GW Law offers students a legal education premised on “law in action” in Washington, D.C., the center of the most dynamic legal and policy activity in the United States.

The law school is located just four blocks from the White House, across the street from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and within close proximity of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. This proximity allows our students to gain practical experience in externships at these nearby institutions. In addition, our students benefit from a world-renowned faculty, a broad curriculum featuring more than 275 elective courses, strong academic and personal support, and a wide variety of expert lecturers and visitors.

The GW Law experience is dynamic, rigorous, and practical. Simply put, there is no better place to study and participate in the engaging life of the law.
Intellectual Property Law at GW

GW Law has been a national leader in intellectual property (IP) education and scholarship for more than 100 years. In fact, when the law school established a master’s degree program in patent law in 1895, its alumni already had written the patents for Bell’s telephone, Mergenthaler’s linotype machine, and Eastman’s roll film camera, among hundreds of other inventions; dozens more alumni had worked in the U.S. Patent Office. Today, GW Law is internationally known for its intellectual property law program, with significant strength in the areas of patents, copyright, trademark, communications, computer and Internet regulation, privacy, electronic commerce, and genetics and medicine.

In recent years, as intellectual property law issues have become more tightly interwoven with issues in commercial law, computer and Internet regulation, communications law, privacy law, and the regulation of medicine, GW has been among the first to add related faculty and courses. At the same time, the law school has maintained its core strength in patents, copyrights, and trademarks and has continued to develop a superb faculty and curriculum in those areas. The IP program offers a robust curriculum for both JD and LLM students, as well as a newly established Master of Studies in Law in Intellectual Property Program for students who have not previously obtained a JD or foreign equivalent degree.

Students in the IP program find opportunities for active engagement by participating in one of two student-led IP journals: The American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal and the Federal Circuit Bar Journal. In addition, the IP program hosts numerous on-campus events each year featuring leading domestic and international IP practitioners and scholars. From conferences on China’s patent regime to lectures on free speech and the Internet, the program explores the emerging issues in the field and continues its legacy of leadership in IP law.

“As a practicing patent lawyer on a year’s sabbatical, I chose GW Law for its course roster and its location in the nation’s capital. I was gratified by the quality of teaching, the accomplished faculty, and the excellent facilities.”
— Sunita K. Sreedharan, LLM ’06
Academic Programs and Curriculum

JD Program
The intellectual property law curriculum explores the development and protection of intangible ideas and property. In addition to the principal survey courses (Patent Law, Copyright Law, Trademark Law and Unfair Competition, and International Intellectual Property Law), the program offers more than 25 electives.

LLM Program
The LLM Program in Intellectual Property Law is designed for graduates of both U.S. and non-U.S. law schools who are interested in intensive study of U.S., international, and comparative intellectual property law. Many U.S. attorneys complete the program to gain the specialized knowledge necessary to practice, teach, or regulate within the field. Many non-U.S. attorneys complete the program to get their first in-depth exploration of U.S. intellectual property law, while qualifying to take a state bar examination (such as the New York bar) that will enable them to practice in the United States.

MSL-IP Program for Non-Lawyers
The Master of Studies in Law in Intellectual Property Program (MSL-IP) is a one-year study in intellectual property (similar to the LLM Program in Intellectual Property Law) designed for individuals who wish to obtain a deeper understanding of IP law but who do not have a law degree. The program accepts graduates of both U.S. and non-U.S. universities. Past candidates have included in-house counsel for technology companies and IP practitioners at law firms.

For additional information about the IP curriculum, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/ip.

For course descriptions and a full listing of the law school curriculum, including courses related to this field, please view the law school Bulletin on our website at www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/publications.
Faculty

The faculty of the Intellectual Property Law Program offers extensive expertise as scholars and practitioners in the field. The full-time faculty includes a current member of the U.S. International Trade Commission, authors of the leading casebooks in the field, a former Deputy General Counsel for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and internationally recognized experts on issues including patent infringement, antitrust law, privacy law, and free speech and the Internet. The adjunct faculty includes approximately 25 prominent practitioners such as a current administrative law judge for the U.S. International Trade Commission, a retired judge from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, a former Commissioner of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and a former Register of Copyrights. For more information, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/faculty.

Other Opportunities

Student-led Intellectual Property Journals
GW Law is home to two leading IP journals: The American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal and the Federal Circuit Bar Journal. Both journals are edited by students under faculty supervision and are distributed to judges, attorneys, professors, and law students in the field.

The Dean Dinwoodey Center
The Dean Dinwoodey Center for Intellectual Property Studies, directed by Professors Martin Adelman and Robert Brauneis, sponsors research, lectures, conferences, and activities on a broad range of intellectual property topics.

Annual Lecture Series
The IP program hosts several ongoing lecture series and symposiums featuring noted and emerging scholars from the United States and abroad. Each semester, the IP Speaker Series brings three professors from law schools around the country to speak about papers they have written. Other events include the biannual A. Sidney Katz lecture series, the annual IP symposium, and a roundtable on China’s patent regime (sponsored jointly with Fordham University School of Law).

Munich Intellectual Property Law Summer Program
Held each July at the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center in Munich, Germany, the summer program affords students the opportunity to explore current intellectual property issues with a focus on international law in the city known as Europe’s intellectual property capital. Special lectures and visits to institutions such as the European Patent Office are part of the program.

Student Intellectual Property Law Association
The Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA) is committed to enhancing GW Law students’ career options by providing unmatched networking opportunities, a nationally distributed SIPLA résumé digest, and a chance to interact with hundreds of intellectual property law alumni from around the country.
Field Placement Program

The law school’s Field Placement Program enables students to receive course credit, supervision, and mentorship from members of the intellectual property community, and practical experience that helps jump-start their careers. Through the program, more than 600 students each year earn academic credit for dynamic, hands-on externships at organizations such as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the House and Senate Judiciary committees with principal jurisdiction for intellectual property legislation. For more information on these programs, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/fieldplacement.

Career Development

GW Law’s Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy (Career Center) features one of the largest legal career counseling teams in the country. The Career Center is dedicated to helping students develop personalized career plans, and our team includes one counselor dedicated to assisting students interested in IP careers. All of our counselors are former practicing attorneys with extensive experience working in both the public and private sectors. As a result, our counselors prepare students to hold clerkships; work at large, medium, and small law firms; serve in government positions; and work in international and domestic business ventures. The Career Center hosts nearly 100 programs annually, including panels and networking opportunities, the fall recruitment program, the spring interviewing program, diversity events and programs, and the public sector recruitment program. For more information, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/careers.
Contact Information

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Admissions Information

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Graduate Programs Office
202.994.0715
For U.S. law school graduates: grad@law.gwu.edu
For non-U.S. law school graduates: igpo@law.gwu.edu

www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/ip

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions programs against any person based on that person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.