to cultivate professional skills and values. Through PIC, students utilize various learning and assessment tools, including written assignments and practical simulations, and receive regular written feedback from professors.



Field Placements and Externships

All students must complete an experiential learning requirement prior to graduation. GGU Law's robust field placement and externship program offers plenty of opportunities for students to satisfy this requirement through our on-site clinics, simulation courses, or positions in law firms and advocacy organizations across the Bay Area.

Specialization Certificates

Business Law

Criminal Law

Environmental Law

Family Law

International Law

Intellectual Property Law

Labor and Employment Law

Litigation

Public Interest Law

Real Estate Law

Tax Law

Youth Law

Graduate Law and Joint Degree Programs

GGU Law's LLM Programs are ranked among the top three in California. The LLM in Taxation is ranked ninth nationally among corporate leaders in tax. GGU Law offers LLM degrees in Environmental Law, Intellectual Property Law, Taxation, and U.S. Legal Studies. We offer both an LLM and an SJD (Doctor of Juridical Science) in International Legal Studies.

Joint degree programs include the JD/LLM in Taxation and the JD/MBA offered in partnership with Golden Gate University's Ageno School of Business.



Litigation

GGU Law is known for its outstanding litigation program, which has launched the careers of some of the most talented and respected trial attorneys in California. Many litigation courses are interactive, allowing students to practice litigation skills such as interviewing clients, arguing motions, conducting witness examinations, and delivering opening and closing arguments.

GGU Law students participate in regional and national moot court and mock trial competitions, receiving rigorous training by expert faculty and well-known litigators in the area. Students can also participate in several internal competitions, some as early as the first semester of law school.

Recent Victories

- >> First Place, The Roger J. Traynor Appellate Moot Court Competition
- >> California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, Best Brief Award
- >> Bernard E. Witkin Award for Best Overall Appellate Advocacy
- >> ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Best Brief Award
- >> ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, Best Direct Award

First Summer Trial and Evidence Program (1st STEP)

Litigation comes to life in this immersive, eight-week summer program for select students who have completed their first year of law school. Specialized coursework and interactive exercises are designed to advance students' litigation and advocacy skills. 1st STEP classes include Evidence, Trial Advocacy, and a unique course called Evidence in the Courtroom. 1st STEP students gain a keen appreciation for effective client representation and successful courtroom advocacy.



I had a great experience in 1st STEP with Professor Wes Porter. As a former JAG attorney, he pushes his students to work in a very regimented way.

Sarah Yohay Equinto (JD 14)

College: Claremont McKenna College

Activities and Internships: Student Bar Association Secretary, Veterans Law Student Association President, GGU Law Representative to the Northern California Law Students Veterans Coalition, US Army Reserves, Army JAG Corps Summer Intern

I am so grateful to GGU Law for providing me with the tools to launch my legal career. I've been a prosecutor for over three decades and the first woman to serve as District Attorney for Alameda County, a position once held by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren.

*Nancy O'Malley (JD 83, LLD 12)
Alameda County District Attorney*





Honors Lawyering Program

Each year, a select group of highly qualified students takes part in the Honors Lawyering Program (HLP), which combines seminar-style courses, client interaction, and practical work experience through an intensive summer session followed by a semester-long fall apprenticeship. By the midpoint of their time in law school, HLP students have achieved an unusually high level of knowledge and expertise, a result of the program's innovative approach to experiential learning.

Applicants to the full-time JD program may be considered for HLP as part of the admissions process. Students may also apply after their first semester of study.

I worked as an adviser to international students for many years before applying to law school. By my third year I had already represented a client in a housing dispute, externed for a Federal Magistrate Judge and the San Francisco Immigration Court, and served as a law clerk at an immigration non-profit. HLP's unique schedule allowed me to take advantage of these opportunities to launch my career in immigration law.

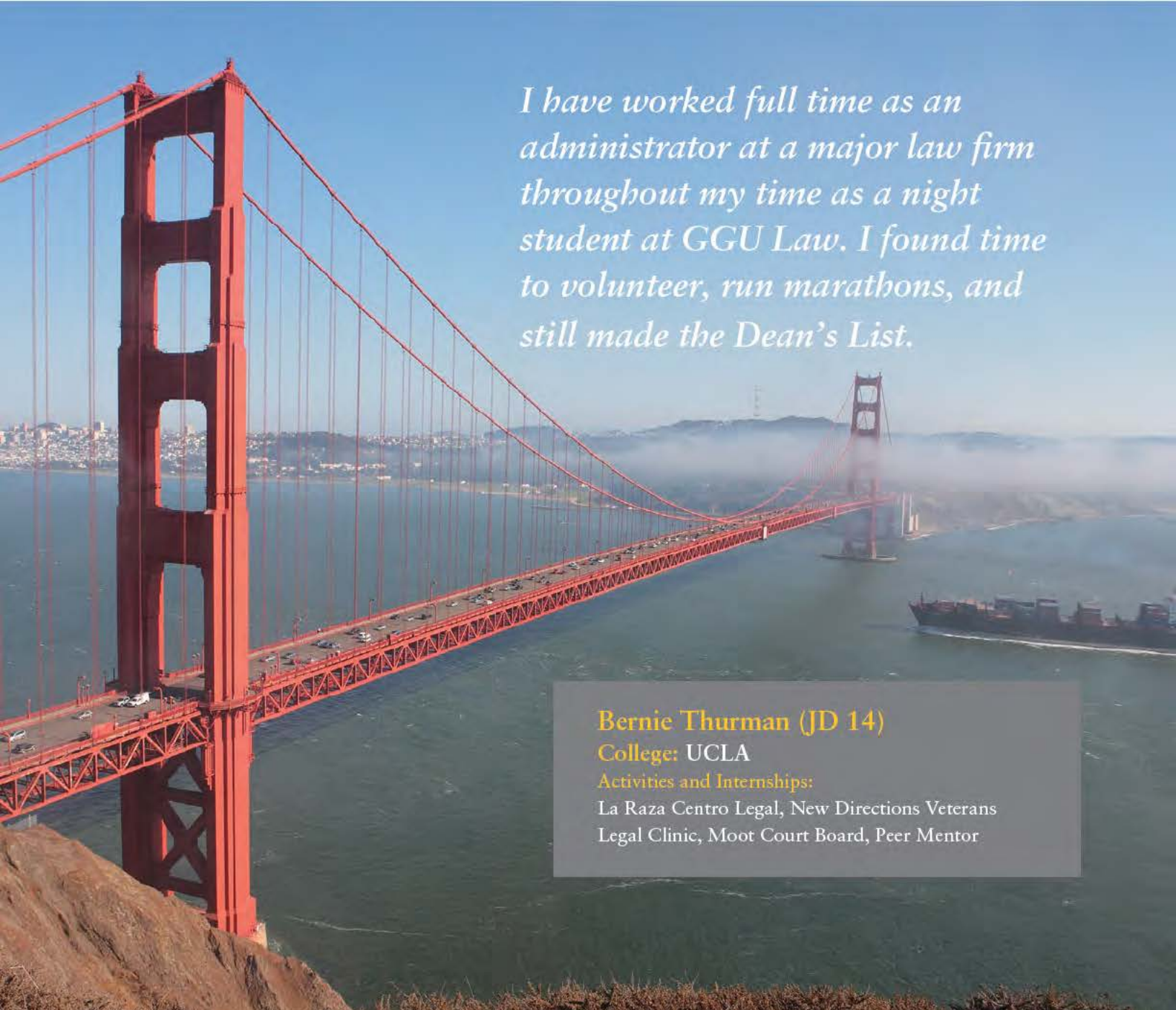
Ellen Jenkins (JD 10)

Asylum Officer

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Past HLP Employers

- >> ACLU
- >> California Supreme Court
- >> Electronic Frontier Foundation
- >> eBay
- >> Gordon & Rees LLP
- >> Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
- >> San Francisco District Attorney's Office
- >> Sierra Club
- >> U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- >> Yahoo!
- >> U.S. Department of Labor

A wide-angle photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. The bridge's iconic orange-red towers and suspension cables are prominent against a clear blue sky. The bridge spans across the water, with a large cargo ship visible in the distance. The city of San Francisco is visible in the background, partially obscured by a light mist or fog. The foreground shows the rocky terrain of the bridge's base.

I have worked full time as an administrator at a major law firm throughout my time as a night student at GGU Law. I found time to volunteer, run marathons, and still made the Dean's List.

Bernie Thurman (JD 14)

College: UCLA

Activities and Internships:

La Raza Centro Legal, New Directions Veterans Legal Clinic, Moot Court Board, Peer Mentor



Part-Time Evening Program

The four-year, part-time evening program provides flexibility for students who work during the day, care for family members, or wish to lower their annual cost of tuition. Courses are taught by full-time faculty and the schedule is tailored to meet the unique needs of parents and working professionals.

A photograph of a redwood forest. The image shows a dirt path winding through a dense forest of tall, thick redwood trees. The trees have deeply textured, reddish-brown bark. Sunlight filters through the green canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the path and the forest floor. In the foreground, there are lush green ferns and other undergrowth. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, and we are honored to be the recipient of the 2013 Environment, Energy, and Resources Dedication to Diversity and Justice Award from the American Bar Association. This award recognizes the Clinic as well as the power of our clients and law students—people who work diligently to better their communities.

Helen Kang, Professor and Director of the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic



Environmental Law

GGU Law's nationally recognized Environmental Law Program offers students unparalleled opportunities to immerse themselves in this rapidly evolving practice area. Courses are focused on law and policy issues related to climate change, renewable energy, land use, and water rights. Many faculty members and students are active in environmental justice and protection efforts.

Environmental Law Journal

The GGU Environmental Law Journal, published twice in the academic year, addresses environmental issues relevant to Pacific Rim countries and provides an overview of GGU Law's Annual Environmental Law Symposium.

Environmental Law Society

GGU Law's active Environmental Law Society sponsors lectures and panels, sales of eco-friendly products, beach cleanups, and other student-led initiatives throughout the year.

Center for Urban Environmental Law (CUEL)

CUEL focuses on policy and regulatory strategies to improve urban environmental conditions. The center also develops law school curricula to ensure the next generation of lawyers is well versed in the implications of environmental law on air and water quality and the impact of climate change in urban settings.

Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC)

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014, the mission of ELJC is to improve the environmental conditions for communities of color and low-income residents of the San Francisco Bay Area. Faculty and staff attorneys collaborate with student clinicians who are trained to interview and counsel clients, develop effective legal strategies, and negotiate with opposing parties.

Environmental Law Scholars Program (ELSP)

Qualified entering students are chosen as Environmental Law Scholars, a distinction which includes a \$5,000 annual scholarship, faculty mentoring, and specialized career counseling.





Public Interest

GGU Law is consistently recognized as one of the best public interest law schools in the United States. Our extensive public interest program is supported by faculty whose work reflects the progressive values of the larger San Francisco community.



Clinical Training

Through GGU Law’s award-winning Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, Women’s Employment Rights Clinic, Pro Bono Tax Clinic, and numerous off-site externships, students gain direct experience assisting clients with their legal claims. Students advocate for individuals who are struggling to access veterans and other public benefits. Student clinicians also partner with community groups to combat environmental pollution.

Scholarships and Salary Assistance

The Public Interest Scholars Program grants \$5,000 annual scholarships to select entering students with extensive public service experience. In addition, GGU Law pays the employer’s portion of a work-study award for students working for public interest organizations and government agencies during the summer.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

LRAP offers assistance to graduates employed in low-paying public interest jobs, helping them meet their financial obligations as they pursue careers serving the public good.

Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF)

PILF is an active student-led group that hosts a raucous and popular annual fundraising auction to benefit those working in public interest internships during the summer. Over the years, the auction has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, enabling students to accept unpaid legal positions at advocacy organizations and legal aid offices.

Commitment to Public Service

The Law Student Pro Bono Project connects students with short-term and long-term volunteer projects around the Bay Area. As volunteers, students staff client intake clinics, engage in legislative advocacy and policy work, and represent low-income families in a variety of substantive legal areas. GGU Law students also participate in our Pro Bono Tax Clinic and offer their time and expertise to an array of community organizations including the La Raza Centro Legal Workers’ Rights Clinic, the Student Hurricane Network, the Princess Project, and the San Francisco Food Bank.

My two-year fellowship project is aimed at improving access to health-care under the Affordable Care Act for Burmese and Bhutanese refugees in the Bay Area. My work experience during law school has prepared me to be successful.

Marina Pantchenko (JD 13)

Post-Graduate Fellow

Equal Justice Works

College: UC Santa Cruz

Activities and Internships:

Honors Lawyering Program, Extern for Judge Edward Chen, US District Court, Bay Area Legal Aid, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Immigration Litigation





Taxation

GGU Law's tax law curriculum is known for its breadth and depth, and is frequently recognized among the top programs in the western United States. Students benefit from close ties to GGU's highly regarded Braden School of Taxation. Upper-year students can obtain an accelerated LLM in taxation in addition to a JD, taking classes along with seasoned tax practitioners seeking to enhance their professional credentials.

Certificate of Specialization in Taxation Law

Studying under experienced faculty, students gain a solid foundation in the basics of federal, state, and local taxation as well as real estate, partnership, corporate, and international tax law. Students may choose to branch out into areas of particular interest, including business taxation, estate planning, and employee benefits.

Students must complete a set number of core courses and electives. Tax-related programs and job fairs are hosted throughout the year by the Young Tax Lawyers Association. Many students join the CAPITAL Group (Corporate Asset-Management Property Investment and Tax Association), an active student organization known for bringing high-profile guest speakers to campus.

Pro Bono Tax Clinic

Through the Pro Bono Tax Clinic, law students assist Californians of limited means with appeals filed with the California Board of Equalization. Students analyze issues presented on appeal, conduct research, and prepare legal briefs. The clinic's emphasis on intensive client counseling means that students provide invaluable service to low-income individuals. All students work under the direct supervision of an attorney from the Board of Equalization.

I am honored to lead a widely acclaimed program that offers such a variety of classes and experiential training in taxation and trusts & estates. Our professors enjoy statewide and national recognition. They are excellent teachers who provide students with the ability and confidence to be immediate assets to employers or to develop their own practices.

Hon. Marshall Whitley (Ret.)
Professor and Director of the LLM Tax Program





Your Success, Our Support

GGU Law supports students' personal and professional success through a comprehensive array of services. Peer mentoring, faculty coaching, student organizations, wellness services, and career counseling all provide the tools for success in law school and in practice.

Faculty Coaching

All first-year students are paired with Faculty Coaches who serve as trusted advisors outside the classroom. Through frequent small group meetings and other activities, Faculty Coaches offer guidance to students as they navigate the first year of law school, develop their professional identity and interests, and build relationships in the legal community.

Peer Mentors

Upper-year Peer Mentors are assigned to all new students during orientation to help them acclimate to law school. Serving as ambassadors for the law school and friendly faces on campus, Peer Mentors alleviate common concerns and fears, help students balance the many competing demands of the first year, and offer advice on everything from where to eat lunch to how to form a study group.

Academic Development

Our Academic Development Program offers supplemental services, including advising, individual counseling, and specialized workshops to help students enhance their academic performance. Workshops, held throughout the first semester, are aimed at teaching students to succeed in their classes and adapt to the rhythms and demands of the 1L curriculum.

Bar Exam Services

GGU Law takes success on the bar exam very seriously, preparing students to master the substantive material and become confident test takers well in advance of their final semester. Students can access an array of services prior to taking the bar exam, including targeted workshops, review sessions, and special classes.

Student Activities

GGU Law offers countless ways—some formal, some just fun—for students to unwind.

- >> Veterans Law Conference
- >> Barristers Ball
- >> Basketball Tournament
- >> PB&J Extravaganza
- >> Faculty/Student Dinner
- >> JLSA Bagel Brunches
- >> Environmental Law Society Coastal Cleanup
- >> Law & Literature Club
- >> SBA Ex Parte
- >> Softball Soiree
- >> Family-Friendly Outings
- >> Law Students Bowling Night
- >> Mindful Lawyering Group Meetings
- >> QLSA Ice Cream Social
- >> SBA Welcome Back BBQ
- >> GGU Law Running Club
- >> Annual APALSA Banquet
- >> CONNECT Pre-Orientation





Law Career Services

Through innovative programs and personalized attention, the Law Career Services (LCS) counselors work closely with students to meet the demands of today's legal marketplace. LCS counselors are former attorneys who remain connected to their professional networks.

LCS counselors work with the law school's externship program and faculty to help students locate meaningful work experiences in a variety of settings. Our Summer Recruitment Program links legal employers from around the country with our students, facilitating the application process for summer and post-graduate positions.

LCS Online, the LCS website, features job postings, an employer directory, and a calendar of networking events customized for GGU Law students and alumni. The LCS Blog and YouTube channel provide up-to-the-minute information on legal hiring trends, job searches, and essential career advice. Complete post-graduate employment statistics can be found on our website at law.ggu.edu/career-services.

Recent Summer Recruitment Participating Employers

- >> DLA Piper LLP
- >> Family Violence Law Center
- >> Hanson Bridgett LLP
- >> Legal Aid Of Marin
- >> Littler Mendelson PC
- >> Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
- >> Natural Resources Defense Council
- >> Oakland Raiders
- >> Office of Chief Counsel, IRS
- >> Perkins Coie LLP
- >> Reed Smith LLP
- >> Remy Moose Manly LLP
- >> Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office
- >> San Francisco District Attorney's Office
- >> San Francisco Public Defender's Office
- >> Sedgwick LLP
- >> Squire Sanders
- >> US Air Force JAG
- >> US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration

I took a whole semester away from school to work full time at an international non-profit. At Asylum Access in Quito, Ecuador, I practiced asylum law in Spanish before the Ecuadorean government. The experience was unforgettable.

Otis Landerholm (JD 10)
Landerholm Law Office



I came to law school determined to put myself in the best possible position to get a job in a corporate law firm. Law Career Services helped me every step of the way. It felt like they were just as invested in my success as I was.

Jamil McClintock (JD 13)

Associate, DLA Piper LLP

College: Brown University

Activities and Internships:

Gap Inc. Intern, DLA Piper Summer

Associate, Black Law Students

Association President



GGU Law's Alumni Community

While alumni live and work across the United States and internationally, GGU Law is particularly proud of our extraordinary local alumni network. Bay Area courts, firms, corporations, and public interest organizations are filled with GGU Law alumni. Many return to campus as adjunct faculty or as guest speakers, eager to assist students with their professional pursuits.

Government Agencies and Public Interest Organizations

Joan Blades (JD 80), Co-founder, MoveOn.org

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs (JD 10), Attorney, Lawyers for Clean Water

Peter Fowler (JD 84), Senior Counsel, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Karen L. Hawkins (JD 79), Director, IRS Office of Professional Responsibility

Bill Hirsh (JD 86), Executive Director, AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Jan M. Lecklikner (JD 78), Deputy Public Defender, San Francisco

Nancy O'Malley (JD 83), District Attorney, Alameda County

Matthew Wood (JD 07), Staff Attorney, Transgender Law Center

Micah Wyatt (JD 09), Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division

On the Bench

Hon. Morgan Christen (JD 86), U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Hon. Gail Dekreon (JD 81), San Francisco Superior Court

Hon. Matthew Guasco (JD 84), Ventura County Superior Court

Hon. Tamara Hall (JD 97), Los Angeles County Superior Court

Hon. Alan Jaroslovsky (JD 77), U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California

Hon. Carol A. King (JD 84), U.S. Immigration Court of the Executive Office for Immigration Review

Hon. Elia Ortiz (JD 99), Napa County Superior Court

Hon. Philip M. Pro (JD 72), U.S. District Court, District of Nevada

Hon. Sandra M. Snyder (JD 76), U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

Hon. Carol Yaggy (JD 79), San Francisco Superior Court

Business and Private Practice

Romy L. Celli (JD 97), Partner, Alston + Bird LLP

Charles R. Conradi (JD 78), Treasurer and Vice President—Tax, The Clorox Company

Rod M. Fliegel (JD 93), Shareholder, Littler Mendelson PC

Julia Harris (JD 10), Director, Business & Legal Affairs, Paramount Pictures

Dawn M. Knepper (JD 00), Shareholder, Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC

Joseph A. Meckes (JD 97), Partner, Squire Sanders

Ronald W. Miele (JD 84), Executive Vice President—
Business Affairs, Operations & General Counsel, Warner Bros. International Television

Richard B. Nettler (JD 77), Partner, Arent Fox LLP

Daniel B. Pickard (JD 95), Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

Richard Rosenberg (JD 66), Former Chairman and CEO, Bank of America

Petra Tang (JD 96), Partner, Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP

Elise R. Vasquez (JD 98), Partner, Ropers Majeski Kohn Bentley PC

Michael R. Ward (JD 96), Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP

Jackie H. Xu (JD 96), General Counsel, Conviva





Admissions and Financial Aid

Admissions

GGU Law strives to admit a diverse group of students who are seeking a rigorous legal education focused on practical, hands-on training. The Admissions Committee uses objective indicators such as LSAT scores and undergraduate transcripts to determine an applicant's readiness to meet the challenges of legal study. Personal statements, resumes and letters of recommendation further develop the committee's understanding of each applicant's potential for success.

Financial Aid

GGU Law awards Dean's and Faculty merit scholarships in varying amounts to qualified entering students. All applicants are automatically considered for these awards. Graduates of California's UC and CSU systems are also considered for California Scholarships, which honor GGU Law's longstanding relationship with California's public universities. In addition, special scholarships are granted to students whose applications show a strong commitment to public service or environmental law.

A variety of federal and private loan programs may be available to entering students. Our experienced Financial Aid staff works with new students to demystify the financial aid process and help them make wise borrowing choices. Applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1 to be evaluated for loan eligibility.

GGU Law proudly participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Eligible students may have the entire cost of tuition met by a combination of scholarships and Yellow Ribbon Program funding.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed, signed application form
- Application fee of \$60 or fee waiver request (after April 1)
- Personal statement (two pages, double-spaced)
- Resume
- Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Report from LSAC that includes a valid LSAT score, a minimum of two letters of recommendation (maximum of four), and copies of all post-secondary transcripts



Transfer and Visiting Students

Students seeking to enroll as visiting or transfer students must be currently enrolled at an ABA-accredited law school, in good academic standing, and have completed the first year of study. The application must include a current law school transcript, a letter of reference from a law professor, and a letter from the Dean or Registrar at the applicant's current institution. For more information about applying as a transfer or visiting student, visit our website or contact the Office of Admissions.

International Students

Students who have completed their undergraduate studies outside the United States or Canada must have their transcripts evaluated through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service. A computer-based TOEFL score will be required for any student whose course of study was not completed in English. For more information about applying as an international student, visit our website or contact the Office of Admissions.



Diversity: A Core Value

Golden Gate University School of Law is committed to preparing its graduates to serve their professional, local, and global communities and to contribute to the overall common good of society. The law school promotes academic excellence, knowledge, values, and skills to achieve this commitment. In selecting students for its JD program, Golden Gate University School of Law considers the intellectual ability and aptitude that will enable its students to achieve personal excellence and contribute to the intellectual and social life of the law school. The law school considers all aspects of an applicant's background, such as work experience, community service, and leadership skills, as well as the overall diversity of the entering class. Diversity is a core value of the law school and a long-standing part of its mission. The law school seeks to admit students of different races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ages, as well as persons with disabilities. Diversity of background, experience, and viewpoint among the law school student body is essential to the full and informed exchange of ideas and adds greatly to the quality of legal education. Further, diversity prepares the law school graduate to better represent a multitude of groups and interests and to serve the common good.

Golden Gate University School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654-7598, 1-800-285-2221 and is a member in good standing of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). Golden Gate University is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The School of Law reserves the right to change regulations, curricula, the course of study, tuition and fees, and any other aspect of the programs described in this JD Prospectus.

Golden Gate University School of Law

Office of Admissions

Phone: 415-442-6630 or 1-800-GGU-4YOU

Fax: 415-442-6631

Email: lawadmit@ggu.edu

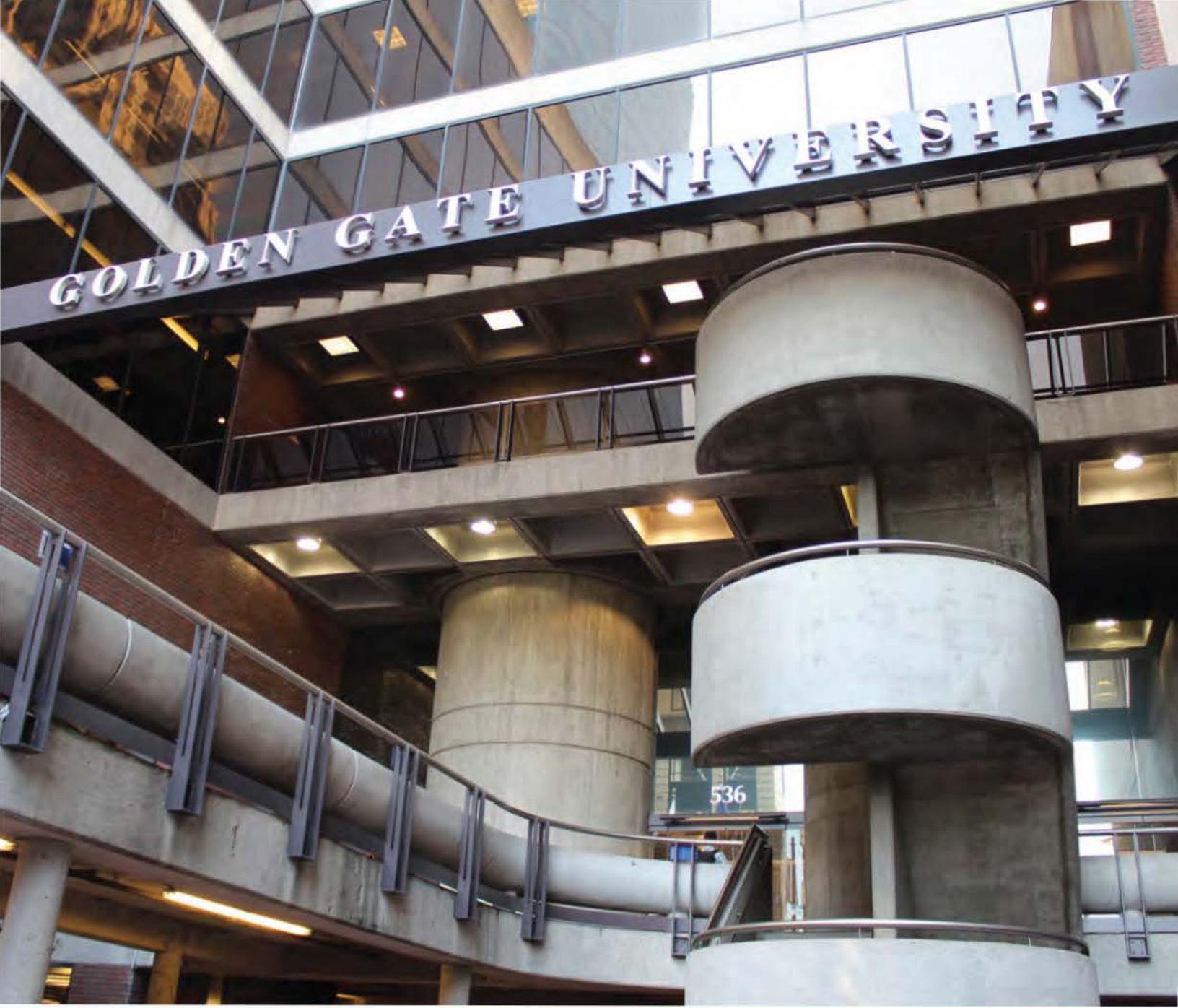
Website: law.ggu.edu

Mail: Office of Admissions

Golden Gate University School of Law

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A Rich Tradition of Purpose and Practice

1901 The YMCA establishes California's first evening law school, which will eventually become GGU Law.

1906 The great San Francisco earthquake and fire level the YMCA building. Undaunted, students continue their studies in tents.

1913 Justice Jesse Carter graduates, later joining the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. He is appointed to the state Supreme Court in 1939.

1928 Margaret Lyons Steffan is one of the first two women to receive a law degree from the newly named Golden Gate College.

1956 The law school is the first exclusively part-time program in the west to receive provisional accreditation by the ABA.

1964 The full-time day program is instituted at the law school.

1973 GGU Law appoints the second woman in the U.S. to be named dean of an ABA-accredited law school.

1979 The addition of GGU Law's robust LLM in Taxation program coincides with the completion of the six-story university building on Mission Street.

1993 The Women's Employment Rights Clinic is established on campus, aiding domestic and immigrant workers facing unfair labor practices.

1994 The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic is inaugurated, improving the quality of life for underserved Bay Area communities.

1998 The Honors Lawyering Program breaks new ground in practical, client-focused training for law students.

2004 GGU Law appoints Frederic White, the first African American dean of an ABA-accredited law school in California.

2010 The Litigation Center and Intellectual Property Law Center are established, enhancing student expertise in courtroom advocacy and scholarship in IP law.

2011 Alumna Morgan Christen, former Alaska Supreme Court Justice, is appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

2012 Rachel Van Cleave is appointed dean, a former Fulbright Scholar and expert on comparative criminal justice, she is the third woman to assume leadership of GGU Law.

