

30 Best Schools for
Legal Technology

Ultimate 24-month
Admissions Timeline

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Central Schools Profiled

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A National Jurist publication

South Texas Houston
rocks moot court;
Loyola Chicago fights for
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spikes 35 percent.

FALL 2018
VOL. 22, NO. 2

BEST VALUE Law Schools

University of Georgia,
Wisconsin and Alabama
top our list of schools
that graduate students
with low debt and a
bright job outlook. But
while public schools
dominate the list, several
private schools are
making inroads.



$\$/\text{employment}$
+
 bar exam
= value

Best Schools for Legal Technology

Law schools are building curricula to address the latest technologies and launching legal design labs to teach students how to use technology to solve real-world legal problems. We identify 30 schools at the forefront of this revolution.

BY SHERRY KARABIN

Mobile apps, big data, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, blockchain, cryptocurrencies and 3D printing: These are just some of the new platforms and technologies that are changing the way people communicate and do business.

These high-tech options are also affecting the legal profession, challenging the way lawyers deliver services and creating new privacy and regulatory concerns for attorneys and clients.

Daniel Linna Jr., a visiting professor at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in Chicago, is concerned that traditionally trained lawyers have not allocated much time to improving their delivery of legal services.

“As a result, the way law is practiced

has remained essentially unchanged for many decades,” Linna said. “The tide is now turning as clients demand continuous improvement and innovation. They not only want more efficient service but better quality and better outcomes.”

Linna said clients need attorneys who can guide them through decisions as to whether and how to use new technologies.

“If lawyers don’t understand how these things work, they cannot protect their clients’ data or provide effective advice on whether to employ new techniques and how to adjust company policies,” he said. “Law schools ought to train lawyers to understand deeply how these systems work, so that they can help build them in some instances, and at a minimum ask the right questions to assess and audit artificial intelligence and new technologies.”

Attorney Chris Mammen, a partner in the San Francisco office of Hogan Lovells, said he has witnessed the transformation firsthand.

“When I first started practicing in 1996, there was no corporate email and each partner was leveraged to work with about three associates,” said Mammen, a litigator who focuses on patents and intellectual property matters. “Much of what litigation associates would do involved the manual review of paper documents for discovery.

“Clients no longer want to pay for associates to perform low-level tasks best left to technology. Junior associates must be prepared to participate meaningfully in today’s

legal profession, incorporating technology into the delivery of client services.”

Mammen, who serves on the advisory board of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, said things are moving at a rapid pace and more firms are adopting platforms that use artificial intelligence to perform rudimentary research and other tasks.

“While I do not see a bot replacing what a lawyer does, attorneys do have to adapt,” Mammen said. “The question is: How can law schools best prepare the lawyers of the future?”

PreLaw magazine set out to answer that question, looking at what law schools are doing to help students meet the new demands.

While many schools have offered classes on intellectual property and patent law for years, fewer are addressing the nuts and bolts of emerging technologies.

We graded law schools based on the breadth of their offerings: the number and types of courses; whether they offer a clinic, externship or lab; whether they offer a certificate in technology law and an LL.M.; and whether they have technology journals and student groups.

Five schools are at the top of the heap, earning an A+, while four receive an A.

But only 30 schools made our honor roll, which shows how new the movement to address technological changes in the legal field is. Not surprisingly, many of these





Suffolk University Dean Andrew Perlmán was among the first to advocate for more legal technology education in law schools.

schools are located in tech hubs, such as Silicon Valley, Boston and New York.

“While a number of schools offer coursework about the law of technology, there are only roughly about 10 programs that truly address technology for the law,” said Daniel Katz, a professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology, which received an A- in our ranking.

“Traditionally law is taught as if it were a branch of the humanities,” Katz said. “We disagree with this approach and instead are imposing a STEM culture on the law, as this is the only way to #MakeLawBetter. We focus on teaching students how to automate and improve processes to deliver better services to clients.”

SOME EARLY ADOPTERS

Chicago-Kent College of Law is one of the legal-tech pioneers. The school got involved in document assembly in 1978. Six years later, it established the Center for Law and Computers to train students to use computers for tasks such as case briefing and research.

But Chicago-Kent’s major foray into

technology came in 1999 when the Center for Access to Justice & Technology was started. It helps students build web tools to assist legal-aid attorneys and pro bono volunteers reach more people.

The school offers a certificate and an LL.M. in Legal Innovation and Technology.

Other schools, such as UC Berkeley School of Law, which we gave an A+, started centers dedicated to law and technology more than 20 years ago.

James Dempsey, executive director of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, said the university has one of the most extensive programs in the country. Classes run the gamut from intellectual property to specialized courses dealing with space law, videogames, blockchain and financial technology.

“We do an introductory class on technology for lawyers, which provides a basic foundation in encryption and a half dozen other core technologies across a wide range of fields,” Dempsey said. “We believe it is important for all lawyers to have a basic understanding of how technology works and how it can assist them in their practice.”

Dempsey said many professors in areas not traditionally considered cyber-law incorporate aspects of technology into their classes. For example, an employment law course may address the use of AI in employee searches.

In addition, every Tuesday and Thursday the university invites practicing lawyers to participate in a lunchtime speaker series on law and technology.

“Last year several speakers in the series [including Mammen] addressed data analytics and its impact on the practice of law,” Dempsey said.

Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in Phoenix founded the Center for Law, Science & Innovation in 1983.

Gary Marchant, director of the center, said students can choose from more than 50 law, science and technology-related courses.

The school holds annual workshops on legal analytics and other related topics, as well as providing sci-tech externships and clinical work. It offers a certificate in Law, Science and Technology as well as a J.D. and an LL.M. in Science and Technology

Law.

In addition to a patent law clinic, it has the Innovation Advancement Program, where students work on legal solutions for entrepreneurs who've launched technology startups.

"Every company in this country is now a technology company," Marchant said. "The lawyers who represent, sue or counsel such companies must also be proficient in technology. Law schools need to step up their game and train law students who can succeed and provide value to firms and clients on day one in this technology-based world."

Professor Eric Goldman is co-director of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law, located in the heart of California's Silicon Valley. He said the school has focused on high tech and intellectual property law for more than 20 years.

Goldman said Santa Clara Law has a robust program with more than three dozen courses, ranging from biotechnology law to the law of artificial intelligence, along with seminars and skills-based workshops that address all aspects of high-tech law.

"The High Tech Law Institute serves as an umbrella organization to ensure that students get the right offerings," Goldman said. "Our programs are designed to meet the needs of the Silicon Valley legal community."

The institute also has its own AI lab, equipped with three computers that are optimized for doing AI-related work.

MORE RECENT ADDITIONS

While some law schools got into the game early, Suffolk University Law School in Boston, which is ranked first on our list, created its Legal Innovation & Technology Concentration in 2013.

Andrew Perlman was the first director of Suffolk's program before he became dean of the law school. He said future lawyers must develop new knowledge and skills.

"Many lawyers today do not even know how to effectively and efficiently use Word or other basic tools in Microsoft Office, let alone more advanced technology and innovative methods that can improve how legal services are delivered and accessed," said Perlman, inaugural chair of the American Bar Association's Center for Innovation.

"It's not about students learning how to use a specific piece of software. We are teaching a new kind of issue spotting. We want our students to be able to identify when a

legal service is being delivered inefficiently and to know that there are tools and methods that can improve quality and reduce prices." Suffolk University offers a concentration in Legal Innovation and Technology, which provides students with the chance to learn how to build expert systems, automate documents and consider new business models for legal work.

They can also take electives such as "Design Thinking for Lawyers and Business Professionals" and "Coding the Law: An Introduction to the Technology of Practice."

"Our students also do externships in innovative legal work environments as one of their concentration requirements," said Gabe Teninbaum, director of the Institute on Legal Innovation & Technology. "Our goal is to help them apply what they're learning in the classroom to the real world."

Gerald Glover III, who completed the Legal Technology and Innovation concentration at Suffolk University, recently landed a job as a legal solutions architect in the Seattle office of Davis Wright Tremaine.

"I am part of the solutions design team at the firm, and instead of representing clients, my efforts are geared toward creating innovative business solutions to problems that often involve numerous stakeholders and departments," Glover said. "Our team uses project management, process improvement, data visualization, and alternative staffing resources and frameworks to assist our attorneys in providing more value and better services to their clients."

Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., began its Institute for Technology Law & Policy in 2016 to provide cutting-edge training for the next generation of lawyers, said Alexandra Givens, founding executive director.

Students at Georgetown Law can choose from more than 50 tech-related classes, including "Computer Programming for Lawyers," where they learn to code in Python, a high-level programming language. Another class gives students a chance to create apps to help users access legal services or better understand the law.

NEW PROGRAMS

Santa Clara Law unveiled a first-of-its-kind Privacy Law Certificate in 2014. The certificate is for those planning to become privacy professionals. Students take 15 units of privacy-related courses, including privacy law and comparative privacy law, complete an internship or externship in the field, pub-

lish a paper on a privacy-related topic and obtain International Association of Privacy Professionals certification.

"Our first class graduated in 2015," Goldman said. "Last year we had 10 students earn the certificate, and six have gotten jobs as in-house counsel right out of law school."

This fall, the school added yet another option for students when it launched its Tech Edge J.D.

"We have 15 1Ls in the program," Goldman said. "What makes this program so unique is that we start working with students before they attend their law school orientation."

Each student is assigned a faculty adviser and two practitioner mentors, who help the student build a network.

"The requirements for the certificate are not based on courses, but experiences," Goldman said. "Students are given a checklist of experiences to complete, which includes working with a team of business people and technologists, and making a presentation to a decision-maker at a business."

He said students who graduate with the certificate will be prepared to work in Silicon Valley, with focuses ranging from IP litigation to patent prosecution to emerging-companies practice.

Emily Yu is one such graduate. She received her certificate in privacy law in 2015. She now serves as lead privacy counsel at Seagate Technology in Cupertino, Calif.

"At Seagate I oversee compliance and create best practices to ensure we are following all the laws and regulations concerning data protection," she said. "I highly recommend this practice area. Privacy is a booming area, and I don't think that will change any time soon."

LEGAL DESIGN LABS

In recent years, a number of schools have started legal design labs, which teach students to use technology to solve real-world legal problems that affect litigants, nonprofits, businesses and law firms.

Five years ago, Stanford University Law School in Palo Alto, Calif., launched its Legal Design Lab.

"Students work with courts, corporate legal departments, law firms and legal aid groups to reimagine how services might be provided," said Margaret Hagan, director of the Legal Design Lab and a lecturer at the law school. "We have come up with a number of new solutions, and we are working on

Top 30 Law School's for Legal Technology

1	Suffolk University
2	UC Berkeley School of Law
3	Arizona State University
4	Santa Clara Law
5	University of Colorado
6	Emory University School of Law
7	Brooklyn Law School
8	New York Law School
9	University of Miami
10	Fordham Law School
11	Harvard Law School
12	University of Minnesota
13	Notre Dame Law School
14	UC Hastings
15	University of Missouri - KC
16	University of Dayton
17	Washington University
18	Columbia Law School
19	Stanford Law School
20	Ohio State University
21	Chicago-Kent College of Law
22	John Marshall
23	NYU School of Law
24	University of Pennsylvania
25	University of Washington
26	Vanderbilt Law School
27	NKU Chase
28	Georgetown University
29	Loyola University New Orleans
30	Michigan State University

building more projects.”

The lab's Wise Messenger tool provides a way for a court or legal services group to send automated messages to clients. The lab also has produced low-technology solutions, such as an illustrated flowchart showing how to navigate a traffic court arraignment.

“We are currently collaborating with Suffolk University Law School on a machine-learning project to help identify common civil legal issues so we can better connect the public with self-help services,” Hagan said.

It's not the first such effort by Stanford Law School. In 2005, the school started CodeX: The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics, a multidisciplinary laboratory that brings together lawyers, researchers, entrepreneurs and technologists to focus on computational law, the branch of legal informatics that deals with the automation and mechanization of legal analysis.

CodeX projects are designed to increase efficiency, transparency and access to legal systems around the world.

Several years ago, Katz started The Law Lab at

Chicago-Kent College of Law, an interdisciplinary teaching and research center focused on legal innovation and technology.

“Students in The Law Lab take courses that not only teach fundamental lawyering skills but also teach methodologies for applying technology and quantitative analysis to the delivery of legal services,” Katz said. “Students learn how these advancements and practices are changing the face of law today. We also do research in the lab, and students have the opportunity to get their work published.”

Northwestern Law unveiled its Innovation Lab in the spring semester of 2017. This coming spring, Linna will co-teach the interdisciplinary course with law professor David Schwartz and computer science professor Kristian Hammond.

During the one-semester class, law students and computer science students work in teams to identify legal problems and develop technology-based solutions.

Past projects have included a platform to help small-business owners with legal questions and another to help first-year transactional attorneys gain experience.

Suffolk University started its Legal

Innovation & Technology (LIT) Lab during the 2017-18 school year.

David Colarusso, director of the LIT Lab, said students in the lab serve as consultants, creating legal-technology and data-science solutions for clients such as legal aid groups, courts, law firms and nonprofits.

“Our projects have ranged from the creation of expert systems/guided interviews (chatbots) to the training of algorithms to replicate existing human decisions,” Colarusso said. “We worked with a personal injury law firm to train an algorithm to help them figure out if would-be clients were a good fit for the firm based on historic data.”

Other schools that offer legal design labs include Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and Brigham Young University - J. Reuben Clark Law School in Provo, Utah. Northeastern started its NuLawLab in 2012. It has worked on several projects, including a crowd-sourced digital archive of hate speech and acts of violence. Brigham Young University's LawX, launched last year, focuses on making legal services more accessible and helping members of the public better understand their legal rights.

CONNECT TO SUCCESS

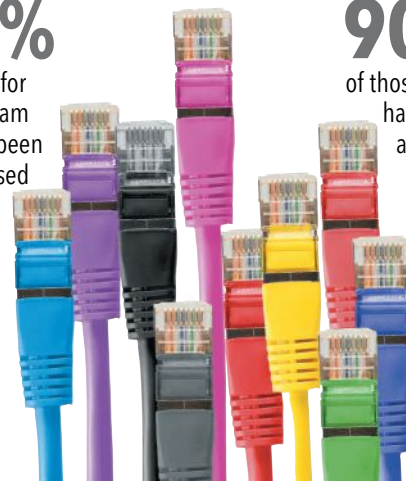
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