

MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law has grown into an internationally recognized leader in the field of legal education since its establishment nearly 90 years ago. Its location in the capital city of California, Sacramento, has shaped the school's focus on public law, international law, and advocacy.

McGeorge School of Law began as a one-room night school in downtown Sacramento (L & 10th) in 1924, when it was founded as the Sacramento College of Law. Verne Adrian McGeorge was the founding dean and professor of law. The first commencement in 1925 marked the graduation of five new attorneys. The first female graduate of the school was Rose Sheehan in 1927, marking the college as ahead of its time in diversity and inclusion. In 1929, the Board of Trustees renamed the school McGeorge College of Law in honor of its founder.

Succeeding McGeorge, Russell Harris was dean from 1930-1933. Gilford Rowland was dean from 1933-1937. Lawrence Dorety was dean from 1937 until the school closed during WWII. The school reopened in 1946 under Dean John Swan. Dean Swan began to pursue a permanent home for McGeorge College of Law after several moves in downtown Sacramento.

Legacy of Leadership

In 1957, the influential Gordon D. Schaber became dean of McGeorge College of Law after Dean Swan's sudden death. Soon after, the Board of Trustees voted to move the school to a vacant well-baby clinic at the corner of 33rd Street and Fifth Avenue in the Oak Park neighborhood. Today, the McGeorge School of Law campus has grown to 13 acres. The law-school only campus continues to be located in Oak Park, three miles southeast of the state Capitol building in Sacramento, California.

Dean Schaber guided the school through its emergence as a first-class law school for 34 years. In 1964, Schaber won accreditation by the Committee of Bar Examiners for the state of California. He recruited top-notch faculty, such as Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who taught constitutional law on the Sacramento campus from 1965-1988.

Emergence of McGeorge as a National Law School

McGeorge School of Law was accredited by the American Bar Association in 1968, paving the way for its rise to national prominence. In 1983, McGeorge School of Law became a member school in the Order of the Coif, the ABA's highest acknowledgement of academic excellence that 81 of 199 of its member schools have established.

In 1984, the Victims of Crime Center was established on the McGeorge School of Law campus. This center provides a statewide, free service to crime victims. McGeorge School of Law students, under attorney supervision, provide information and referral to victims, their families, victim service providers, and victim advocates through the 1-800-VICTIMS toll-free number.

The ABA bestowed on Schaber its highest honor for service in legal education (The Kutak Award) in 1991, the year he stepped down as dean. Dean Gerald Caplan succeeded Schaber in 1991.

In 2002, Dean Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker became the eighth dean of McGeorge School of Law. In 2012, Francis J. Mootz III, formerly of UNLV's William Boyd School of Law, became the ninth dean of McGeorge.

McGeorge School of Law Today

Michael Hunter Schwartz, former dean and professor of law in the William H. Bowen School of Law, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, became the 10th dean of McGeorge School of Law, in 2017. The McGeorge School of Law faculty includes full-time and part-time professors who hold law degrees from schools such as Harvard, University of Chicago, Stanford, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, McGeorge School of Law, and Georgetown.

The McGeorge School of Law Legal Studies Center was opened in 2011 and houses the Gordon D. Schaber Law Library. The state-of-the-art library serves the Sacramento legal community of students, law clerks and members of the Sacramento County bench and bar.

McGeorge School of Law has more than 13,000 alumni who work all over the world. The school has many alumni who have served or are serving as judges, justices, commissioners, referees and administrative law judges throughout the country. Two of the school's alumni are judges of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the second-highest court in the nation, and two are state Supreme Court justices in Nebraska and Nevada.

Affiliation with University of the Pacific

McGeorge School of Law merged with University of the Pacific as their school of law in 1966 and began offering day classes the following year. The original evening program for California leaders continues today, and is consistently recognized as one of the best part-time law programs in the nation.

Areas of Academic Distinction

McGeorge School of Law is world-renowned as a leader in the study of international law. Its master program in Transnational Business Practice counts 500 alumni around the globe. The school also offers annual summer programs for J.D. students in Salzburg, Austria, and Antigua, Guatemala, which attracts law students from around the world.

McGeorge's location in Sacramento, California's capital city, is a benefit to students who want to study public law and governmental decision-making. The McGeorge Capital Center prepares students for careers in leadership and service through extensive externship and co-curricular opportunities.

McGeorge has a rigorous core curriculum and also offers students outstanding moot court, trial advocacy and clinical service programs. The school's legal clinics offer legal representation in several specialty areas to indigent populations through the Sacramento area. Students and supervising attorneys handle hundreds of civil cases a year through all phases, including trial and appeal.

Catalog Publication

As you review our catalog, we hope it will become a useful guide that will help you throughout your academic journey at McGeorge School of Law.

The catalog includes information about courses, campus resources and student services, program descriptions, program requirements and information about policies and procedures. It provides you with the information you will need to be a successful student.

Because the catalog is compiled well in advance of the academic year it covers, changes in programs, policies, and the academic calendar may well occur.

All catalog information is subject to change without notice or obligation.