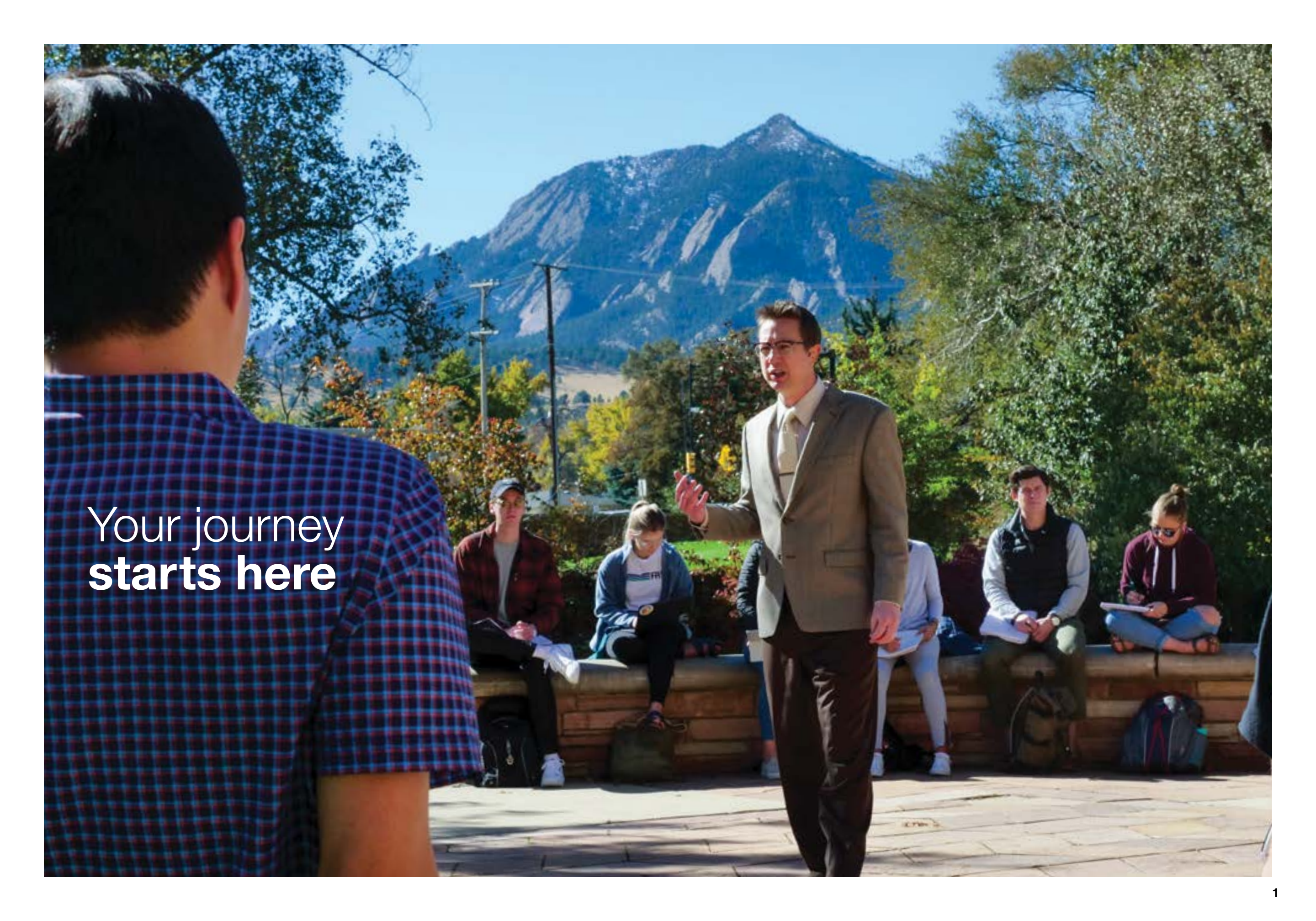


UNIVERSITY OF **COLORADO LAW** SCHOOL



Colorado **Law**
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

A man in a light-colored suit and glasses is standing and speaking to a group of students. The students are sitting on a low stone wall. In the background, there is a large, rocky mountain with some snow patches, surrounded by green trees. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day. The text "Your journey starts here" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Your journey
starts here



Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss**
Provost's Professor of Law

With our roots in Colorado and a global outlook, we offer our students a world-class legal education and top quality of life

5.7:1 student-to-faculty ratio Calculated using U.S. News & World Report methodology.	#1 Best College Town in America (Best College Reviews, 2025)
9 legal clinics	206 undergraduate institutions represented by student body (JD Program)
3 research centers	45+ countries where Colorado Law JD and LLM graduates work
3 student-led journals	#10 Best for State and Local Clerkships (Princeton Review, 2025)
#7 Environmental Law (U.S. News & World Report, 2025)	A+ grade in Environmental Law. Colorado Law also excels in Intellectual Property (A+), Business Law (A), and Family Law and Public Interest (A- each). (National Jurist)
#6 state economy (U.S. News & World Report, 2025)	

An impressive, all-around legal education

Our relevant and challenging curriculum prepares you to thrive in a variety of sectors and settings.

Degrees

JD
Juris Doctor

LLM
Master of Laws

MSL
Master of Studies in Law in Ethics and Compliance

Dual Degrees

JD/ENVS
Juris Doctor/Master’s in Environmental Studies

JD/MBA
Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration

JD/MD
Juris Doctor/Doctor of Medicine (Anschutz Medical Campus)

JD/MPA
Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration (CU Denver)

JD/MURP
Juris Doctor/Master of Urban and Regional Planning (CU Denver)

JD/PhD
Juris Doctor/Doctorate in Environmental Studies

Certificates

American Indian Law

Civil Rights and Racial Justice

Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resources Law and Policy

Entrepreneurial Law

Health Law and Policy

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Environment, Policy, and Society (offered through CU’s Program in Environmental Studies)

International Law

Juvenile and Family Law

Tax Emphasis

Academic Areas of Excellence

American Indian Law

Criminal Law

Entrepreneurial and Business Law

Immigration and Citizenship Law

Juvenile and Family Law

Labor and Employment Law

Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law

Public Service Law

Technology and Intellectual Property Law





First-year Courses

Fall

Civil Procedure
Contracts
Legal Writing I
Legislation and Regulation
Torts

Spring

Constitutional Law
Criminal Law
Foundations of Legal Research
Legal Writing II
Property

1L Electives Offered

Legal Analysis
Legal Ethics, Professionalism,
and Creative Problem Solving

2L/3L Required Courses

Evidence
Legal Ethics and Professionalism

Elective Courses

NOTE: Not all courses are offered each year. This is a composite list of the last three years of course offerings and new course approvals.

American Indian Law

American Indian Law I
American Indian Law II
American Indian Law Clinic
Cultural Property
Seminar: Advanced Topics in American Indian Law
Tribal Law

Business Law

Accounting Issues for Lawyers
Advanced Transactional Drafting
Agency, Partnership, and the LLC
Antitrust
Bankruptcy
Business Planning
Compliance
Construction Law
Corporations
Corporate Transactions in Healthcare
Deals Lab: Mergers and Acquisitions
Deals Lab: VC and Corporate Drafting
Deals Lab: Venture Capital
Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
Ethics Compliance Capstone
Insurance Law
Introduction to In-House Practice
Law Practice Management
Mergers and Acquisitions
Name Image Likeness Practicum
Regulation of Financial Institutions
Secured Transactions
Securities Regulation
Seminar: Advanced Corporate Law
Special Topics: Evolutions of the Whistleblower
Sports Law
Sports Sponsorships & Media Rights
Transactional Drafting

Venture Capital and Private Equity

Criminal Law

Computer Crime
Criminal Defense Clinic
Criminal Defense and Immigration Clinic
Criminal Procedure: Adjudicative Process
Criminal Procedure: Investigative Phase
Domestic Violence
Jury Selection and History
Juvenile Justice
Prosecutor's Role in Criminal Justice
Seminar: Advanced Criminal Justice
Seminar: Criminal Law in Context
Seminar: Gender and Criminal Justice
Seminar: History and Law of American Policing
Seminar: Theory of Punishment
White Collar Crime
Wrongful Conviction

Family and Juvenile Law

Domestic Violence
Elder Law
Family Law
Juvenile and Family Law Clinic
Juvenile Justice
Parent, Child, and State

Health Law

Bioethics and Law
Health Care Compliance
Health Law and Policy
Health Law II: Medical Malpractice Litigation
Public Health Law and Ethics
Seminar: Pharmaceutical Innovation and Regulation

Intellectual Property, Technology, and Telecommunications

Artificial Intelligence and the Law
Computer Crime
Copyright
Cybersecurity

Information Privacy and Cybersecurity
Intellectual Property Counseling and Licensing
Introduction to Intellectual Property Law
Patent Law
Patent Litigation
Privacy Compliance
Seminar: Advanced Information Privacy
Seminar: Computers and the Law
Seminar: Digital Civil Rights and Liberties
Seminar: Technology, Business and Human Rights
Technical and Engineering Knowledge in Litigation
Technology Law and Policy Clinic
Telecommunications and Platform Law and Policy
Trademark and Unfair Competition

International Law

Comparative Law on Indigenous Peoples
Foundations of International Legal Thought
Indigenous People in International Law
International Business Transactions
International Dispute Resolution
International Environmental Law
International Human Rights Law
International Law
International Trade Law
Introduction to Islamic Law
Seminar: Comparative Law
Seminar: International Human Rights
Seminar: Special Topics in International Law (Global Critical Race Theory)
Seminar: US National Security and Foreign Relations in a Time of Change
Specialized Legal Research: International

Labor, Employment, and Immigration Law

Disability Rights
Employment Discrimination
Employment Law
Immigration and Citizenship Law
Labor Law
Refugee and Asylum Law

Legal Theory

American Legal History
Economics of American Legal System
Jurisprudence
Empirical Legal Studies
Legal Reasoning
Problem-Solving, Professional Judgment, and Decision Making
Problem-Solving and Writing
Seminar: Advanced Torts
Seminar: Class and Law
Seminar: Constitutional Theory
Seminar: Criminal Law in Context
Seminar: Equality, Speech, and Religion: Constitutional Values in Tension
Seminar: Jurisprudence and Modern Legal Theory
Seminar: Topics in Law and Feminism (Reproductive Justice)
Seminar: Problems in Constitutional Law
Seminar: Theory of Punishment

Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Advanced Appellate Advocacy

Advanced Trial Advocacy
Appellate Advocacy Practicum
Civil Practice Clinic
Complex Civil Litigation
Deposition Skills
E-Discovery
Evidence and Trial Practice
Federal Litigation: Everything But The Trial
Interactive Programming for Lawyers
Investigations
Judicial Opinion Writing
Jury Selection and History
Legal Negotiation
Mediation
Motions Advocacy
Remedies
Trial Advocacy

Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment

Climate Action Planning
Climate Change Law and Policy
CU Climate Policy
Energy Law and Regulation
Environmental Decision Making
Environmental Law
Environmental Litigation
Foundations of Natural Resources Law and Policy
International Environmental Law
Mining and Mineral Development Law
Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic
Oil and Gas Law
Public Land Law
Seminar: Advanced Natural Resources Law
Seminar: Climate Change
Seminar: Funding Climate Change
Seminar: Oil and International Relations
Seminar: The Law of the Colorado River
Special Topics: Environmental Enforcement and Compliance
Water Resources Law
Wildlife and the Law

Public Law

Administrative Law
Advanced Torts
Civil Rights
Conflict of Laws
Consumer Protection
Critical Race Theory
Education Law
Election Law
Equality and Privacy in the 14th Amendment
Federal Courts
First Amendment
Internet Law
Legislative and Policy Drafting
Local Government
Marshall Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project
Poverty Law
Regulation of Marijuana
Seminar: Animal Welfare
Seminar: Advanced Administrative Law
Seminar: Advanced Comparative Law (Islamic Law)

Seminar: Citizenship
Seminar: Constitutional Theory
Seminar: Equality and Sports
Seminar: Food Law and Policy
Seminar: Law & Religion (Intro to Jewish Law)
Seminar: Sexuality, Gender Identity, and Law
Seminar: Special Topics in Constitutional Law (Lies and the Constitution)
Sexuality and the Law
State Constitutional Law
Understanding (and Investigating Violations of) US and Foreign Anti-Bribery and Human Trafficking Laws

Practice: Clinical

American Indian Law Clinic
Civil Practice Clinic
Community Collaboration Law Lab
Criminal Defense Clinic
Criminal Defense and Immigration Clinic
Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
Juvenile and Family Law Clinic
Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic
Technology Law and Policy Clinic

Property

Cultural Property Law
Land Use Planning
Real Estate Transactions
Wills and Trusts

Research and Writing

Advanced Legal Research
Advanced Transactional Drafting
Analytical Strategies
Colorado Legal Research
Foundations of Legal Research
Judicial Opinion Writing
Legal Imagination
Legislative History
Research and Writing in the Regulatory State
Scholarly Legal Research
Specialized Legal Research: Intellectual Property
Specialized Legal Research: International
Statutory Interpretation: American Law in Crisis
Statutory Interpretation
Transactional Drafting

Taxation

Corporate Taxation
Estate and Gift Tax Planning
Federal Estate and Gift Tax
Income Taxation
International Tax
Partnership Taxation
State and Local Tax
Seminar: Tax Law, Economics, and Policy



Phil Weiser, Colorado State Attorney General and Colorado Law Dean from 2011–2016, connects with a law student. The Colorado Law network provides students with the relationships and guidance they need to shape meaningful and successful careers.

Careers are our focus from day one

You'll be prepared to serve wisely and with professionalism.

During your time in law school, the career advisors in Colorado Law's Career Development Office will get to know you and your career goals, encourage you to take an intentional and creative approach to planning your career, and give you the tools to succeed.

Our commitment to helping you excel in your professional endeavors begins with individual meetings during your first semester to plan the next steps for your 1L summer job. Our focus is for each student to obtain at least four high-quality work experiences while in law school. In summer 2025, 94% of the classes of 2026 and 2027 worked in substantive legal or law-related jobs.

We will connect you with employers during the academic year and the summer, and we maintain close ties with a variety of employers and work with them individually to find students and graduates who will be the best match. Events such as the JD Pathways career conference and career speaker series will help you build a network of contacts and explore practice areas.

colorado.edu/law/careers

Employers recognize the value of a Colorado Law education, and it shows in our employment outcomes.

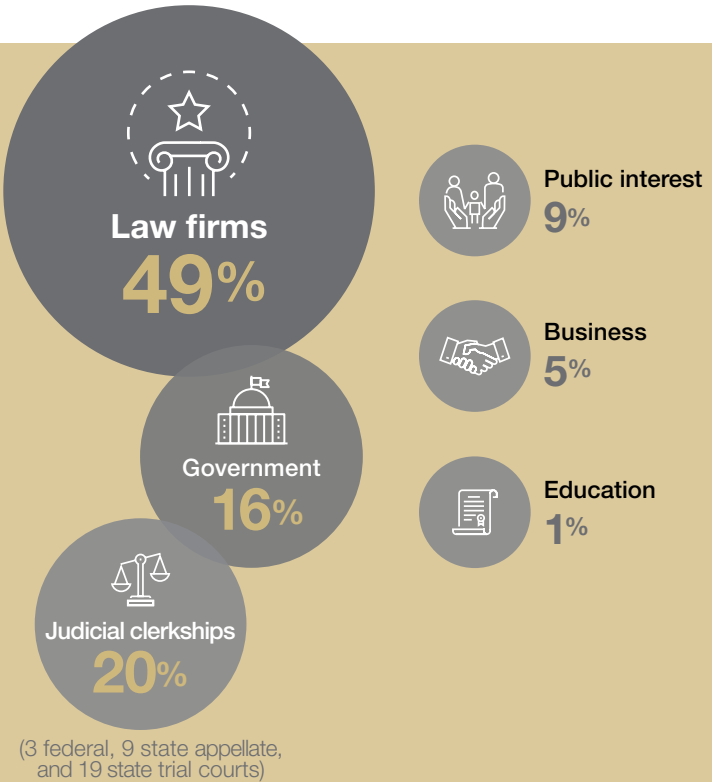
Class of 2024 employment*

93% of graduates reported employment.

91% of graduates employed in a full-time, long-term, non-school-funded job for which bar passage was required or a JD degree was an advantage.

88% of graduates employed in a full-time, long-term, non-school-funded job for which bar passage was required.

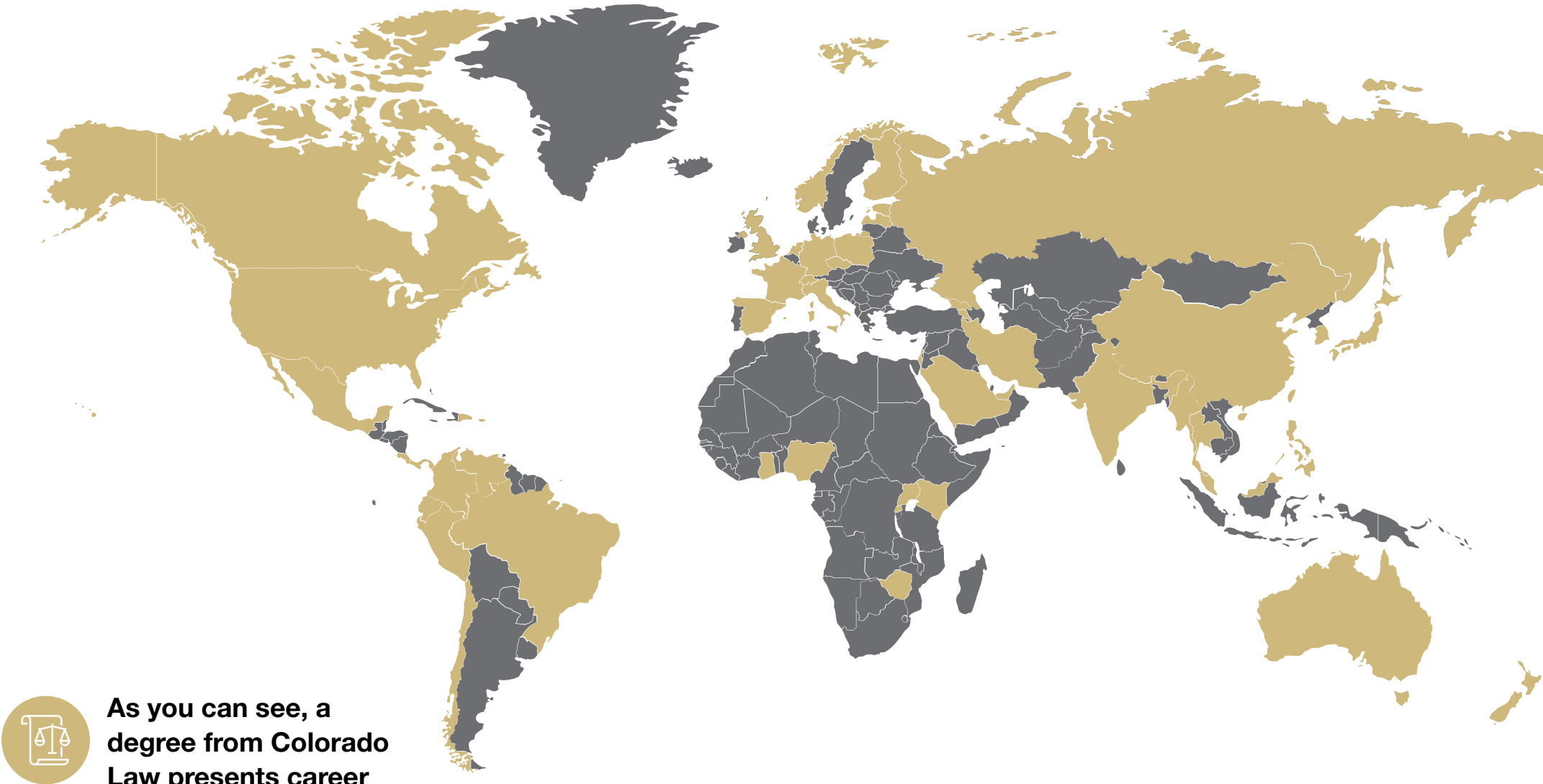
*All statistics reflect employment 10 months after graduation (March 15, 2025).



Your Colorado Law degree opens the door to a vast alumni network

As a Colorado Law graduate, you will join a global network of close to 8,500 alumni who are leading the nation from the bench to the boardroom to courthouses across the world. Graduates live and practice across all 50 states, 45 countries, and six continents.

● Primary residence of at least one Colorado Law graduate (JD and LL.M).



As you can see, a degree from Colorado Law presents career opportunities in every legal sector and beyond, throughout the world.

While our graduates often live and work outside of Colorado’s borders, many choose to stay or eventually return in order to enjoy the state’s unbeatable quality of life.

Study Abroad

Colorado Law sponsors study abroad programs to help students understand the international community and to prepare them for an increasingly global legal market. These programs seek to provide a greater understanding of international and comparative law; offer exposure to the legal, social, political, and cultural environments of the relevant countries; and enable students to help clients and communities address increasingly complicated legal demands.

The current offerings are:

Bucerius Law School Semester Exchange Program in Hamburg, Germany

Universidad Pontificia Comillas (ICADE) Semester Exchange Program in Madrid, Spain

Melbourne Law School Semester Exchange Program in Melbourne, Australia

Alumni Success

How do we know that a legal education from Colorado Law truly opens doors and empowers passionate change-makers? Meet just a few of the exceptional individuals who began their legal journey at Colorado Law, and you'll see our best supporting evidence.



Natalie S. Ellwood '69

Natalie Ellwood began practicing law as a public defender in 1970. From her high school days as a volunteer for John Kennedy's presidential election to serving as the Colorado Women's Bar Association's founding president, she has tirelessly championed equality throughout her career. She entered law school in the fall of 1966 with her husband, Hank Ellwood, becoming

the first husband and wife duo to enter Colorado Law together. After many years running her own practice with her husband as partner, in 1990 she retired. When Hank passed away in 2019, Natalie was inspired to reactivate her license to practice law. Her dedication to the fight for equality has now extended to the fight against ageism, in addition to gender and racial bias.



Judge Gary Jackson '70

Judge Gary Jackson's celebrated career spans over five decades. He began in the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1970 and entered private practice in 1976. In his 37 years of private practice, he served as the trial attorney for hundreds of clients including the Denver Metropolitan Baseball District in acquiring the property to build Coors Field

for the Colorado Rockies. From 2013 to 2020, he presided in the Criminal Division of Denver County Court.

Jackson has been recognized with a legion of accolades and awards including the Colorado Bar Association Award of Merit—the highest recognition for a lawyer in the state. Among his many accomplishments, he is proud to have co-founded the Sam Cary Bar Association, the vanguard of all specialty bars of color in Colorado, in 1971. He was also a co-founder of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar in 1976. Most recently, in 2021, he was inducted into the National Bar Association Fred Gray Hall of Fame.

“I never wanted to be subservient to anyone, and I am most fortunate to have my law degree as I can take care of myself mentally, physically, and financially. I feel most proud and frankly joyful about that ability. Our continued success as lawyers and professionals is our continuing answer to those people who do not treat us with much respect.”

“From my first year of law school to the present day, I have held myself to the highest standards of competence, commitment, compassion, and character to carry forward the visions of my great-grandfather who overcame the burdens of being born a slave in Missouri to build a better life in Colorado for our family. Colorado Law played an integral part in my success.”



Adrian Untermeyer '20

Adrian Untermeyer fights to improve our society as an attorney, urbanist, and historian. He currently practices in-house at New Jersey Transit, America's second-busiest commuter railroad, where he tackles capital projects that include the Gateway Program and New York's Pennsylvania Station. He is a frequent commentator on planning, preservation, and transportation

issues impacting New York and the nation. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Gotham Gazette*, and the *Transportation Law Journal*, and he was named an Emerging Leader in Transportation by New York University's Rudin Center. In 2016, Untermeyer was featured in *The New York Times* for his successful plan to improve the Port Authority Bus Terminal by creating a performing arts center inside.



Charles Bedford '92

Charles Bedford is an environmentalist using private capital to accelerate climate action. He currently serves as chief impact officer at Carbon Growth Partners, a leading global investment manager in carbon finance, a principal at Keelback Consulting, a sustainability advisory firm, and as Adjunct Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He previously served as AP

Regional Managing Director for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and has led TNC's Colorado Chapter. At TNC, he helped build new conservation NGO's in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and New Zealand. He has served as director of the Colorado State Land Board, overseeing 3 million hectares of state lands, Legal Counsel to Colorado Governor Roy Romer '52 and attorney with the firm of Kutak Rock.

“Honestly, my friends who went to the Ivy Leagues didn't get the same kind of love and care, the robust and interdisciplinary career resources, close community, and opportunities that we did—and that's what has allowed me the freedom to have this rich, expansive career trajectory.”

“My three years at Colorado Law set me on a path that had me working at the nexus of law, policy, and the environment for governors, senators, ministers, and presidents. CU set me on a path to advocate on behalf of public lands, create new national parks around the world, and start up new businesses that bring finance to nature. My classmates and professors continue to motivate me, even now, to do more, better.”



Meshach Rhoades '04

Meshach Rhoades is a managing partner for Crowell & Moring LLP. Her commitment to diversity and equity has led to multiple awards, including the law school's Dean Edward C. King Making A Difference Award in 2019. She is passionately involved with local and national organizations including the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, Colorado Legal Services,

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, American Civil Liberties Union, and Colorado Hispanic Bar Association.

She co-founded the Latinas First Foundation, which honors unsung heroines and trailblazers in the Colorado Latina community, while focusing on building community for Hispanic women, and awarding scholarships to collegiate and postgraduate students, as well as coaching women on career progression. They have awarded over 150 scholarships in 10 years to incredible Latinas in Colorado.

“Colorado Law gave me the tools I needed to advocate for myself, my clients, and for a legal community that can actually reflect the powerful diversity of our nation.”

Be your whole self in law school

When they are not learning the law, Colorado Law students take advantage of our location in one of the most beautiful places in the U.S. From hiking the Flatirons to strolling the historic Pearl Street Mall, visiting the restaurants and craft breweries of “America’s Foodiest Town,” and enjoying 300+ days of sunshine a year, there are plenty of opportunities to create a healthy work-life balance during law school.

#2 best places to live for quality of life

(U.S. News, 2024)

#10 best places to live

(U.S. News, 2024)

#8 healthiest city in America

(Niche, 2025)

#1 college town in America

(Best College Reviews, 2025)

The Boulder metro area has one of the fastest growing high-tech sectors in the country. In 2025, the University of Colorado Boulder reached a historic milestone, launching 35 new companies based on university intellectual property during fiscal year 2024, more than any other U.S. campus. In addition to holding the No. 1 spot for that year, the achievement also places CU Boulder No. 2 for the most startups launched in a single year by a U.S. campus.

(Association of University Technology Managers)

Adventure awaits

Explore opportunities in nearby Denver . . .

Just 35 minutes from campus, Denver is a top employment market for new lawyers. The “Mile High City” boasts 300 days of sunshine a year, a booming economy, award-winning dining, and a thriving arts and music scene. The city, with its stunning panoramic mountain views, has more than 200 parks, totaling over 5,000 acres available for year-round urban recreation.

and off the beaten path.

Enjoy the best of both worlds: unmatched access to both a bustling metroplex bursting with entrepreneurial spirit and an international lifestyle destination right in your backyard.



8 major professional sports teams



40+ museums and centers



250+ music venues



1 hour from Boulder is the stunning Rocky Mountain National Park.



27 ski areas in Colorado. Our local ski spot, Eldora Mountain Resort, is just 35 minutes from campus.



1-mile walk from the law school to Chautauqua Park, the starting point for dozens of hiking trails.

Challenge yourself in a friendly and cooperative environment

Academic Areas of Excellence

American Indian Law

As one of the nation's leaders in tribal law and policy, Colorado Law's American Indian law program is the region's convening institution for tribal leaders, advocates, scholars, and community members to address the most pressing challenges in American Indian law and policy. Our program will prepare you for all aspects of Indian law practice, whether you are interested in working in tribal governments, federal agencies, or law firms.

Criminal Law

Students at Colorado Law learn about criminal justice from nationally renowned faculty. They enroll in clinics that offer hands-on experience in criminal defense as well as practice representing noncitizen clients in both criminal and immigration court. Colorado Law is home to the Korey Wise Innocence Project through which students and staff attorneys provide free investigative and legal services to exonerate the wrongfully convicted in Colorado and advocate for reforms to prevent future injustices.

Entrepreneurial and Business Law

Boulder is recognized internationally as an entrepreneurial powerhouse, and Colorado Law is at the heart of this community. Whether you want to practice mergers and acquisitions at a traditional large law firm, work at the SEC, counsel a startup through a venture capital transaction, or launch your own venture, Colorado Law provides you the skills and expertise to help you succeed.

Juvenile and Family Law

Colorado Law's juvenile and family law program covers a broad range of practice areas that connect students to specialized learning opportunities and real-world experiences in this field through in-depth courses, research projects, externships, and clinical services that provide free legal help to low-income Colorado residents.

Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law

Ranked consistently among the best in the nation, Colorado Law's natural resources, energy, and environmental law program is one of the strongest and most in-depth of its kind. Faculty members are national leaders deeply committed to creative teaching with a long-standing reputation for innovative work on water resources, climate change, and energy. Being at the base of the Rocky Mountains, you will directly interact with and explore the places, issues, and communities you will study.

Public Service Law

Public service law is central to our culture and academic offerings. Public service, both during and after law school, can involve any of a broad range of substantive areas, including civil rights law, veterans' affairs, criminal law, consumer law, education law, environmental law, juvenile and family law, health law and policy, and immigration law, among others.

Technology and Intellectual Property Law

Colorado Law is at the forefront of technology and intellectual property law. Whether you are interested in litigation, transactional work, or policy concerns, Colorado Law has one of the most comprehensive legal programs in the nation for those interested in exploring the frontiers of entrepreneurial law, technology policy, and intellectual property.

colorado.edu/law/academics



Students in the Law of the River Seminar which culminates in a two-week rafting journey through the Grand Canyon.



“Colorado Law is an established and innovative leader in natural resources law and policy, with related strengths in American Indian & Indigenous Peoples Law, climate change, and environmental justice. Our extensive alumni network supports students wherever they go, whether in Colorado, the West, D.C., or abroad. Aided by our faculty’s deep governmental service and our alumni, students regularly find tremendous jobs practicing in all levels of government, in NGOs, and in the private sector.”

Jonathan Skinner-Thompson
Associate Professor of Law

Climate Change Law and Policy
Environmental Law
Natural Resources & Environmental
Law Clinic

Areas of Study Spotlight

Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law

Tackle today’s most pressing issues in water, climate, and energy law.

For over half a century, Colorado Law has set the gold standard for natural resources, energy, and environmental law. Our commitment to teaching and research in these areas complements the school’s physical location in the Rocky Mountain West—a region defined by its vast natural resources, public lands and parks, and many American Indian reservations.

Our innovative environmental and natural resources curriculum, with broad-based courses, specialized seminars, and hands-on practicum opportunities, provides you with the key range of competencies needed to become a multidisciplinary practitioner. We help prepare you for a successful career, from private practice to public service, and train you to be ready for a world of constant change.

Recent top employers

Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Natural
Resources and Environment Section
Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
Grand Canyon Trust
Idaho Conservation League
Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP
Moses, Wittemyer, Harrison,
and Woodruff, P.C.
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Justice, Environment &
Natural Resources Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WilmerHale
Xcel Energy



“Colorado Law’s American Indian Law Program was one of the first of its kind, and it remains unmatched. Our remarkable faculty, clinical program, and students are deeply committed to Indigenous Peoples’ in the United States and around the world.”

Kristen Carpenter
Council Tree Professor of Law
Director of the American Indian Law Program

American Indian Law I
Indigenous Peoples in International Law
Seminar: Advanced Topics in American
Indian Law
Cultural Property Law

Areas of Study Spotlight

American Indian Law

Protect Indigenous Peoples’ Self-Determination.

Courses in American Indian & Indigenous Peoples Law address major questions regarding the contours of colonization and self-determination, as well as individual and collective rights, in Indigenous, National, and International legal systems. Topics of study include Indigenous Peoples’ land rights, self-governance, religious freedoms, criminal and civil jurisdiction, political participation, child welfare, natural resources, and economic development. With academic opportunities for all Colorado Law students, our approach to American Indian & Indigenous Peoples Law is deeply grounded in Indian Country and the law school serves as a convening institution for Indigenous leaders, advocates, scholars, and community members.

Students may gain representational experience through the American Indian Law Clinic and earn a Certificate in American Indian Law showing their specialization in the field. Additionally, students often participate in Colorado Law faculty initiatives, such as The Implementation Project, a joint initiative with the Native American Rights Fund, and The Maya Land Rights and Development Project.

Recent employers

- Berkey & Williams LLP
- Cherokee Nation
- First Peoples Worldwide
- Native American Rights Fund
- Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- Patterson, Earnhart, Real Bird & Wilson, LLP
- Peebles Kidder
- U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Justice, and Interior
- U.S. Federal Communications Commission
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights



“Colorado Law teaches students about what makes and breaks a business. Our classroom offerings teach students how to become a trusted counselor to companies and entrepreneurs. We have a host of other offerings that get our students directly involved in the world-class startup scene in the Boulder-Denver area. This provides Colorado Law students a powerful advantage as they head into practice and craft their careers.”

Brad Bernthal '01
Professor

Entrepreneurial Law Clinic
Venture Capital
Early Stage Finance
Innovation Policy

Areas of Study Spotlight

Business, Technology and Entrepreneurship Law

An epicenter of innovation and entrepreneurship in the information age.

Colorado Law provides one of the leading legal programs for entrepreneurship, business, and information technology law and policy in the nation. Beginning in year one, you may participate in transactional law and entrepreneurship competitions, benefit from classes like Negotiations and Venture Capital, make investment decisions through the student-run Deming Center Venture Fund, and draft agreements for startup clients in the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. The Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship and our prestigious technology law journal also provide access to a community of professionals leading the future of law, policy, and technology.

The Denver-Boulder metro area is the heart of one of the nation’s premier telecommunications and technology hubs generating experiential opportunities in a variety of roles. Colorado Law also benefits from a substantial network of alumni and supporters across the nation—from Silicon Valley to Washington, D.C., and everywhere in between. We prepare you for practice while also giving you the tools to solve problems creatively for clients over the length of your career.

Recent top employers

Adobe
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Dish Network
DLA Piper Global Law Firm
Facebook
Federal Communications Commission
Holland & Hart LLP
Medtronic
Merchant & Gould
Sheridan Ross P.C.
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
Techstars
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Strengthen your student experience through involvement with our research centers

Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment

Founded in 1983, the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment is the oldest and preeminent law school institute in the country dedicated to natural resources law. The center works on diverse and increasingly interwoven topics, including environmental justice, climate change, public lands management, energy development, the governance of the Colorado River, and tribal resource management.

colorado.edu/law/gwc

Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship

Silicon Flatirons is an interdisciplinary research center that provides unique opportunities for students to interact with high-level attorneys, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and professionals at the intersection of law, policy, and technology.

In addition to hosting more than 100 conferences and events annually, Silicon Flatirons offers specialized internship programs in Colorado; Washington, D.C; the Bay Area; and elsewhere for students interested in careers in technology or startups. Students accepted into these programs gain a competitive edge with real-world experience.

siliconflatirons.org

Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law

As the cornerstone of our public service program, the White Center supports legal scholarship, expands constitutional literacy, and offers educational programming to Colorado's public schools and teachers through community outreach. The center serves as a hub for engaging law students, judges, high school students, public school teachers, scholars, and interested citizens in our nation's constitutional conversation.

colorado.edu/law/whitecenter



Professor Harry Surden leads an expert panel at the 2023 Silicon Flatirons conference on Generative AI.



Colorado Law and the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program hosted key Theranos whistleblower Tyler Shultz in April 2022 for a fireside chat and panel on the many dimensions of whistleblowing.

Unmatched opportunities to learn beyond the classroom

Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program at Colorado Law

Through a range of programming, including networking events, speaker series, case competitions, and new courses and curricula, the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program allows Colorado Law to make ethics and professionalism a central part of every law student's education. By building these skills in law school, you'll be able to seamlessly enter the working world and add value immediately.

D.C. Summer Program

Every year, Silicon Flatirons provides placement assistance for students interested in technology and communications issues to work in Washington, D.C., for the summer. Participating organizations include the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, National Emergency Number Association, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Public Knowledge, Common Cause, Verizon, AT&T, and Disney. The Hatfield Scholars Program, which runs parallel to the D.C. Summer Program, provides grants for summer internships in government or public interest positions.

The Colorado Law of the River Seminar

After a semester of classroom learning, the seminar culminates in a two-week rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. Developed by Professor Sarah Krakoff, the seminar provides a deep dive into the American West's most important resource—the water of the Colorado River. Weaving together multiple facets of natural resources, energy, and environmental law and other disciplines including American Indian law, conservation biology, climate science, anthropology, and more, students learn about the many areas of law and policy that affect management of the Colorado River and the communities that depend on it.

Korey Wise Innocence Project

The Korey Wise Innocence Project gives students the unique opportunity to assist people who believe they have been convicted despite being innocent of any offense. Colorado Law students evaluate these claims to see if there are factual and legal grounds to return to court and work with volunteer attorneys to further investigate cases.



U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse '09
Elected in November 2018 to represent Colorado's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. Congress, Neguse is Colorado's first African-American congressman, one of only a few first-generation Americans to serve in Congress, and one of the youngest members of Congress in the nation.

Serving our community is at our core

As a public institution, public service is central to our culture.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

LRAP provides partial loan repayment awards to graduates who choose qualifying public interest work. The program awarded 26 qualified applicants with \$6,500 awards in the 2025 award year to help pay down their student loans.

Public Service Pledge

Incoming law students may volunteer to pledge to complete at least 50 hours of law-related public service during their time in law school. Over the last four years, Colorado Law students have volunteered a total of over 36,200 hours of public service.

Public Service Fellowships

Public service fellowship opportunities allow students and recent graduates to gain valuable work experience without the burden of additional financial hardship. Recent fellowship recipients worked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, the United Nations International Law Commission, the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, public defenders' offices, and elsewhere.

Service opportunities

Begin making an impact your 1L year.

Acequia Assistance Project

The Acequia Assistance Project is a joint effort by the Getches-Wilkinson Center, Colorado Open Lands, and the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association to provide low- or no-cost legal representation and educational materials to acequias, traditional Hispanic irrigation communities, in southern Colorado. Students develop professional skills, receive mentorship from supervising attorneys, and assist an underrepresented Colorado community.

Maya Land Rights and Development Project

Law students work with Belizean indigenous organizations to help secure Maya customary land tenure and promote sustainable economic development opportunities for Maya communities.

Immigration and Citizenship Law Program

The program connects students interested in immigration law and policy with lawyers in the community who are involved in outreach, litigation, and policy work for externship opportunities and pro bono projects serving immigrants.

Colorado Law Constitution Day Project

Law students visit high school classrooms to deliver a one-day, interactive lesson on a current topic in constitutional law in honor of the nationally recognized signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17.

Gain hands-on experience

No matter your area of interest, there's a legal clinic to help you hone your skills.

Since 1948, Colorado Law's clinical education program has prepared students with unparalleled opportunities to practice law with actual clients. Each year about 110 students serve 400–500 clients on real cases or projects. Every Colorado Law student may take a clinic.

American Indian Law Clinic

At one of the first American Indian law clinics in the nation, students gain faculty-supervised experience providing legal assistance in a variety of matters, including tribal sovereignty, child welfare, preservation of tribal identity, employment discrimination, public benefits, preservation of Native lands, and more.

Civil Practice Clinic

Students represent low-income clients in family law, Social Security disability, and immigration asylum cases. The clinic also focuses on employment law, with students representing low-income wage workers and employees who have been the victims of discrimination, among others.

Community Collaboration Law Lab

Students engage in economic development projects, both on behalf of clients and on behalf of the public interest, with a goal of increasing social justice and social enterprise in a range of substantive areas, including land use, housing, local food, and healthy communities.

Criminal Defense Clinic

In the first criminal defense clinic in the nation, students learn basic criminal practice skills and represent clients in actual cases, from beginning to end, in municipal and county courts in Boulder County.

Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic

Students represent noncitizen clients in both criminal and immigration court, including applicants for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

Students work with local entrepreneurs, providing transactional legal services for the formation and development of small businesses in Colorado.

Juvenile and Family Law Clinic

Students handle a full range of legal matters related to youth and families, including representing low-income clients in public actions, such as child welfare and juvenile justice cases, or private actions, such as divorce and child custody matters.

Getches-Green Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic

Students represent public interest clients in environmental litigation related to federal public land protection. Students learn about expert testimony and witness preparation, analysis of detailed scientific and environmental data, and submission of complex legal briefs.

Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law and Policy Clinic

Students advocate in the public interest concerning technology issues in front of regulatory entities, courts, legislatures, and standard-setting bodies.



A Colorado Law student volunteer assists immigrants with their applications for U.S. citizenship.



Learn by doing

Experiential education includes lawyering activities outside the classroom—clinics, externships, appellate and trial competitions, and voluntary public service work—as well as experientially oriented classroom learning. Colorado Law’s Experiential Learning Program provides students with a well-rounded learning experience.

Competitions

Colorado Law students compete in more than 20 appellate, trial level, and transactional competitions each year across the country and internationally.

Recent competitions include the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Jeffery G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, the American College of Trial Lawyers National Trial Competition, The Costello Mock Trial Competition, Fordham’s Basketball Negotiation Competition, and the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Externships

The externship program gives students critical experiential learning opportunities by performing substantive legal work for judges, government officials, public interest institutions, and nonprofits. With approximately 160 placements each year and over 25,000 hours of cumulative work locally and nationwide, students acquire academic credit in addition to invaluable experience for future careers. Some placements may offer financial compensation in addition to academic credit.

Student-led Journals

University of Colorado Law Review

The flagship academic journal at Colorado Law since 1929, the *University of Colorado Law Review* publishes four times per year on general topics of legal importance.

Colorado Environmental Law Journal

Published since 1989, the journal provides a forum for the most pressing issues related to natural resources, energy, and environmental law and policy on local, regional, and global scales.

Colorado Technology Law Journal (CTLJ)

Founded in 2001, the CTLJ has since established a position among the elite national technology and telecommunications law journals.

colorado.edu/law/experiential

Recent externship placements

Boulder County Legal Services
Boulder District Attorney’s Office
Centura Health
Colorado Public Defender’s Office
Colorado’s 17th Judicial District
Colorado’s 20th Judicial District
Colorado Supreme Court
Deming Center Venture Fund
Denver District Attorney’s Office
Department of Homeland Security: U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Native American Rights Fund
Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
U.S. Attorney’s Office
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit
U.S. Department of Energy: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
University of Colorado Athletics Department: Office of Compliance Services

Student Life

It’s no secret that law school is an intense undertaking, but students at Colorado Law receive a world-class legal education that doesn’t come at the expense of their well-being. With unmatched access to nature’s playground and a remarkably supportive school culture, your rigorous studies will be balanced with rewarding extracurriculars.

Student Organizations

The law school is home to 40+ student-run organizations. Whether you’re seeking community in one of our affinity groups, like APALSA (Asian Pacific American Law Students Association) and BLSA (Black Law Students Association), or would like to dive deeper into your academic field of interest with a group like the Construction and Real Estate Law Association and the Health Law Society, you will find your people here.

Council for Racial Justice and Equity

The Council for Racial Justice and Equity (CRJE) was formed in the summer of 2020 as nationwide racial justice protests oriented America’s attention to the injustices Black communities face. The Black Law Student Association, students from BIPOC-led organizations, and allies worked together to form the Council. The Council advocates for and designs policy changes concerning diversity and racial justice.

Along with the law school administration, CRJE created the Solidarity Suite, Colorado Law’s first student multicultural center dedicated to supporting, empowering, and celebrating law students of color and those of historically marginalized and excluded groups. This space fosters a more inclusive, aware, and socially just legal community.

Student Bar Association

As Colorado Law’s student government, the SBA represents the interests of law students and oversees activities and funding of student organizations, administers the school’s honor code with the Honor Council, and sponsors many educational, social, and athletic activities. On a typical Thursday, you could attend THAC (Thursday Afternoon Club), and enjoy food and drinks with your friends overlooking the beautiful Flatirons from the Schaden Commons balcony.

Academic Success

Orientation at Colorado Law is an immersive, multi-day experience designed to welcome you into the community, equip you with essential skills, and introduce you to the resources and culture that will support your success in law school and beyond. From opening remarks by the dean and guest jurists, to breakout discussion groups on topics like managing stress, returning to law school, and first-generation student experience, orientation offers both practical and personal preparation. You’ll attend skills sessions on reading and analyzing cases, legal research and writing, and professional ethics; explore the law library and campus facilities; meet faculty, student leaders, and support offices; and engage in panels, Q&A sessions, and social events that help you connect with your peers and become part of the community from day one.

In the fall semester of 1L year, students take supplemental workshops on outlining and other skill-based topics. In the spring semester, first years have access to a class with additional focus on legal writing and legal analysis. Picking up again in the 3L year and even after graduation, students are provided specialized bar prep through multiple bar-specific classes in addition to supplemental workshops and materials.

Wellness

The Student Affairs Office is deeply committed to promoting student wellness and offers dedicated programming and guidance around managing stress and adjusting to law school life.

As a Colorado Law student, you will have access to CU’s state of the art rec center, Chautauqua Park’s hiking trails located just 1 mile from the law school, and CU’s club sports teams.

CU offers free counseling to all law students through Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), and the Colorado Lawyers Assistance Program and Colorado Lawyers Helping Lawyers provide free and confidential resources for our students.



Student leaders at the celebratory opening of the Solidarity Suite.



Join our community

JD Admission Standards

Above all, Colorado Law values leadership, character, diversity, and commitment to service in its students. The small size of the student body—about 180 in each entering class—and the large number of applicants requires a very selective admissions process. Admissions decisions are based on many factors, including undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score, as well as other indicators of ability, motivation, and achievement.

JD Application Process

The Admissions Committee considers applications beginning in October. Applicants are notified of decisions on a rolling basis from October until the class is filled, usually in May. Admission from the waitlist, which is not ranked, can occur as late as August, and the number of offers varies from year to year. Find complete application instructions at lsac.org and colorado.edu/law/admissions.

International Students

International applicants have additional requirements as explained on our website, including transcripts showing completion of the equivalent of an American bachelor's degree, foreign degree verification, and transcript translation, if applicable. The TOEFL is required of all students whose native language is not English, as a thorough and excellent command of written and spoken English is crucial to success in law school. After admission, international students must submit a financial affidavit stating that they have the financial resources to support themselves while attending school in the United States, because Colorado Law cannot offer loan assistance to international students. All admitted international students are considered for merit-based scholarships.

Master of Studies in Law

Students applying to the one-year MSL program should submit their application materials directly to the Colorado Law Admissions Office (not through the LSAC). LSAT scores are not required for consideration for the MSL program. An interview is required for admission.

Find complete application instructions at colorado.edu/law/msl.

Master of Laws (LLM)

LLM applications are processed through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) LLM Applicant Services. All applicants must register for the LLM Credential Assembly Service (LLM CAS) and the Document Assembly Service (DAS). Applicants with a foreign law degree will also need to register for the International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service (ITAES).

For more information and application instructions visit colorado.edu/law/llm.

Financial Aid

All admission decisions are made without regard to students' financial need. Every attempt is made to provide full financial assistance through federal and private educational loans, grants, work study, and scholarships. Students applying for financial aid, private law scholarships, or grants based on financial need must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA, studentaid.gov) as soon as possible after December 1. Eligible students are awarded a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan up to a maximum of \$50,000 per year. Students may also borrow from private alternative law loan programs which have interest rates and fees that vary according to the lender, the credit rating of the student, and whether there is a co-signer. Both loan fees and interest rates may be higher than those of the Direct loans, and there is no cap on interest rates. Additionally, private loan aid is not eligible for any of the federal repayment or forgiveness programs.

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards

All admitted first-year JD students are automatically considered for scholarships, as recipients are selected by the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee after an offer of admission has been made. Scholarships may be awarded through August. Colorado Law also offers scholarship money to second-year and third-year students each spring. More than 100 scholarships, fellowships, and awards are given annually based on academic and financial considerations. These scholarships are awarded based on multiple criteria, such as service to the law school, economic need, and demonstration of assistance in advancing the diversity of the student body.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords certain rights with respect to a student's education records. Copies of the policy are available in the Wise Law Library and the Rules of the Law School on the website.

Admissions Deadlines

October 1

JD application opens
lsac.org

MSL application opens
colorado.edu/law/MSL

LLM application opens
colorado.edu/law/LLM

March 15

LLM priority application deadline

April 1

JD application deadline

July 1

MSL application deadline &
LLM final application deadline



Admissions

Alan Schieve
Director of Admissions
alan.schieve@colorado.edu

Jimmy Ilseng
International Programs Director
jimmy.ilseng@colorado.edu

Office of Admissions
Law.admissions@colorado.edu
303-492-7203

Financial Aid Counselor
lawfinancialaid@colorado.edu

Wolf Law Building
2450 Kittredge Loop Road
Suite 103 | 403 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309

Connect with Us



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2025-26



Be Boulder.