NATIONAL SECURITY and U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS LAW

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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 close to major international organizations, nonprofit institutions, courts, and government agencies. 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.
The National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations Law Program highlights GW Law’s unique strengths: a nationally recognized faculty, a comprehensive curriculum, and access to the extensive Washington, D.C., foreign relations and national security law community. The nation’s capital hosts national security agencies and institutions including the White House National Security Council, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and the U.S. Institute of Peace—all of which are near GW Law. The dozens of research centers and think tanks that conduct research in foreign relations and national security law include GW’s on-campus National Security Archive, which provides a trove of declassified documents pertaining to national security for advanced research, and GW’s Cybersecurity Initiative, which partners with government and industry to protect critical infrastructure. Easy access to Capitol Hill allows students the opportunity to observe the work of House and Senate subcommittees firsthand.

This practice area, which has grown exponentially over the past decade, explores the nature and origins of the federal government’s foreign relations powers and the U.S. law of national security and counterterrorism. The field includes law on the use of the armed forces at home and abroad, intelligence operations abroad, counterterrorism, electronic surveillance and privacy, cybersecurity, homeland security, disaster relief and crisis management, immigration, nuclear nonproliferation, treatment of detainees, the law of war, congressional investigations and oversight, classified information, and related topics.

GW Law offers one of the largest course catalogs in this field. Students will find both breadth and depth in various facets of the field for a thorough and up-to-date grounding in evolving topics. In addition, students may participate outside the classroom in panel discussions, seminars, and conferences featuring leading practitioners in this area of the law.

“The professors at GW not only teach theory but can tell you how the law gets put into practice based on firsthand knowledge. They are all tried and tested in the field, so they bring real credibility into the classroom.”

— Christopher Toscano, LLM ’14
Curriculum

JD and LLM Programs

The law school offers more than 30 courses in the field, including foundation courses, such as National Security Law and U.S. Foreign Relations Law, and advanced courses, such as Intelligence Law, Cybersecurity Law, Law of Armed Conflict, Counterterrorism Law, and many others. All courses are open to both JD and LLM candidates.

The law school’s LLM Program in National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations Law trains new and experienced attorneys for careers in the field. The program can be completed in one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study.

GW Law welcomes veterans and participates in the Veterans Administration’s Yellow Ribbon Program.

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 program’s full-time faculty includes well-respected scholars in national security and U.S. foreign relations law. They have authored four of the leading casebooks in the field. Program Co-Directors Gregory E. Maggs, Professor of Law; Peter Raven-Hansen, Glen Earl Weston Research Professor of Law; and Lisa M. Schenck, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, bring expertise gained through private practice and government service. Professor Maggs’s experience includes service as a special master for the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Raven-Hansen represents American victims of international terrorism in civil litigation under the Antiterrorism Act. Associate Dean Schenck served as judge, lawyer, and educator in the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps before retiring with the rank of colonel. She is the author of numerous articles and co-wrote Modern Military Justice: Cases and Materials (West, 2012) with Professor Maggs. In addition, students find support and assistance with their research needs from the program’s dedicated reference librarian, Lori Fossum.

Our faculty also includes nationally recognized scholars in the areas of computer crime law, antitrust, foreign affairs privatization, and international litigation and arbitration. With extensive practical experience in the field, our faculty members gained expertise in a variety of prominent positions, including President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; member of the Expert Legal Panel under the auspices of the International Commission of Jurists; attorney-adviser in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel, which is responsible for providing advice to the attorney general and White House on constitutional law issues; and member of the U.N. International Law Commission.

The program’s adjunct faculty includes the U.S. Department of Justice’s leading counterterrorism expert and advocate; the former general counsel of FEMA; leading experts on computer crime and cyberlaw issues and on privacy and surveillance; a draftsman of the Military Rules of Evidence (and a member of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Terrorism and the Law); the head of appellate litigation for the military commissions prosecution team; and a U.S. Department of Justice attorney who has litigated leading foreign relations law cases. For more information about our faculty, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/faculty.

Admiral J. Michael McConnell, former Director of the National Security Agency, visited the law school recently.
Other Resources

National Security Law Moot Court Competition
GW Law’s Moot Court Board sponsors the annual National Security Law Moot Court Competition. By competing in the nation’s capital, students are able to argue national security issues in front of a distinguished panel of recognized experts in the field. Past final round judges have included White House counsel, a former director of the CIA, a former general counsel of the National Security Agency, a former acting attorney general, and federal judges from the district courts and courts of appeals.

National Security Law Association (NSLA)
The NSLA sponsors panel discussions, keynote speakers, and career networking events. Each semester, NSLA holds an annual National Security Law Career Fair.

Field Placement Program
Through the law school’s Field Placement Program, more than 600 students each year receive course credit, supervision by leading legal practitioners, and practical experience that helps jump-start their careers. Our students find dynamic, hands-on externships at organizations such as the Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, U.S. Department of Justice; the Office of Immigration Law, Tahirih Justice Center; the Counterterrorism Section, U.S. Department of Justice; and the Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. For more information, 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. 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

JD Admissions
Law School Admissions Office
202.994.7230
admissions@law.gwu.edu

LLM and SJD Admissions
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/natsec

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.