

# Pre-Law

“Cornell’s rigorous One Course At A Time approach to the liberal arts provides an excellent foundation for the self-discipline and critical thinking skills necessary for success in law school and legal practice. Our Stoll Program for Law and Society lets students build on those strengths with a nationally ranked Mock Trial program, law school and career exploration, one-on-one advising, and comprehensive LSAT preparation.”

*Meghan Yamanishi, J.D., faculty director of the Stoll Program for Law and Society*

Cornell College has a long history of preparing its graduates for the rigors of law school and for success as legal professionals. Consistent with the best advice of law schools themselves, Cornell has no formal “pre-law” major and no specific list of required courses. The Stoll Program for Law and Society and the Berry Career Institute coach students on law admission requirements and what it takes to set oneself apart as a candidate to law school. They work with students all four years at Cornell to choose meaningful cocurricular experiences in and out of the legal field. They then offer students direct guidance and support throughout the law school admissions process.

Lawyers spend their time analyzing, advocating, counseling, writing, speaking, researching, and negotiating. These are the very skills that liberal arts colleges instill through small classes, and with a good portion of students’ studies taking place within a broad program of liberal education. Many pre-law students major in politics, philosophy, and history at Cornell College. However, Cornell emphasizes the kinds of courses that law schools prefer, and customizes pre-law programs to meet each student’s needs and interests.

#### **THE STOLL PROGRAM FOR LAW AND SOCIETY**

At Cornell, The Stoll Program for Law and Society expands on Cornell’s strong foundation in the liberal arts to provide students a wealth of immersive learning opportunities both in and out of the

classroom. Through a national alumni network, students are able to connect with professionals with law degrees who are either practicing attorneys or in a law-related field. These professionals are excited to work with Cornellians and know the power of a Cornell education. The Program supports a nationally ranked mock trial program, a robust internship program, and on-campus comprehensive LSAT preparation (see below for more information).

#### **MOCK TRIAL**

Cornell College Mock Trial has had tremendous success since its founding in 2006. The team has qualified for the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) National Championship Tournament seven times, and in 2016 placed 7th overall.

Mock trial is an intercollegiate activity that combines speech, theatre, and debate. Cornell’s mock trial program gives students the chance to develop a better understanding of the courtroom process and the American legal system. The primary objectives of Cornell’s mock trial program are to enhance each student’s critical thinking, analysis of logic, and public speaking skills in a competitive and collegial environment.

All Cornell students, regardless of academic major or prior mock trial experience, may try out for the mock trial program. Students may earn 1/4 credit for each semester of mock trial participation.

#### **INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS**

Law programs are particularly interested in students who have real-world experience. The Stoll Program for Law and Society helps students find internships and job shadowing

## Faculty Advisors

### **MEGHAN YAMANISHI**

*Consulting Librarian for the Social Sciences, Faculty Director of the Stoll Program for Law and Society*

J.D., UCLA School of Law.

### **ABBE STENSLAND**

*Head Coach, Mock Trial*

J.D., University of Iowa.

### **MARY B. OLSON**

*Professor of Sociology*

Ph.D., sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison.

### **GENEVIEVE MIGELY**

*Associate Professor of Philosophy*

Ph.D., philosophy, Claremont Graduate University.



opportunities that allow them to fully explore potential career paths and demonstrate seriousness of purpose to graduate programs. Pre-law students recently have completed internships or Cornell Fellowships at the following locations:

- Cook County Public Defender's Office, Chicago
- Council on American Islamic Relations, Oklahoma City
- Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines
- Institute for Justice, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Target Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Office of Congressman Dave Loebsack (D-IA), Washington, D.C.
- Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Washington, D.C.
- Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Washington, D.C.
- Association of Business and Industry, Des Moines, Iowa
- Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Des Moines, Iowa
- T & D Associates, Beijing, China

#### APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

Cornell's pre-law advisors help students prepare for the process of applying to law school and, when it comes time to apply, assist at every step. For many the process begins with an on-campus comprehensive LSAT prep course for all students interested in taking the test. Through The Stoll Program for Law and Society, it is offered at a significantly reduced rate and covers all of the textbook materials and practice LSAT exams.

Faculty and staff pre-law advisors help students narrow down a range of law school options, review personal statements, write letters of recommendation, and give feedback on admission offers. For the past five years (2013-2017), Cornell's law school acceptance rate is 88 percent; the national average for those years is 85 percent.

#### 3+3 LAW PROGRAM WITH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Cornell College offers a 3+3 Program with the University of Iowa College of Law. Through the program students complete both degrees in six years instead of seven. In order to participate in the 3 + 3 Program, students must:

- Meet Cornell degree requirements.
- Be admitted to the University of Iowa College of Law by the end of the junior year.

During what would have been the senior year at Cornell, students take courses as a first-year law student at The University of Iowa. Satisfactory completion of first year law school courses will apply to both the law degree from Iowa Law and the bachelor's degree from Cornell College.

#### AFTER CORNELL

Attorney salaries vary depending on speciality and geographic location. According to the NACE Salary Survey from summer 2017, the median starting salary for professionals with a J.D. is \$79,100. The Bureau of Labor Statistics lists the median pay for attorneys in 2017 at \$119,250.

#### CAREERS

Partner, Octavia Legal Associates, Madison, Wisconsin (Class of 2015)

President and CEO, LukeGroup, Inc., Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas (Class of 2014)

Judicial Law Clerk, Cook County Office of the Chief Judge, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2013)

Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders, New Orleans, Louisiana (Class of 2013)

Associate Attorney, Crick Walanka Law Group, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2013)

Deputy County Attorney, Mental Health Program, Sarpy County, Papillion, Nebraska (Class of 2013)

Project Specialist, Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative, Lincoln, Nebraska (Class of 2013)

Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago Department of Law, Chicago, Illinois (Class of 2012)

Associate Attorney, Nyemaster Goode, Des Moines, Iowa; formerly Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit (Class of 2010)

Attorney, University Research Park, Madison, Wisconsin (Class of 2010)

Judicial Law Clerk, Federal Court for the Southern District, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2009)

Legal Counsel, Iowa Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2009)

#### LAW SCHOOLS ATTENDED

J.D., Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (Class of 2018)

J.D., University of Iowa, Iowa City (Classes of 2018, 2016)

J.D., William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia (Class of 2016)

J.D., Drake University Law School, Des Moines, Iowa (Class of 2016)

J.D., University of Chicago (Class of 2015)

J.D., Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri (Class of 2015)

J.D., University of Texas, Austin (Class of 2015)

J.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (Class of 2015)

J.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison (Class of 2015)

J.D., Columbia University School of Law, New York, New York (Class of 2014)

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2013)

J.D., Northwestern School of Law - Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR (Class of 2013)

J.D., Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas (Class of 2013)

J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology (Class of 2013)

J.D., University of California - Berkeley (Class of 2012)

J.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (Class of 2011)

J.D., Cornell University Law School, Ithaca, New York (Class of 2010)