

10/19/2015



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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Establish a Graduate Concentration in “U.S. Legal Practice Skills” for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree at the College of Law.

**SPONSOR:** Vikram D. Amar, Dean and Iwan Foundation Professor of Law, University of Illinois College of Law, 217-244-8446, [amar@illinois.edu](mailto:amar@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Margareth Etienne, Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs and Nancy Snowden Research Scholar in Law, University of Illinois College of Law, 217-265-0878, [metienne@illinois.edu](mailto:metienne@illinois.edu)

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

This proposal seeks the approval of a U.S. Legal Practice Skills Graduate Concentration for the LL.M. Degree at the College of Law. The proposed Concentration requires students to complete a minimum of twelve credit hours in topics integral to U.S. Legal Practice Skills. These credits will consist primarily of an externship in an approved Field Placement (organized and vetted by the College), an accompanying Field Placement course, and additional law courses (including courses focusing on advocacy and communication in the U.S. law context).

This Concentration will only be open to students currently enrolled in the LL.M. degree program at the College of Law. Students will be placed in fall internships and courses. The fall field placement and concurrent course instruction will require accepted students to remain at the College for a third semester. This Concentration is viewed as the capstone to the traditional LL.M. course requirements. Field placements will be provided to interested students after two semesters of coursework. The 12 credit hours for the Concentration may not count towards the LL.M. degree or other Concentration credit hours and must be completed in addition to the LL.M. or other Concentration credit hours. Applicants must be in good standing, have graduate standing at the College of Law, and a minimum 3.0 GPA (in excess of the LL.M. minimum 2.75 GPA). Interested students must apply by the listed deadline at the start of the second semester of the LL.M. degree.

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Illinois LL.M. program is designed to introduce students to the U.S. legal system while also providing them with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in particular areas of professional and academic interests.

The Concentration in U.S. Legal Practice Skills offers a capstone opportunity to build on the knowledge and skills acquired at the College. Traditionally, LL.M. students graduate with a deep understanding of substantive fields of U.S. and comparative law, but many could benefit from the opportunity to improve upon legal practice skills. Such skills are essential for all lawyers, but will be particularly useful for global lawyers who seek an opportunity to enhance their understanding of American legal practice. The Concentration in U.S. Legal Practice Skills will enable the College to better serve students in the following ways:

- 1) Enables students to work as interns under the supervision of practicing lawyers and in conjunction with in-class instruction. A third semester of hands-on legal practice provides invaluable exposure that is difficult to arrange in the limited time and flexibility of the traditional LL.M. program;
- 2) Provides opportunity and guidance to students in developing advocacy, communication, and business skills that are critical for emerging global and transnational legal practice;
- 3) Enables students to identify Illinois as a law school that has unique strengths in the international and domestic skills-based training of lawyers;
- 4) Provides students with a Concentration designation on their transcripts that will better allow them to market their deeper proficiencies in skills-based legal training;
- 5) Offers additional time and flexibility to master skills-based advocacy as well as substantive legal training.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

##### 1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

We expect this Concentration may yield an increase of 10 to 15 students per year. This Concentration will require an externship Field Placement and an accompanying classroom component course (Field Placement Instruction). The most significant expense for this proposal will involve the employment of one part-time instructor and teaching assistant if necessary due to greater than anticipated enrollment. The costs involved will be easily covered by tuition funds generated from the Concentration.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

See (1)(a) above. No other programs or functions will be discontinued.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

No additional or external resources will be necessary as the staff at the College of Law can absorb any additional duties. Any needed instructional resources will be supported by the program tuition revenue.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

Current staff in the Graduate and International Programs Office has the capacity to serve as advisors, maintain the records and process admissions.

The College currently has a sizable professional externship program, a working infrastructure for monitoring and supporting externs, and a newly developed program anticipated to serve only international LL.M. graduate students. Capacity will be increased if needed by adding a supervising instructor. Students in the Concentration will also enroll in existing skills, advocacy, and related substantive courses offered by the College, most of which have not reached capacity.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

There will be no impact on course enrollments in other units as all required courses will be taught at the College of Law.

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library.

There should be limited or negligible impact on the University Library system. A letter from the University Library indicating their readiness for the proposed program is attached.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

The students will spend the vast majority of their time in placements outside of campus grounds and facilities during their third semester. We expect limited impact on technology and space and are confident that we can limit the overall impact on resources through enrollment management. We do not anticipate the overall population of graduate students to exceed the LL.M. program's recent historical enrollment.

For new degree programs only: **NOT NEEDED**

- 3) Briefly describe how this program will support the University's mission, focus, and/or current priorities. Include specific objectives and measurable outcomes that demonstrate the program's consistency with and centrality to that mission.
- 4) Please provide an analysis of the market demand for this degree program. What market indicators are driving this proposal? What type of employment outlook should these graduates expect? What resources will be provided to assist students with job placement?
- 5) If this is a proposed graduate program, please discuss the programs intended use of waivers. If the program is dependent on waivers, how will the unit compensate for lost tuition revenue?

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2016

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:**

[Add the name of this Concentration where indicated in proposal EP.16.20 and add the following to the end of the Programs of Study statement in that proposal.]

A fifth concentration requires that students spend an extra semester in the program:

## **U.S. Legal Practice Skills**

This Concentration requires students to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours in topics integral to U.S. Legal Practice Skills in a third semester. The 12 credit hours for the Concentration may not count towards the LL.M. degree or other Concentration credit hours and must be completed in addition to the LL.M. or other Concentration credit hours.

This Concentration will be open to students in the LL.M. degree program at the College of Law. Students are expected to be in good standing and have a minimum overall G.P.A. of 3.0 to be eligible for the Concentration. This Concentration is only available as a third semester Concentration. Interested students must apply by the listed deadline at the start of the second semester of the LL.M. degree.

<u>LAW 692 Field Placements</u>	<b>4</b>
<u>LAW 692 Field Placement Classroom Instruction (taken concurrently with Field Placement)</u>	<b>3</b>
<b>Select at least five hours of course work from the courses below:</b>	<b>5</b>
<u>LAW 603 Torts</u>	
LAW 607 Civil Procedure	
LAW 682 Evidence	
<u>LAW 685 Dispute Resolution</u>	
LAW 695 Fundamentals of Trial Practice	
LAW 793 Advanced Litigation Topics	
	<b>12</b>

**In addition to the Concentration requirements, students must also complete the requirements of the LL.M. degree.**

**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

  
Unit Representative: margareth Etienne

8/24/15  
Date:

  
College Representative: V. Kram Amar

8/24/15  
Date:

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Graduate College Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Law

Office of the Associate Dean  
202A Law Building  
504 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820-6996



August 24, 2015

Educational Policy Committee  
Faculty Senate  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Members of the Senate Educational Policy Committee:

The College of Law fully supports the creation of the Concentration in U.S. Legal Practice Skills for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree. The core courses required to satisfy the concentration consist of a graduate externship and additional courses that are already taught at the College. A graduate externship program is currently being offered this academic year 2015-2016, and the other traditional classroom courses that satisfy the concentration have not reached maximum enrollment. An increased enrollment in the externship program may require the procurement of additional placement opportunities and the College is prepared to implement these as needed. Course capacity will be closely monitored. Should the classroom component of the externship program exceed current course capacity, the College will limit enrollment or hire a TA or make other arrangements as necessary. Any additional costs from the implementation or administration of the Concentration will be supported by the third semester of tuition payments borne from the Concentration itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sharpe'.

Jamelle C. Sharpe  
Professor of Law and  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Memorial Law Library

College of Law  
142 Law Building  
504 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820



September 4, 2015

Educational Policy Committee  
Faculty Senate  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Members of the Senate Educational Policy Committee:

The Albert E. Jenner Jr., Memorial Law Library fully supports the creation of the College of Law Graduate Concentration in "U.S. Legal Practice Skills" for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree. The core library materials required to support research and teaching in the concentrations already exist in the Law Library collection. In addition, the College of Law provides sufficient financial support to allow for the purchase of further resources as needed.

Sincerely,



Faye E. Jones  
Director and Clinical Professor  
College of Law  
Albert E. Jenner Jr., Memorial Law Library

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.16.21

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



September 21, 2015

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Law and the Graduate College to establish a Graduate Concentration in U.S. Legal Practice Skills in the Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Salefski  
M. Etienne  
J. Hart  
A. McKinney

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall  
801 South Wright Street  
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive Committee

2015-2016 Members

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Dean & Chair  
Graduate College

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Sandra Rodriguez-Zas  
Animal Sciences

Mark Rood  
Civil & Environmental  
Engineering

Lisa Rosenthal  
Art & Design

Angelika Tzanetou  
Classics

Michelle Wang  
Statistics/Psychology/  
Bioengineering

September 14, 2015

Kathy Martensen  
Office of the Provost  
207 Swanlund MC-304

Dear Kathy,

Enclosed please find the proposal from the College of Law to establish a Graduate Concentration in "U.S. Legal Practice Skills" for the Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree at the College of Law.

The proposal was received by the Graduate College on August 24, 2015. It was forwarded to the Program Subcommittee for review at the August 27, 2015 meeting. The Program Subcommittee approved the proposal to move forward to the Graduate College Executive committee pending the receipt of the following:

- Reorganize the five proposals into two proposals, the first describing the "U.S. Legal Practice Skills" concentration, and the second describing the other four concentrations, since these other four share the same structure.
- Replace Appendix A with a summary of the LL.M. degree program as specified in the Academic Catalog, adding the new course requirements that are still being approved, and that the degree is intended for international students as describes on the law web page.
- The revised proposal will need to address whether or not a class can count toward more than one concentration or the LL.M. Campus policy makes no restriction on such double counting, but individual programs can.
- The revised proposal should clarify that students must apply for the concentration.
- The revised proposal should clarify that students must stay for an additional semester to complete this concentration.
- The revised proposal should clarify that the externship is pre-arranged, and that it corresponds to a specific course in the concentration program of study.

A response with clarifying information from the College of Law was received on August 28, 2015. The Graduate College Executive Committee reviewed and approved the proposal on September 11, 2015 pending minor modifications. Those modifications have been made.

I send the proposal to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

John C. Hart  
Executive Associate Dean  
Graduate College

c: K. Salefski  
M. Etienne  
A. McKinney