

USC Gould

School of Law

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Welcome to USC Gould School of Law! We are excited that you have decided to stop by for a glimpse of what makes us such a dynamic place to study law. Choosing a law school can be a daunting project, and one of the most important decisions you will make. Finding the right fit should be your goal. Sitting in on a class, taking a tour with one of our Admissions Ambassadors, attending an information session, and speaking with current students and staff, are invaluable ways to better equip yourself in making that decision.

First Level:

The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid is in Room 124. As you exit the Office of Admissions and turn right, walk to the lobby and turn left. As you get to the first hallway, you will turn left again. The first room to your right, **Room 100**, houses the **Office of JD Student Life and Undergraduate Law Programs**. The following can be found here:

- ❖ Associate Dean of Students, Student Life, and DEI
- ❖ Peer Mentor Program
- ❖ Study Abroad Programs
- ❖ First Generation Professionals Program
- ❖ Student Organization and Affinity Programs
- ❖ Wellness and Community Building
- ❖ In-House Counselors
- ❖ Disability/Accommodations
- ❖ Journals and Moot Court

Office of Undergraduate Law Programs - USC Gould School of Law currently offers more than 25 undergraduate law courses, in addition to its Legal Studies minor, a Law and Social Justice minor, a Law and Migration Studies minor, and a new Law and Technology minor. Students in Gould's minor programs come from more than two dozen majors at USC. With law becoming a more and more integral part of society, USC Gould School of Law has introduced a new undergraduate degree: the [Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies](#). This innovative course of study prepares students to understand how law shapes modern culture and explores emerging employment opportunities, while benefiting from a unique multi-disciplinary education.

The Peer Mentor Program - The Peer Mentor Program facilitates the transition of incoming law students through trusting and guided interactions with second year students at the onset of the first-year experience. Mentors assist with this transition by making new students feel welcomed, connecting them with their new environment, and guiding them to social and developmental resources so that all entering students can become an integral part of the law school community. Peer Mentors will be available to meet with and support first-year students throughout the entire academic year.

Study Abroad Programs - Students have the opportunity to spend one semester abroad in the fall or spring of their 2nd year, or the fall of their 3rd year. The application process includes an interview with a faculty member. Most students who have wanted to participate and who meet the admissions criteria have been able to secure a study abroad placement. Information sessions are held each fall for current J.D. students interested in exploring study abroad opportunities offered through USC. Students may also participate in study abroad programs offered by other ABA accredited law schools if the enrollment is approved by the Gould Dean of Students.

- The University of Hong Kong
- Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- University of Jean Moulin Lyon, Lyon, France
- Bond University, Queensland, Australia
- Fundação Getúlio Vargas University in São Paulo, Brazil

First Generation Professionals Program - The First-Generation Professionals Program supports students who are the first in their families to earn a college degree, as well as students who are from working-class or lower-income backgrounds. The group is designed to enhance academic success, professional growth, and personal development.

We offer:

- **Peer Mentorship** - You will be paired with a current student and an alumni mentor
- **Seminar Series** – examples are resume writing; interviewing skills; the interview date; dressing the part; school work and life work.
- **Networking** - You'll get to know other first-generation students, faculty and alumni, while your shared experiences will forge a sense of community that carries through to both academic and professional success.

Student Organizations and Affinity Groups - at USC Gould reflect the diversity, altruism, and leadership of our student body. They offer numerous opportunities for extracurricular learning, networking, community service, and socializing. All students become members of the Student Bar Association, which ensures that their voice is heard by the school's administration and helps new enrollees adjust to the law school experience. Students are also encouraged to form new organizations and plan social or academic events at the law school. Please check our website for a complete listing.

As you continue down the hall, you will come to the **Academic Services Office in Room 104**. Here you find:

- ❖ Records and Registration
- ❖ Associate Dean for Academic Services

As you continue down the hall, you will arrive at the **Graduate and International Program Office in Room 105**. Within these offices, you will find information on our non-JD programs:

- ❖ Master of Laws (online and on campus)
- ❖ Two Year Extended Master of Laws
- ❖ Master of Comparative Law
- ❖ Summer Law and English Program
- ❖ Visiting International Program for Lawyers
- ❖ Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution
- ❖ Master of Dispute Resolution
- ❖ Master of Laws in International Business and Economic Law
- ❖ Master of Laws in Privacy Law and Cybersecurity
- ❖ Master of International Trade Law and Economics (jointly with Dornsife Dept. of Economics)
- ❖ Master of Studies of Law (online and on campus)
- ❖ USC LLM to JD Transfer Program

- ❖ Certificates in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Business Law, Entertainment Law and Industry, Compliance, Financial Compliance, Health Care Compliance, Human Resources Law and Compliance, Privacy Law, and Cybersecurity.
- ❖ Certificates in Social Work Administration, and Law, Social Justice, and Diversity (jointly with Dworak Peck School of Social Work)

The traditional LLM and 2 Year LLM are meant for international students with a first degree in law, while our specialized LLM degrees are open to both international and domestic law graduates.

Our other master degrees in law, such as our Master of Dispute Resolution, Master of Studies in Law, and Master of International Trade Law and Economics, as well as our stand-alone certificates, are open to candidates with a bachelor's degree in any field.

In conjunction with the International Law & Relations Organization (ILRO), JD students and international LLM students gather each semester as a part of our JD and LLM Partnership Program. Our international Law and Relations Student organization organized the program which highlights the intersection of culture and law at USC Gould. The goal of the partnership program is to promote a sense of community among our diverse student body at the law school. JD and LLM students are divided into partnerships based on common interests, and the groups become a support network throughout the school year.

USC GLOBAL INITIATIVES

- ❖ USC is a global university, and one of the nation's leaders in international education.
- ❖ USC is one of a few U.S. schools with the largest number of international students, and a worldwide alumni network of more than 363,533 living alumni in the Trojan Family. While nearly three-quarters of them live in California, USC alumni can be found in positions of leadership all over the world.
- ❖ USC has offices in Brazil, China – Beijing and Shanghai, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Mexico, and Taiwan.
- ❖ USC Gould partners with law schools around the world to offer study abroad opportunities for our JD students in Australia, Brazil, France, Hong Kong, India, and Italy.
- ❖ USC prepares students to thrive in the global marketplace.

As you head north, you will pass the Ackerman Courtroom on your right. The courtroom, a state-of-the-art classroom/courtroom, hosts Moot Court Competitions, USC Law School lectures, lunch-seminars with legal, government and business industry experts, and other special events for web casting, recording or video teleconferencing. In addition, the California Court of Appeals listens to oral arguments here each spring.

Just past the **Ackerman Courtroom in Room 107**, you will see a hallway. Please turn right and continue straight ahead, and at the end of the hall, you will find the **Career Services Office in Room 110**. Starting in September during your first year, the Career Services Office will hold CSO orientation sessions and will begin to offer one-on-one career counseling meetings to learn about your career interests, and to start to strategize with you about relevant employment opportunities. In addition, the CSO offers the following resources:

- ❖ Ongoing career coaching and strategy appointments
- ❖ Alumni Mock Interview Programs
- ❖ Career skills workshops focusing on resume/cover letter writing; networking; effective interviewing techniques and professional development.
- ❖ Panel discussions and guest speakers on practice and geography-specific topics and legal markets
- ❖ Networking events showcasing large, medium, and small law firms, Judicial Clerkships, and JD Advantage careers
- ❖ Fall and Spring On-Campus Interview Programs, and NY, DC, Texas, and Chicago Off-Campus job fairs, and other specialty job fairs featuring both public and private sector employers.
- ❖ Online Job Postings and a myriad career resources accessible 24/7

- ❖ Judicial Clerkship advising and support
- ❖ Externship Opportunities
- ❖ The office provides lifetime services for you as a student and as an alum after you graduate.

As you return to the east lobby, continue straight ahead (west) down the hall. When you arrive at the west lobby, you will see a set of stairs leading down on the right; this will take you to the Lower Level which includes the following:

Lower Level:

- ❖ Classrooms
- ❖ Law School Café
- ❖ Some student organization offices such as the Student Bar Association, Law Review and Moot Court Offices, and the Public Interest Law Foundation

When you reach the bottom of the stairs and turn left, you will pass some smaller classrooms, the Moot Court Office, and the Law Review Office. Continue down the hall, making a slight right, and you will see the Law School Café on your left and Room 7 on your right. There are three large classrooms on the lower level where most 1L's have their classes: Room 1, Room 3, and Room 7. Continue past the Café, passing the PILF and SBA offices, keeping to the right, and you will arrive at the elevator, across from Room 2, on your right. Take it to the 2nd floor. When you step off the elevator, you will be in the **Gabriel and Matilda Barnett Information Technology Center and The Asa V. Call Law Library**.

Please ask for assistance with this part of the tour.

*The Law Library is open to USC Gould law students, and USC faculty and staff only. If you are not on an official guided tour, **please ask a member of the Gould Admissions team to request that a library staff member accompany you through the library.***

The main entrance to the Law Library is at the top of the stairs on the law school's second floor. The Service Counter and Reference Office are on your right when you enter the library. Here, library staff answer questions and check out books and course reserve materials.

Continuing into the library, you will see the Darling Reading Room, a popular study space, through the double glass doors ahead. Turn right down the hallway before Darling, go past a water station and restrooms, and you will come to open study areas to the left and right. Continuing straight, you will pass a study room (Room 225) on the right. Groups of two or more law students can reserve study rooms online. Beyond Room 225 are two classrooms (Rooms 223 and 221) where the librarians and other faculty teach classes, including Legal Research. Past 221, if you take a quick left and then continue straight ahead, you will come to the East Reading Room, with additional study space, restrooms, and a water fountain.

Back at Room 221, if you turn right down the hallway, you will pass two study rooms (Rooms 215 and 217) on your right. At the end of the hallway, turn right again, and you will pass two more study rooms on your left (Rooms 214 and 212). On your right is the library's third classroom (Room 213), and then the Turrentine Conference Room (Room 211).

As you walk toward the Lincoln Room, you will come to a large open doorway on the right. This doorway leads to Campbell Lounge, where law students can relax or study. As you enter Campbell Lounge, you will also pass the library's auxiliary entrance, which is open during most times of peak library use. At the back of the lounge, to the left, is the Computer Lab, with IT staff to assist law students. Two printer stations are available on the south wall of the lounge. Room 205D, a small study room, is located in the back-right corner of the lounge.

On the west wall of the lounge, past the auxiliary entrance, are a stairwell and elevator to the library's third floor. Upstairs, to the left of the stairwell exit, are three smaller study rooms (307-A, -B, and -C). Although the library's collection is now mostly digital, a substantial print collection is also located on the third floor. Turning right from the stairwell entrance, you will see shelves containing the library's print materials. Continuing to the right again, you will

pass a large document scanner that is free for law students to use. Beyond the scanner is a quiet study area next to the south windows. This space has great views of Exposition Park across the street from the law school where museums, a rose garden, and the L.A. Coliseum are located.

Back downstairs, make a left and then a second left to return to the main hallway that leads to the library exit. For a map of the Law Library, visit our website at: <https://lawlibguides.usc.edu/library/map>. Please feel free to speak with library staff if you have questions. Thank you for visiting the Law Library!

Continuing out of the Law Library, you may either take the stairs to the 1st floor or return to the elevator and take it to the 1st floor. The Law School has two additional levels.

Third Level:

- ❖ The Dean's Suite – Room 300

Fourth Level:

- ❖ Faculty Offices

At USC Gould, we have a dedicated group of distinguished faculty who are ready to support, challenge, and guide you. They are dedicated to their role as teachers and mentors for new generations of lawyers, public servants, and leaders. We have 51 full-time faculty and more than 100 adjuncts and lectures with legal expertise in a variety of areas, including administrative law, constitutional law, corporate law, intellectual property law, international law, tax law, and law and race. Our interdisciplinary focus is a longstanding strength of the school, with many faculty members working at the intersections of law and economics, law and history, law and philosophy, law and politics, and law and psychology. Our faculty members are renowned for their significant contributions to the profession and the public. Current faculty who have been recently published include:

- ❖ D. Daniel Sokol – *“Mergers, Antitrust, and the Interplay of Entrepreneurial Activity and the Investments that Fund it”* (with Gary Dushnitsky), 24 Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law 225 (2022).
- ❖ Nomi Stolzenberg – *“American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York,”* Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture, Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, and Seminary Co-op Bookstore, University of Chicago. Princeton University Press, 2022.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS - <http://gould.usc.edu/academics/experiential/clinics/>

The law school has seven clinics which are located in the Verna and Peter Dauterive Hall building, just outside and across from the East Lobby entrance. They are located on the second floor, in Room 210.

The clinics are open to students starting in their 2nd year. Each clinic takes in approximately 8-10 students per year, with the exception of the Post-Conviction Justice Project, which takes in approximately 18-24 students per year. Our clinical offerings are more in-depth and supportive than those at most law schools, which often provide only semester-long or simulated clinical experiences. Our year-long clinics provide deep and impactful experiential learning, and often offer a second-year advanced clinic for select students. Our seven clinics give students significant experience working directly with real clients under the supervision of seasoned practitioners who are leaders in their field. The clinical programs are as follows:

- ❖ **Small Business Clinic** – Students gain invaluable skills, training, and experience, by counseling startup companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits, in basic yet crucial corporate legal matters. These experiences, along with direct professor supervision, help students bridge the gap between law school and transactional legal practice. The clinic handles more than 100 transactional legal matters each year, and students also assist with the structure and organization of issues and other challenges facing young businesses. A sampling of recent clients includes a local brewery, an online music business, an iPhone application, a fitness company, a juice

business, and a nonprofit providing unused medical supplies to those in need in other countries. The Clinical Director is Professor Michael Chasalow.

- ❖ **Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic** – Students represent clients in matters at the leading edge of copyright and trademark protection, privacy issues, the First Amendment, and other crucial issues of the information age. Ranked by the *Hollywood Reporter* as among the top entertainment law programs nationally, the clinic represents filmmakers, game developers, artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits. Students work with real-life clients dealing with the complexities of intellectual property and technology law, mitigating legal risks while helping them meet their business and creative goals. Many clients are minority-owned or women-owned businesses. Recent projects include fair use analysis of movie and other clips included in several documentary films, drafting license agreements for designers whose work is exhibited and distributed through an online subscription service that allows anyone to experience 3D printing, while also providing a promotional platform for 3D designers, and advising a local entrepreneur regarding the selection of a restaurant name for trademark registration. The clinic also partners with the USC School of Cinematic Arts and Advanced Games Program, giving students the opportunity to support creative teams producing new content innovations across multiple platforms. The clinic handles approximately 24 clients per year. The Clinical Director is Professor Valerie Barreiro.
- ❖ **Mediation Clinic** – Students gain firsthand experience using conflict resolution techniques to mediate real cases in Los Angeles County Superior Court through our award-winning Mediation Clinic. In the role of the “neutral,” students will help parties in actual cases arrive at mutually agreeable solutions to their conflicts. In a single year, they will personally mediate several dozen cases, either individually or in a co-mediation with a classmate. Our students have helped hundreds of litigants settle their cases and avoid the expense, unpredictability, and emotional drama of a courtroom trial. The vast majority of these clients would never be able to afford the cost of private mediation services. Types of cases include civil harassment restraining orders, disputes between neighbors, and family conflicts. The Clinical Director is Professor Lisa Klerman.
- ❖ **Immigration Clinic** – Students develop invaluable lawyering skills and substantive knowledge through our Immigration Clinic. Through the clinic, they will have the opportunity to represent people who seek asylum and other forms of humanitarian protection. The clinic provides representation to adults and children from all over the world, including Mexico, Central and South America, and Africa. Each student will typically have the opportunity to work on five or six different matters, including representing clients in Immigration Court hearings or drafting appellate briefs for the Board of Immigration Appeals or U.S. Court of Appeals. Most of the clinic’s docket of 80-90 cases involves clients seeking asylum or other forms of humanitarian protection. Students also represent clients seeking different types of legal status or visas from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services including applications on behalf of the survivors of domestic violence pursuant to the violence against Women Act. Clinic students have been successful in securing asylum, winning protection under the Convention Against Torture, or otherwise obtaining legal status, for almost every client. Two of the newest projects are the USC Gould Immigration Clinic Citizenship Project, which conducts workshops throughout the year to assist eligible lawful permanent residents (green card holders) with completing and filing naturalization applications, and the USC Gould Student, Faculty, and Staff Immigrant Legal Advice Project. The Clinical Director is Professor Niels Frenzen.
- ❖ **International Human Rights Clinic** - The International Human Rights Clinic gives students the opportunity to work on projects and cases, both local and international, which confront the most pressing human rights concerns of our day. Under the supervision of Interim Director Professor Henna Pithia, students seek justice on behalf of victims, hold perpetrators of serious human rights abuses accountable, and work towards progressive development of the law. Through this experience, students acquire knowledge and skills for effective international lawyering and human rights advocacy while supporting the critical work of human rights advocates and organizations worldwide. Students have achieved a 100% success rate in representing human trafficking victims of forced labor and commercial sex. The work is international, with clients from Ethiopia, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines. Students have also assisted international judges and legal officers

by reviewing briefings, conducting research, and drafting extensive bench memoranda and opinions in international trials. Efforts involve 15 former heads-of-state and high-level military leaders allegedly responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism perpetrated against hundreds of thousands of victims in Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and Rwanda. The trials have resulted in a number of convictions. To read a recent report by the IHRC on how abuses in law enforcement anti-sex trafficking operations gains national attention click [here](#). Interim Clinical Director is Prof. Henna Pithia.

- ❖ **Post-Conviction Justice Project** - Students in the Post-Conviction Justice Project represent two classes of clients: 1) Inmates at the California Institution for Women (CIW) who are serving indeterminate life terms for first or second-degree murder and are eligible for parole, and 2) juvenile offenders sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole. For the inmates at CIW, the students handle parole hearings – they visit the client in prison to prepare her to testify at the hearing, they collect information favoring a grant of parole and file a written submission, and they conduct the hearing – including questioning, objections, and a closing argument. Students also litigate habeas petitions challenging denials of parole by the parole board and reversals of parole grants by the Governor where the denial/reversal is arbitrary and capricious in violation of due process. The Project has been on the forefront of the representation of survivors of domestic abuse whose crimes stemmed from the abuse prior to the time when expert testimony on intimate partner battering (formerly Battered Women’s Syndrome) was admissible in court. For the Project’s juvenile life without parole clients, students litigate petitions for writ of habeas corpus in state and federal courts seeking resentencing. These cases involve extensive case investigation, developing expert witnesses, and legal research and writing. The constitutionality of juvenile life without parole is a quickly evolving area of the law, and students have the unique opportunity to create law by working on these cases. The Project is also involved in juvenile justice advocacy at the state legislative level. This advocacy work paid off in 2015 when Governor Brown signed into law the clinic-driven SB382. Ten USC law students in USC Gould’s Legislative Policy Practicum spent a semester researching and drafting the bill and advocating for the new law. The law clarifies the criteria judges use when deciding whether certain juveniles will be transferred to the adult system to face sentences. Clinical students perform extensive investigations into the backgrounds of their clients (interviewing clients, interviewing family and friends, and collecting relevant documents) to present at resentencing hearings. Clinical Director is Professor Heidi Rummel.
- ❖ **USC Housing Clinic** – The Housing Clinic’s legal work involves representing indigent tenants and working alongside community-based housing organizations on a variety of matters including direct representation, strategic litigation, and working on a policy project. It is designed to provide a substantive introduction to housing law and policy, and allow students to build a tool-kit of practical lawyering and advocacy skills. Clinical Director is Professor Deepika Sharma.

SAKS INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW, POLICY, AND ETHICS - <https://gould.usc.edu/faculty/centers/saks/>

The Saks Institute is a think tank dedicated to interdisciplinary and collaborative research among scholars and policymakers around issues of mental illness and mental health. The goal of the institute is to study issues at the intersection of law, mental health, and ethics as well as influence policy reform and advocacy actions for improved treatment of people with mental illness. The Institute was founded by Prof. Elyn Saks, Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at USC Gould. Prof. Saks was a recipient of the 2009 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. She also wrote the New York Times best-seller “*The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey through Madness*,” (Hyperion 2007), which detailed her struggles and successes with schizophrenia and acute psychosis.

We are glad you decided to take the self-guided tour, and look forward to seeing you soon! Whether you are local or just visiting, we encourage you to schedule a class visit, or Information Session (offered in the fall). If we can answer any questions, please stop by the office before leaving, or contact us at (213) 740-2523, or via email at: admissions@law.usc.edu.