Student Organizations and Activities

The University of Chicago Law Review, founded in 1933, is edited and managed by students. The Review publishes articles and book reviews by leading legal scholars along with comments by the Review’s student staff members. The Review emphasizes student scholarship, and extensive editorial assistance is made available to student commentators. On average, about half of each issue is devoted to student comments.

In recent years, about 15 percent of the students in each first-year class have been invited to join the Review, on the basis of either academic performance or excellence in an annual writing competition. Students who are not invited at the end of their first year may also join the staff by writing comments that are accepted for publication in the Review.

The University of Chicago Legal Forum is a student-edited journal which was founded in 1984. Each year the Forum focuses on a different topic of current legal interest and publishes pieces by students, academics, and practitioners. The professional contributions to each volume are presented at an annual symposium held at the Law School. The first volume examines barriers to international trade in professional services. Membership on the Forum is attained either through the analysis of a potential comment topic or through an annual writing competition. Students work on their own contributions, organize the symposium, and edit the papers that grow out of it.

The Hinton Moot Court Competition, founded in 1954, and named for Judge Edward W. Hinton (Professor of Law, 1913–36), is open to all second- and third-year students. The competition affords all students the opportunity to further develop skills in writing and appellate advocacy. The focus of the preliminary fall round is on oral argument. After studying the briefs and record of an actual case and participating in several practice arguments with student judges, each competitor must argue both sides of the case to panels of Chicago attorneys. Twelve students advance to the semifinal round, where they work in teams to brief and argue another case. A panel of faculty members and judges hears the semifinal arguments and selects the four best advocates. In the spring, the four finalists again work in teams on yet another case. The briefs produced in the final round are printed and distributed to the Law School community. A panel of distinguished judges presides at the final argument, which is one of the highlights of the academic year. This panel selects the Hinton Moot Court champions and the Llewellyn Cup champions. The competition is conducted by semifinalists from the previous year who comprise the Hinton Moot Court Committee, with the assistance of a faculty adviser and an alumni adviser.

The Mandel Legal Aid Association is the student organization associated with the work of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. The Mandel Clinic, housed in the Law School, operates as an office of the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago. It is directed by Gary H. Palm, Professor in the Law School. The attorneys are Clinical Fellows in the Law School. The clinical program is described more fully elsewhere in these Announcements.

The Law Student Association is the student government organization. Its president and five representatives from each class are elected annually by the student body. The Association organizes extracurricular activities and, through its officers and committees, communicates student opinion on academic and other matters. LSA also invites speakers to campus, provides parties for students and sponsors the Weekly Wine Mess for students and faculty.
The Association funds a variety of student groups, including: the Chicago Law Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides funds for law school students to work on public interest legal projects; BALSA, a local chapter of a national organization concerned with the interests of black students in law schools; the Gay/Lesbian Law Students Association; the Law Women’s Caucus, a group concerned with the role of women in the legal profession; the Law School Film Society; the Environmental Law Society; VITA, a volunteer student program that prepares annual income tax returns for indigent Chicago residents; the Phoenix, the law school student newspaper; the National Lawyers Guild, a local chapter of the national organization devoted to progressive change through law; the German Table; the International and Comparative Law Society; and the Federalist Society, organized to discuss political issues from a conservative perspective.

Research and Special Programs

The Law School publishes six professional journals, The University of Chicago Law Review, The University of Chicago Legal Forum, The Supreme Court Review, The Journal of Law and Economics, The Journal of Legal Studies, and Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research. The Law Review is a quarterly and the Legal Forum is an annual volume; both are published under the management of a board of student editors. The Supreme Court Review is an annual volume devoted to responsible professional criticism of the current decisions of the Supreme Court. The Journal of Law and Economics provides a forum for the publication of writings by economists and lawyers on problems that are both economic and legal and seeks to stimulate scholarly investigation of such problems. The Journal of Legal Studies provides a forum for basic theoretical and empirical research into the operation of legal systems and institutions.

The School’s long-standing concern with the relationships between law and economics is reflected in the Law and Economics Program. The aim of the Law and Economics Program is to advance understanding of the effects of laws, and hence to enlighten both economic theory and proposals for law reform, by systematic investigation of aspects of the legal system in a framework of economic analysis. A continuing series of studies has focused on antitrust, the economics of business organizations, public regulation of economic enterprise, and economic analysis of the common law. Recent studies examined the mandatory disclosure system in securities regulation, the welfare effects of inflation, predatory pricing, the market for corporate control, antitrust sanctions, the role of “social” investing in the management of pension trusts, and the economics of torts law. Professor Daniel R. Fischel is Director of the Program.

The Center for Studies in Criminal Justice, established in 1965 under a grant from the Ford Foundation, is concerned with enlarging knowledge of behavior defined as criminal; with studying the operation and assisting in the development of the agencies of criminal justice and other agencies of social control; and with providing training in the methodology and practice of research in these areas. The Center maintains close working relationships with other disciplines in the behavioral sciences relevant to the prevention and treatment of crime, and with the operating agencies of criminal justice at the local, state, and federal levels. Research projects have included an evaluation of an experiment in probation utilizing nonprofessionals and ex-offenders as probation officer assistants; an analysis of the operation of deterrent processes in the criminal law; the current status of American jails and prospects for alternative measures; the relationship of weapons...