Welcome to the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law!

We hope that this viewbook will give you a glimpse into what makes life at Louisville Law so exciting. From our ties to a thriving metropolitan legal market to our emphasis on hands-on education, we work hard to set you up for success in your career.

Louisville Law has an incredible, dedicated faculty who not only bring a deep commitment to legal scholarship but also generously give their time and energy to their students. Maintaining an open-door policy and open lines of communication, our professors go the extra mile to be accessible and approachable.

Our students are equally impressive, bringing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to our school while infusing it with a palpable enthusiasm and a true sense of collaboration. After graduating, our alumni remain strongly connected to our school and offer support to current students through job opportunities and mentoring relationships.

We encourage you to read on to get a feel for who we are — a strong community of scholars learning and working together — and why we might just be the right fit for you.

Melanie B. Jacobs

MELANIE B. JACOBS
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
Discover Louisville

Looking for a city that’s perfect for young and aspiring professionals? Louisville has something for everybody, and there are always new avenues to explore.

Folks know our city for the Kentucky Derby — and for good reason! — but there’s plenty to do all year round, not just the first Saturday in May. Home to museums, eclectic galleries, performing arts venues and a thriving local music scene, arts lovers of all stripes are right at home in Louisville.

Foodies, too, can find what their hearts (and stomachs) desire, with hundreds of unique, local restaurants that use responsibly sourced ingredients to satisfy a wide range of palates. Those in the mood for liquid refreshment can enjoy the city’s vast array of craft breweries and bourbon distilleries.

Prefer the tranquility of the great outdoors to the vibrancy of the social scene? With its renowned park system, lush botanical gardens and nearby Bernheim Arboretum, Louisville lets you enjoy the perks of city life without losing access to the outstanding natural beauty of the region.

Louisville has sometimes been called a “big small town.” Despite being the largest city in Kentucky, ours is a warm and welcoming community that never feels overwhelming. That extends to the legal community as well. The only law school in the state’s leading legal market, Louisville Law offers its students a broad range of professional opportunities right at their doorstep. Supportive alumni in the city and beyond serve as mentors and networking leads, helping you make your mark in true Cardinal style.
ACADEMICS

The Juris Doctor program requires completion of 90 credit hours, made up of core curriculum and elective courses.

As a first-year student, you will enroll in a set of required core courses. Second- and third-year students must complete certain additional graduation requirements, but you can customize the curriculum with your choice of lectures, seminars, clinics and externships. Upper-level requirements include:

• Professional Responsibility course
• At least 30 hours of public service
• At least 6 credit hours of experiential courses

PART-TIME SCHEDULE

Some students with other obligations might prefer to pursue their legal education at a slower pace. On our part-time schedule, students take a reduced course load and graduate in four or five years instead of the usual three.

Part-time students attend their first-year classes on weekdays during the day. Louisville Law does not offer an evening program. Part-time students may switch to full-time enrollment after successfully completing their first year of study.
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Your success in law school is as important to us as it is to you. That’s why we are proud to offer academic skills workshops, personalized academic counseling, bar exam preparation and much more to support you in your journey through law school.

In tune with our collaborative community, second-year students lead first-year Success Skills Groups designed to help students bring out the best in themselves and each other.

DUAL DEGREES

Louisville Law offers a number of dual degree pathways in partnership with other graduate programs in a variety of disciplines. Dual degree students can earn both degrees in less time than they would take to complete separately.

Available dual degree pathways include:

• Juris Doctor / Master of Arts in Health Care Ethics
• Juris Doctor / Master of Business Administration
• Juris Doctor / Master of Public Administration
• Juris Doctor / Master of Science in Social Work
• Juris Doctor / Master of Urban Planning

“Running a law firm is a business. Having that mindset at the same time we’re working for our clients is invaluable.”

CAMERON RHOADES
COTTONTOWN, TN
JD/MBA DUAL DEGREE
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Louisville Law is proud to offer a robust lineup of clinics and externships to support what you’re learning inside the classroom.

CLINICS

ACKERSON LAW CLINIC

The Robert and Sue Ellen Ackerson Law Clinic offers legal representation to survivors of domestic violence, those who have been subject to eviction and those with associated legal needs. Students act as the primary contact for their clients, with all their work being supervised by the clinic director.

MEDIATION CLINIC

Operating within the Ackerson Law Clinic, the Mediation Clinic is the only free mediation service in Louisville. Participating students complete a rigorous 40-hour state-certified training program, after which they serve as certified mediators for cases referred directly from the Jefferson County courts that involve low-income, pro se litigants dealing with divorce, paternity, child custody and related post-decree issues.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAW CLINIC

The Entrepreneurship Law Clinic provides legal support to the Innovation MBA program at the College of Business. Law students assist their MBA colleagues with articles of organization, operating agreements, opinions of counsel, independent contractor agreements and option agreements for technology. In 2021, the clinic added Name, Image and Likeness to its areas of expertise, to assist UofL students as they encounter legal issues when setting up and marketing personal brands.

EXTERNSHIPS

PUBLIC INTEREST EXTERNSHIPS

Public interest externs work on some of the most pressing social issues of our time by providing legal support to nonprofit organizations. Students learn the basics of client communication, negotiation and advocacy, all while making the world a better place. Students may work directly with marginalized communities, fight for adequate housing, improve access to clean water, combat employment discrimination or challenge harmful legislation.

CRIMINAL LAW EXTERNSHIPS

Students who want an insider’s view of the American criminal justice system can work alongside prosecutors or public defenders, or as part of a team investigating wrongful convictions. Trial-level externs experience the reality of day-to-day criminal practice by arguing real cases to sitting judges, while externs for the Kentucky Innocence Project review files, conduct interviews and draft documents on behalf of incarcerated people. Fast-paced and intense, these placements are for students who are serious about a career in criminal justice and want to be ready to practice when they graduate.

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL EXTERNSHIPS

Lawyers are hard at work behind the scenes in every institution in our society, and an attorney who never sets foot in a courtroom can nonetheless have an enormous impact. Students can work with general counsel to learn how to protect business entities, manage employees, safeguard intellectual property, research international standards and ensure compliance with applicable laws. Each day presents a new set of challenges and a new opportunity for creative solutions.

OTHER EXTERNSHIPS

More externship opportunities are available for students with specific interests. In the past, our students have worked with legislatures, animal law organizations, university litigation teams, wealth advisors, multinational corporations and more. With a sponsoring entity and a willing attorney-supervisor, the possibilities for externships are limitless.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LAW REVIEW

The University of Louisville Law Review is the law school’s premier scholarly publication, devoted to evaluating legal institutions and analyzing issues of law and public policy. It features student “notes” — academic analyses of legal issues or debates — as well as articles written by nationally and globally recognized experts. The Law Review is published three times per year, with students on the Editorial Board maintaining full control over its content.

JOURNAL OF ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Journal of Animal and Environmental Law is a peer-reviewed online publication focused on presenting multidisciplinary perspectives on animal and environmental issues. Founded in 2009, JAEL was the first journal at Louisville Law to publish its content exclusively online and leads the way in using social media and technology to develop scholarship and public awareness of pertinent legal issues.

JOURNAL OF LAW AND EDUCATION

Unlike many other law school publications, the Journal of Law and Education is not just for those in the legal profession. It aims to cover trending topics in education law, including those related to constitutional issues, torts, disability rights and employment law. Education professionals throughout the world turn to JLE for information and analysis.

MOOT COURT

By simulating appellate court proceedings, moot court strengthens students’ oral advocacy and brief-writing skills. Students prepare to argue both sides of a hypothetical legal issue in front of a panel of judges. The judges pose questions to the students to test their ability to respond under pressure and maintain their position in both law and fact.

With dozens of moot court competitions on the docket each year, students try out for moot court teams based on areas of interest.
MOCK TRIAL

Mock trial simulates trial litigation to strengthen students’ oral advocacy and their practical application of the rules of evidence. Students prepare to represent clients on either side of a hypothetical criminal or civil trial: arguing pre-trial motions, delivering opening statements, conducting direct and cross-examinations of witnesses, making and responding to objections and delivering closing arguments.

“It solidified how passionate I am about litigation and trial advocacy. Mock trial made me feel so much more comfortable with the idea of walking into a courtroom after graduation.”

PAIGE EZELL
LEXINGTON, KY
MEMBER OF REGIONAL CHAMPION MOCK TRIAL TEAM
What makes a Louisville Law student? It’s the determination to succeed and the dedication to something greater than themselves. Our student body is a diverse group of well-rounded, unique individuals who need not fit a mold to find their niche. They are eager learners, ready to take on the rigors of the classroom and apply the lessons to their future careers.

Of course, our students aren’t just here to attend class. They’re here to truly invest themselves in the law school community and make a real impact during their time here. For some, that’s as simple as being a supportive colleague, but those who want to hone important, transferable leadership skills can do so through student organizations and governance.

Along the path to graduation, the Office of Student Affairs and Diversity is here to support students’ personal development and well-being. After all, the heart of the law school is the students themselves.
Students have so many ideas and strong feelings, and in my role, I am immersed in the experiences of the whole student body. The team of us that were elected as the Student Bar Association leadership are five very different people, involved in different groups and from wildly different backgrounds. My hope is that all students can come to us about any concerns, no matter how big or small they may be.

NIA JOLLY
WASHINGTON, DC

PRESIDENT, STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
SENATOR, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
MEMBER, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LAW REVIEW
The faculty at Louisville Law are esteemed authorities in their fields. They represent a variety of perspectives and expertise but are uniform in their dedication to student success and to furthering legal scholarship.

ENID TRUCIOS-HAYNES

IMMIGRATION LAW

A nationally recognized scholar in immigration law, Professor Enid Trucios-Haynes’ research and scholarship focus on immigration law, constitutional law and the intersection of race and the law, with a particular emphasis on issues affecting the Latinx community. Professor Trucios-Haynes is a regular speaker on immigration issues and is active in local immigrant rights organizations. She directs the Immigration Externship and oversees a public service placement in which teams of volunteers visit the Boone County Jail, where detainees are held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.

COURSES TAUGHT

Constitutional Law I & II
Immigration Law
International Law
Race and the Law
Professor Ariana Levinson’s scholarly pursuits center on labor and employment law. In 2019, she was awarded the University Distinguished Teaching Award in Recognition of Exemplary Teaching. Professor Levinson is a fellow at the Rutgers Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing and the Principal Investigator of a transdisciplinary research team studying cooperative economics. She is co-author of the hornbook *Principles of Arbitration Law* and has written several articles on workplace technology and privacy. Professor Levinson serves as the faculty advisor for both the mock arbitration team and the Wagner moot court team.

**COURSES TAUGHT**
- Arbitration Practice and Procedure
- Employment Law
- Evidence
- Labor Law

Professor Lisa Nicholson’s teaching and research interests concentrate on issues related to corporate law and securities regulation, including the accountability of corporate actors for corporate wrongdoing and the professional responsibility of lawyers in such settings. Professor Nicholson regularly arranges for in-class guest speakers, field trips and even a mergers-and-acquisitions themed scavenger hunt in order to foster deeper learning and understanding through practical experiences. Past field trips have included meetings with legal counsel and C-suite representatives at Yum! Brands and Brown-Forman, both headquartered in Louisville.

**COURSES TAUGHT**
- Business Organizations
- European Union Law
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Securities Regulation

Professor Tony Arnold’s highly interdisciplinary research at the intersection of land use, water resources, the environment and institutions of governance is internationally recognized. He has taught or been a visiting scholar at some of the nation’s leading universities, including Stanford University, UCLA, the University of Florida, the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Wyoming. He is a faculty affiliate of the Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis among research centers nationwide. Professor Arnold is the founding director of the Resilience Justice Project.

**COURSES TAUGHT**
- Environmental Law
- Land and Ecosystem Conservation
- Land Use Planning and Law
- Water Resources Law and Policy
FELLOWSHIPS

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The Human Rights Advocacy Program works with nonprofits and stakeholders in the community to advance the human rights of immigrants, refugees and other noncitizens. Its advocacy has historically focused on health care, access to education, access to services and language access.

HRAP funds its Human Rights Fellows for each of their three years in law school. Fellows have the opportunity to gain subject matter expertise and leadership skills while engaging in the community and agitating for policies that defend and enhance human rights.

ORDERED LIBERTY

The Ordered Liberty Program explores the ideal arrangement of justice, order, and freedom through the study of five concepts: federalism, separation of powers, originalism, natural rights and the common good.

Ordered Liberty Fellows participate in regular gatherings for dinner and discussion of an assigned essay and complete an advanced research paper for credit toward graduation. Selected fellows may also have the opportunity to travel to Budapest, Hungary for a two-week summer intensive program.

RESILIENCE JUSTICE

The Resilience Justice Program offers funded fellowships to upper-level students interested in the interdisciplinary research of justice and environmental responsibility.

Resilience Justice Fellows work with faculty to assess public policies, programs and plans for their impacts on marginalized communities and to recommend thoughtful, data-supported policy reforms. Along with the assessments, fellows are also engaged in project-specific research and scholarly writing.

BREONNA TAYLOR LEGACY

The Breonna Taylor Legacy Fellowship, founded in honor of the slain Louisville native, provides stipends for students to volunteer over the summer with a social justice nonprofit organization, government agency or private entity. To qualify, the student’s work must be directly related to promoting equity and remedying present-day injustice.
PUBLIC SERVICE

In the spirit of service upon which the law school’s foundations rest, Public Service Fellowships are available for students who secure unpaid public service legal employment over the summer. The financial support offered by these fellowships to promote public interest work comes from a variety of funding sources.

The Ellen Ewing and IOLTA Fellowships offer funding for students to work with the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, the Legal Aid Society of Louisville or the Louisville Metro Public Defender’s Office, while our Greenebaum Fellowships allow students to work with a nonprofit organization, government agency or judge anywhere in the United States or abroad.

“HRAP gave me the opportunity to become active in the community and explore the legal field. As we watch the laws change, rarely do we see how it affects others. HRAP goes beyond the classroom — it allows me to be proactive in what I learn by being an advocate.”

HA NGUYEN
LOUISVILLE, KY

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROGRAM
We know you don’t just want to get a degree for the sake of a degree — you want to put your legal education to work. The Office of Professional Development works closely with our students to set them on the path to professional success. Opportunities include:

- Individualized career counseling
- Workshops, panels and networking events
- General and specialized career fairs
- On-campus interviews
- Mentorships with alumni and practitioners

OPD is dedicated to helping students achieve their individual professional aspirations, whether that means working in the private sector, pursuing a life of public service or even forging a nontraditional career path.
Louisville Law is committed to training thoughtful, socially responsible lawyers who play active roles in their communities. Our Samuel L. Greenebaum Public Service Program allows students to gain valuable experience while advancing the public good.

As part of the Greenebaum Program, all students must complete at least 30 hours of *pro bono* public service in order to graduate. To that end, OPD coordinates a variety of weeklong service projects intended to jump-start students’ progress toward completing the public service requirement.
A law degree can open doors in all directions and lead you down countless career paths. Whether you want to work at a firm, in the courts, at a nonprofit or under your own shingle, your Louisville Law education can take you there. Our alumni have excelled in what they do, and we couldn’t be prouder of their successes.

For instance, did you know that five of our graduates were the attorneys for the Kentucky plaintiffs in the landmark Supreme Court case of Obergefell v. Hodges, guaranteeing marriage equality nationwide? One of those attorneys then returned to our hallowed halls when Dan Canon joined our faculty as a visiting professor and manager of the law school’s externship program.

No matter what path you choose to take and what your professional future holds, you’ll have the support of the law school and the Louisville Law alumni community to help you achieve your goals and make your impact on the legal world.
Charles Booker is a lifelong resident of Louisville’s West End, growing up in what has been one of the poorest ZIP codes in the Commonwealth. Charles became the first in his family to earn his Juris Doctor, graduating from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law in 2010. After graduation, he went on to lead a transformative career within the state government. He previously served as a Director of Administrative Services for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, where he traveled across the Commonwealth and found that Kentuckians were united in their hopes for a better future. In 2018, he was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives District 43, and in 2022, he became the Democratic Party nominee for election to the US Senate.

Mashayla Hays serves as Legal Counsel at the Lawyering Project, a nonprofit committed to improving access to reproductive health care. In 2015, Mashayla received their Bachelor of Science in Pan-African Studies from the University of Louisville, and after earning their law degree, they pursued a Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University. Prior to their time at the Lawyering Project, Mashayla was an If/When/How Reproductive Justice Fellow, and as a law student, they completed a fellowship with the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky. Mashayla plans to dedicate their legal career to high-impact litigation, centering equal access to reproductive healthcare and advocating for reproductive justice policies on the state and federal levels.

Sam Raque is a registered patent attorney and an Associate at Patterson Intellectual Property Law, PC. He previously worked at Stites & Harbison, PLLC, in the Intellectual Property and Technology Service Group and served as a Judicial Law Clerk and Mechanical Patent Examiner with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the US Patent and Trademark Office. In 2016, Sam received his Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from the University of Louisville. Sam’s keen interest in intellectual property bore out in the practical experiences he sought as a law student. While in law school, Sam completed an externship with the Office of Technology Transfer at the University of Louisville in addition to a clerkship at Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, LLP, focusing on fundamental patent litigation and prosecution techniques.
OUR HISTORY

The University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law is Kentucky’s oldest law school and the nation’s fifth oldest law school in continuous operation. Founded in 1846 as the Law Department at the University of Louisville, it became the School of Law and hired its first full-time professor in 1923.

Two years later, United States Supreme Court Justice and Louisville native Louis D. Brandeis began investing heavily in the School of Law. He donated his personal library, including rare texts on early civil and common law, and arranged for the school to receive original briefs filed with the Supreme Court, a practice that continues to this day. Following his death in 1941, Justice Brandeis bequeathed a substantial portion of his estate to the University of Louisville.

His generosity paved the way for the School of Law to expand and prosper. In 1950, it merged with the Jefferson School of Law, and in 1997, it was officially renamed in honor of Justice Brandeis. Today, we honor his legacy and dedication to social justice by preparing civic-minded lawyers for practice.