

STUDENT LIFE

Pro Bono, Public Service & Volunteer Opportunities

McGeorge provides robust opportunities for students for community engagement in the Oak Park neighborhood surrounding the campus and in the Sacramento region. Students come to McGeorge to make a difference, and these activities help students achieve personal and professional fulfillment by helping others. Students gain professional experience, enhance their resumes, and build relationships with other professionals. Many of these activities make professional education more interesting, relevant and meaningful. Opportunities fall into three related groupings: pro bono, public service/public interest, and volunteer opportunities. The Capital Center for Law and Policy recognizes McGeorge students with a Capital Commendation at different levels depending on the number of hours provided.

Pro Bono

Pro Bono comes from “Pro Bono Publico” which means for the public good. JD students use their growing legal skills under the supervision of a practicing attorney to help provide free legal services on campus at one-day clinics sponsored by McGeorge and on behalf of a variety of governmental, nonprofit, educational and civil programs. Students do not receive compensation or academic credit for doing pro bono work. These programs are often coordinated by the McGeorge Legal Clinics, the Career Development Office (CDO), or by faculty and student organizations, and many involve invaluable cross-cultural experience. Participating students are very enthusiastic about these service learning opportunities helping persons of limited means.

Public Service

Public Service activities include participation in externships in government and nonprofit organizations as part of our Capital Center for Law and Policy and in our legal clinics (both are for academic credit) as well as a variety of opportunities to learn about careers in public service/public interest through various CDO programs.

Volunteerism

Volunteer Opportunities include community-based activities that support the Oak Park neighborhood or the broader community but do not involve the use of legal skills. Students in the MSL/MPP/MPA degree programs are encouraged to participate in these community events, along with JD and LL.M. students.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities Information:

Log onto the Public Service Jobs Directory at: PSJD.org (The CDO pays for your subscription!).

Contact:

Career Development Office at:
lawcareers@pacific.edu or 916.739.7011

Law Student State Bar Registration

The rules of the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California require each law student who plans to take the California Bar Examination to register with the Committee and pay the prescribed fee after beginning the study of law and before any other application is transmitted to the Committee.

Forms for registration are available from the State Bar of California's website at www.calbar.ca.gov (<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>).

California and other states have standards of character and fitness to practice which must be satisfied by candidates applying for admission to the Bar. The Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California of the Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California provides:

Every applicant shall be of good moral character. The term “good moral character” includes qualities of honesty, fairness, candor, trustworthiness, observance of fiduciary responsibility, respect for and obedience to the laws of the state and the nation, and respect for the rights of others and for the judicial process. The applicant has the burden of establishing that he or she is of good moral character. For students who expect to practice in California, an Application for Determination of Moral Character is available from the State Bar of California's website at www.calbar.ca.gov (<http://www.calbar.ca.gov>). Most students file the application with the Committee of Bar Examiners during their senior years, preferably more than six months before sitting for the California Bar Examination. Students with a record of involvement in disciplinary or criminal matters may want to file the application at an earlier date.

Students who plan to practice law in jurisdictions other than California should check that state's requirements for student registration and admission to the bar. Further information regarding admission requirements and bar examiner addresses is available in the Office of Student Affairs.

University of the Pacific Law Review

University of the Pacific Law Review is edited and managed by a board of student editors assisted by a faculty advisor.

The Law Review publishes articles by law professors, practitioners, and jurists, as well as student authored comments and case notes. A special issue, “Greensheets Review of Selected California Legislation,” is published annually with student-authored reviews of recently enacted California legislation.

Law Review members are selected based on a writing competition from those who have completed the first-year courses with academic standing which places them in the upper range of their class.

Trial Advocacy Association

The Trial Advocacy Association Board creates opportunities for all McGeorge students (whether on the Mock Trial Competition Team or not) to participate in Trial Advocacy-related events. These events include meetings where advocacy issues are the focus, inviting outside speakers, the summer mock trial training program, and the Ben Franz First-Year Mock Trial Competition.

Moot Court

Students who excel in the school's Global Lawyering Skills II course are eligible to apply to serve on the Moot Court Honors Board. Under the administration of faculty advisors, the Board administers the first-year intra-school moot court competition. Members assist in preparing problems, instructing small groups, and evaluating written and oral student performances.

Competition Teams

Advanced students are eligible for membership on the Moot Court, Mock Trial, and Negotiation/ADR competition team which represent McGeorge School of Law in interscholastic competitions at regional, national, and international levels. Selection for any of the competitions is made by the faculty director of the respective programs.

McGeorge Moot Court teams regularly participate in the following competitions:

ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition
Davis Asylum Moot Court
Jessup International Moot Court
New York Bar National Moot Court Competition
Niagara International Moot Court
Pace International Criminal Court Competition
Pepperdine Entertainment Moot Court
San Diego Criminal Procedure Moot Court
Saul Lefkowitz Trademark Moot Court
Thomas Tang Moot Court
Traynor Moot Court

McGeorge Mock Trial teams regularly participate in the following competitions:

AAJ Student Competition
Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition
John Marshall/ABA Criminal Justice Section
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Competition
National Civil Trial Competition
National Ethics Trial Competition (hosted by McGeorge School of Law)
National Trial Competition
San Diego Defense Lawyers
William Daniel National Competition

Student Learning Outcomes

(As Approved by the Faculty, February 18, 2011)

Learning outcomes are the lawyering skills that students are expected to obtain through the completing of a legal education. The curriculum at McGeorge School of Law has been designed to prepare students with the key skills and competencies needed to demonstrate these learning outcomes in the legal profession.

Consistent with ABA Standards, upon completion of a J.D. degree, graduates of the McGeorge School of Law will demonstrate mastery of the following student learning outcomes at the level needed for admission to the bar and effective and ethical participation in the legal profession as an entry level attorney.

Each student will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to identify and understand key concepts in substantive law, legal theory, and procedure in domestic and international law context;
2. Apply knowledge and critical thinking skills to perform competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem solving;
3. Demonstrate the ability to conduct domestic and international legal research;
4. Demonstrate communication skills, including effective listening and critical reading, writing in objective and persuasive styles, and oral advocacy and other oral communications;

5. Collaborate effectively with others in a variety of legal settings and context;
6. Apply knowledge of professional ethics to representation of clients, performance of duties as an officer of the courts, and to the resolution of ethical issues;
7. Demonstrate professional judgment and professionalism through conduct consistent with the legal profession's values and standards.

Student Organizations

Practicing your legal skills doesn't always happen in class or during an internship. Chartered Student Organizations play an integral role in the campus environment and educational process, and the many events hosted annually directly enhance academic and career preparation, cultural awareness, public service, leadership skills and networking opportunities. So get involved—with your peers, with the campus community, and with the Sacramento legal community. You will meet people with similar interests, organize meaningful activities, and have plenty of opportunities to network.

The list of active organizations changes from year-to-year. Here is a sample of some of the Student Organizations that have recently been registered at McGeorge:

Alternative Dispute Resolution Club (ADR)
Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)
Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
Business Association
Christian Law Students Society (CLSS)
¿Como Se Dice? El Club de Espanol
Criminal Law Society (CLS)
Employment and Labor Law (ELLSA)
Environmental Law Society (ELS)
Family Law Association
Federal Bar Association
Federalist Society, McGeorge Chapter
Governmental Affairs Student Association (GASA)
Health Law Association (MHLA)
If/When/How, McGeorge Chapter (LSRJ)
Intellectual Property Student Association (IPSA)
International Law Society (MILS)
J. Reuben Clark Law Society
Jewish Law Students Association
Junior Barristers Club (JBC)
Lambda Law Students Association
Latina/o Law Students Association (LLSA)
Legal Music Society
Middle Eastern/South Asian Association (MESAA)
Military Law Society (MLS)
Moot Court Society
Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)
Phi Delta Phi, Shields Inn (PDP)
Public Legal Services Society (PLSS)
Rugby Football Club (Rugby)
Soccer Club
Sports & Entertainment Law Society (SELS)
Strategic Games Club (SGC)
Tennis Club
Trial Advocacy Association (TAA)
Water Law Society
Wine Law Society
Women's Caucus (MWC)
Yoga Club

Alumni

Every graduate from McGeorge School of Law becomes a lifetime member of the Alumni Association upon earning their J.D., LL.M., M.S.L., J.S.D., M.P.A. or M.P.P. McGeorge School of Law alumni have distinguished themselves as leaders in legal practice, on the judicial bench in local, state and federal trial and appellate arenas, in all levels of government service, and in the business and nonprofit communities. Alumni are found in each of the 50 United States, as well as in 52 countries around the globe.

The McGeorge School of Law Alumni Association is governed by a 36-member Board of Directors representing the law school's more than 13,000 alumni. The Board provides ample opportunities for leadership and engagement with the law school and fellow alumni. Among Board priorities are building Alumni Chapters around the country, engaging more alumni in volunteer opportunities, charitably supporting the law school, and actively assisting new graduates with their post-law-school job search. The Board also supports the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, two annual MCLE events (at nominal cost to alums), and several events during the academic year connecting current students with alumni.