Drake Law

LL.M./M.J. IN GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Drake Law School's graduate law program in Global Intellectual Property Law provides an exceptional learning environment that prepares transnational international property (IP) lawyers for today's global business environment. Strategically located in central Iowa—dubbed by some as the “Silicon Valley” of agricultural biotechnology—Drake University Law School houses the internationally renowned Intellectual Property Law Center.

Directed by Professor Peter Yu, a widely respected expert in international IP law, the Center is a rare U.S. law program that has developed a strong academic and research focus on IP law and policy in the Asia Pacific region. Peer surveys conducted by U.S.News & World Report have consistently ranked the Drake Intellectual Property Law Center among the top 25 IP law programs in the United States and one of the top five programs in the Midwest.

Curriculum

The Drake Intellectual Property Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.) programs offer an innovative curriculum that combines legal theory, policy analysis, practical experience, and professional skills development. The curriculum is specially designed for students to develop key competencies needed to become successful transnational IP lawyers.

Students choose from a wide and expanding array of basic courses and advanced seminars.*

Basic Competency
• Copyright Law
• Patent Law
• Trademark and Unfair Competition Law

International Competency
• International Intellectual Property Law
• International Trade
• Public International Law

Core Competency
• Antitrust
• Art, Cultural Heritage, and Law
• Entertainment Law
• First Amendment
• Intellectual Property in the Internet Age
• Intellectual Property Licensing
• Intellectual Property Litigation
• Mass Media Law
• Patent Office Practice
• Sports Law

Professional Competency
• Contract Drafting
• Legal Interviewing & Counseling
• Mediation
• Negotiations

Interdisciplinary Competency
• Agricultural Law—Intro
• Health Law—Intro
• International Human Rights

Analytical Competency
• Advanced Writing Requirement+
• LL.M./M.J. Individual Research
• LL.M./M.J. Thesis

Curriculum Enhancement
• Administrative Law
• Business Associations
• Conflict of Laws
• Federal Courts and Jurisdiction
• Legislation
• Sales

Classroom rigor is enhanced with a wide range of valuable experiences—the unique first-year trial practicum, the annual Supreme Court Celebration, pre-arranged visits to the Iowa Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, as well as workshops and regular meetings with the Drake IP LL.M./M.J. faculty.

“The tradition of small classes at Drake Law School will assure you full interaction with professors from around the world.”

PROFESSOR XIE HUIJIA, LAW SCHOOL, SOUTH CHINA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
VISITING SCHOLAR, DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

* Courses may not be offered every term  + Taken in conjunction with seminar
practice in Houston, Texas, almost 20 years ago and has developed a special emphasis on IP law over the past decade. She served as president of the Iowa Intellectual Property Law Association from 2008-2009. Johns earned her J.D. from South Texas College of Law where she was inducted into the Order of Lytae and became a member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. She received her B.S. from Iowa State University.

Edmund J. Sease is a name partner of McKee, Voorhees, and Sease, PLC, a leading law firm in Iowa specializing in the area of IP law. Sease possesses more than 35 years of experience as a patent attorney, trademark attorney, and IP litigator. He successfully argued J.E.M. Ag Supply, Inc. v. Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. before the U.S. Supreme Court. Before joining his law firm in 1973, Sease worked for seven years in the patent department of Proctor and Gamble. A long-time adjunct professor at Drake University Law School, he received his J.D. Order of the Coif and a B.A. in Chemistry from Drake University.

Degree Requirements

The LL.M. degree is designed for students who have earned their J.D., LL.B., or comparable law degree. The M.J. degree targets those who do not have a law degree, such as doctoral students in other disciplines, policymakers, government officials, business executives, intellectual property agents, scientists, technology developers, and journalists. Both programs require a minimum of 24 credits to graduate.

Students interested in pursuing in-depth research or doctoral studies may complete an LL.M./M.J. thesis under the guidance of a full-time faculty member. This optional thesis is intended to enable students to develop an original research paper of publishable or near-publishable quality.

Unless the program director grants a waiver, all M.J. candidates and those LL.M. candidates who do not have a basic or an advanced law degree in a common law jurisdiction must complete Introduction to the American Legal System, Legal Writing, and/or Legal Research.

Drake Intellectual Property Law Center

The Drake Intellectual Property Law Center was launched in fall 2007 to promote global, interdisciplinary understanding of IP law and policy. The Center was established with the generous support of a $1.0 million gift from Wayne, UV'72, and Donna Kern, which endowed the Kern Family Chair in Intellectual Property Law and a $750,000 leadership commitment from DuPont Pioneer.

Having recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, this dynamic Center offers an innovative curriculum, providing students with a solid foundation in both the theoretical and practical aspects of IP law. It has sponsored summer institutes bringing together judges, policymakers, industry leaders, attorneys, academics, and students to explore cutting-edge issues at the intersection of IP, biotechnology, and agricultural sciences.

In addition, the Center serves as an international research hub, fostering partnerships with leading research institutions from around the world. Every year, the Center sponsors groundbreaking symposia and distinguished lectures, hosts eminent speakers and internationally recognized experts, publishes books and an occasional paper series, and develops international research and outreach programs.

Drake University Law School

Since its founding in 1885, Drake University Law School has earned a well-deserved reputation for its education and training of future litigators, transaction lawyers, mediators, negotiators, and judges. As one of the 25 oldest law schools in the United States, Drake Law School has a strong and supportive alumni network. Today, Drake Law graduates work in all 50 states and in several foreign countries with positions that range from state Supreme Court justices to practicing attorneys to corporate CEOs.

The Law School’s clinical program has been ranked among the top 25 in the nation. Its proximity to the Iowa legislature in Des Moines offers students valuable opportunities for firsthand experience in legislative practice. As the only law school in Iowa’s capital city, Drake provides students with ample internships and clerkship opportunities with law firms, multinational corporations, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and federal and state judicialities.

Now, in its 30th year of existence, the Drake Agricultural Law Center is internationally recognized for providing opportunities to study how the legal system shapes our food system and influences the ability of the agricultural sector to produce, market, and utilize agricultural products. The Center is directed by Professor Neil Hamilton, one of the nation’s leading authorities on agricultural and food law.

Drake University is recognized as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the Midwest. A mid-sized, private university in Des Moines, Drake offers the benefits and resources of a larger institution along with the advantages of intimate class sizes and close personal relationships.

Past Drake visitors include international dignitaries such as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, former President of Mexico Vicente Fox, and former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano.
Des Moines—State Capital of Iowa

Drake University’s location in Iowa’s capital city of Des Moines (just 10 minutes from the downtown area) is one of the Law School’s greatest strengths. A regional hub for government, publishing, and business, the Des Moines metropolitan area is the world’s third largest insurance capital. The area serves as the national headquarters for Aviva Insurance, Meredith Corporation, Principal Financial Group, and other major corporations. Additional Fortune 500 employers include DuPont Pioneer, John Deere, and Wells Fargo.

With more than half a million residents in the metro area, Des Moines is Iowa’s cultural and recreational center and has something to offer everyone. Des Moines is home to art and music festivals, several professional sports teams, world-class restaurants, a thriving nightlife, and nationally acclaimed theatrical productions and concerts. Even with sophisticated amenities, the average cost of living in Des Moines is well below other U.S. cities.

Many of the nation’s top magazines and surveys rank Des Moines:
- #1 Best City for Young Professionals (Forbes)
- #1 Highest Real Income (U.S. News & World Report)
- #1 Best Place for Business and Careers (Forbes)
- #1 Best City for Families (Kiplinger’s Personal Finance)
- #1 Best Midwest City for Young Adults (The Business Journals)

U.S. presidential candidates and government leaders come to Des Moines for Iowa’s first-in-the-nation caucuses and debates. Des Moines is also home to the World Food Prize, which is awarded annually to individuals who have made vital contributions to improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food throughout the world. In February 2012, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping visited Des Moines following his trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Obama and other government leaders.

The connection between the opportunities in Greater Des Moines and the outstanding legal education of Drake University Law School is, quite simply, second to none.