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, published annually. Each volume of the Legal Forum is devoted to a topic of current legal interest and contains articles by academics and practitioners, as well as student-written comments. The professional contributions to each volume are presented at an annual symposium held at the Law School. Volume 1991 of the Legal Forum, “At the Schoolhouse Door: Education, Law and Democracy,” will examine the relationship between law and education; topics will include discrimination, academic freedom, and the role of private schools.

Students may join the Legal Forum either through the annual writing competition, which is held during the summer, or by developing a comment topic of their own. Members of the journal work on their own contributions, organize the symposium, and edit the articles submitted by symposium participants.

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 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 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 constitute 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 Association provides advice on the
content, structure, and staffing of the clinical education program. The Mandel Clinic has a Director, Gary H. Palm, who is a Professor in the Law School; five full-time attorneys who are Clinical Lecturers in Law in the Law School; and a social worker who is also a field instructor at the University's School of Social Service Administration. The clinical program is described more fully elsewhere in these Announcements.

The Law Students Association is the student government organization. Its president, five representatives from each class, and an LL.M. representative are elected annually by the student body. LSA organizes extracurricular activities, funds student groups, and, through student liaisons which it selects from among the student body, communicates student opinion on academic and other matters to faculty committees. LSA also sponsors the weekly Wine Mess for students and faculty.

LSA funds a variety of student groups, including: the Black Law Students Association, a local chapter of a national organization concerned with the interests of black students in law schools; the Edmund Burke Society, a conservative debating society; the Chicago Law Foundation, a nonprofit organization providing funds for law school students to work on public interest legal projects; the Christian Law Students, organized to discuss the relationship between legal education, the legal profession, and Christianity; the Entertainment and Sports Law Society, promotes presentations by current practitioners in this area of practice; the Environmental Law Society, organized to discuss the legal aspects of environmental issues; the Ethics and Law Society, a group committed to increasing ethical awareness relating to legal issues and the lawyer's fiduciary role; the Federalist Society, a local chapter of a national organization to discuss political issues from conservative and libertarian perspectives; the Gay/Lesbian Law Students Association, a group that provides support and sponsors programs regarding the legal status of lesbians and gay men; the Health Care Law Society, organized to discuss the legal aspects of medical and public health issues; the Hispanic Law Students, a local chapter of a national organization concerned with the interests of Hispanic students at the Law School; the International and Comparative Law Society, organized to examine the legal systems of other countries and their relationship to the Anglo-American legal system; the Jewish Law Students Association, a group concerned with Jewish issues of legal interest and legal issues of Jewish interest; Law School Films, shows old, classic movies on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday nights; the Law Students against Homelessness, students who forgo amenities of the professional interviewing process with the request that the law firms donate their savings to shelters for the homeless; the Law Women's Caucus, women committed to understanding and improving their role in law school, the legal profession, and society; the Metaphysical Club, organized to discuss jurisprudential and philosophical issues in the law; the National Lawyer's Guild, a local chapter of the national organization devoted to progressive change through law; the Order of Protection Society, assists overburdened legal agencies by filing orders of protection for abused spouses and children; the Phoenix, the law school student newspaper; the Progressive Law Students Association, a group organized to promote the discussion of liberal and humanistic ideas, from both a philosophical and a political perspective; Scales of Justice, an a cappella singing group; Street Law, an organization that sends law students to local high schools to teach legal issues; the 10K Club, coordinates the running of 10K races around the Chicago area; Tortious Productions, the law school
musical; and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, a volunteer student program that prepares annual income tax returns for indigent Chicago residents.

PLACEMENT

A Placement Office, under the supervision of the Director of Placement, is maintained by the Law School. Its primary function is to keep students aware of career opportunities as they become available and to help students take advantage of these opportunities. To facilitate this, the Placement Office maintains an extensive library of material concerning potential employers in all areas of practice. In addition to law firm employment information, the placement library contains material on judicial clerkships, government departments and agencies, public interest and legal services, and teaching positions. Information concerning fellowships, internships, essay competitions, and bar admissions may also be found in the placement library.

As part of its operations, the Placement Office maintains contact with employers throughout the year, and there is a regular flow of inquiries concerning student job opportunities. In addition, employers are invited to come to the Law School in the fall to interview second-year students for summer positions and third-year students for permanent employment. Facilities and scheduling of interviews are provided by the Law School, and about 550 employers will be interviewing at the School this fall. They come from all over the United States, as far away as Hawaii, and afford students a wide range of location and type of employment from which to choose. During the 1989–90 academic year, the cities with the largest number of interviewers were Chicago (84), New York (76), Washington, D.C. (70), Los Angeles (48), and San Francisco (31), with substantial representation from such cities as Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Cleveland, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Phoenix, and Seattle. The greatest percentage of interviewing employers represent law firms of all sizes, but other fields of interest, including corporate law departments, government departments and agencies, public interest, and legal services are also represented.

Since all the concentration of effort by the Placement Office staff in the fall “interview season” is directed toward second- and third-year students, first-year students are welcome in the Placement Office on a very limited basis. First-year hours will be posted. Job opportunities do become available to first-year students as the school year proceeds, particularly in the Winter and Spring Quarters. In recent years, an average of 90 percent of the first-year class have obtained law-related positions for the summer following their first year of school.

Another primary method of making job opportunities known is for an employer to list an opportunity with the Placement Office, which in turn makes it available to students in the placement library. Interested student may then communicate directly with the employer. During the year, the Placement Office receives hundreds of such inquiries from all types of employers, particularly if they find themselves unable to interview on campus.

Approximately three-fourths of the graduates in recent classes entered law firms after graduation. Twenty-five percent received appointments to judicial clerkships. (During the 1990–91 term, four Law School graduates will be serving as clerks for justices on the United States Supreme Court.) A significant number of graduates have also taken positions with government departments and agencies, corporations, and public interest or legal services organizations. Our graduates go