

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | LAW CENTER



Enhancing the Power of Legal Education
Through Diversity



“UHLC is a top-tier law school with a student body among the most diverse in the nation. Quality and diversity go hand in hand.”

— *LEONARD M. BAYNES*
DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

A Commitment to Diversity

The Law Center offers a top-notch education in a collegial, welcoming environment, and in a city with excellent career prospects – a highly desirable combination that helps us to recruit a diverse student body.

UHLC is consistently lauded as one of the most diverse law schools in the nation, which pairs well with Houston’s notoriety as one of the most diverse cities in the country. We attract students with widely varied backgrounds, hailing from all over the nation and from all around the globe.



Career Development

The primary mission of the Career Development Office (CDO) is to equip students with the resources and skills necessary to successfully generate and take advantage of professional opportunities, and the success of the CDO is evident in our high employment rate ten months post-graduation. The cornerstone of that service is one-on-one career advising in which each student is assigned a career counselor beginning in the 1L year. In further support of this mission, the CDO hosts numerous programs and events designed to help students explore career options and develop vital job search skills by co-sponsoring and promoting job fairs and programs that focus on diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

A Graduation Ceremony for One

UHLC is committed to embracing diversity in every form. Ari Hutchison, a recent graduate of UHLC, was conflicted when he learned that the graduation ceremony for the Law Center would take place on a Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. Originally he opted not to attend the ceremony at all, but decided to ask the school if there were any alternatives. To his surprise, UHLC was more than accommodating, offering to host a private graduation ceremony just for him, including a processional, speeches, photos, and the granting of the Juris Doctor hood.



“I was very worried what would happen with my graduation, but having my own one was even better. The dean thanked me and my family personally; that’s something we never would have gotten otherwise. This was a lot more special.”

— ARI HUTCHISON '15



“The diversity prevalent at UHLC creates a more interesting learning atmosphere for me because I am able to experience and engage in the various cultures of my peers. I will undoubtedly leave UHLC with not only a better understanding of the law, but also with a deeper appreciation for diversity and the vast societal rewards that stem from it.”

— OLIVIA FRAGOSO '17
FORMER PRESIDENT, BLACK
LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Career Development *(continued)*

Some of the job fairs in which the CDO participates include:

- DuPont Legal Minority Job Fair: More than 40 law firms and legal services companies that work with DuPont interview selected students at these regional fairs.
- Houston Bar Association 1L Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession (MOILP) Program: The only summer clerkship program designed specifically for diverse 1L law students in the Houston area. These positions provide mentoring and real work experiences for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity for a clerkship at a law firm, corporate legal department, or legal nonprofit. Participating students also have the chance to attend seminars on professional writing, getting the most out of internships, and making the best impression on their employers.
- IMPACT Career Fair: This event is open to 2Ls, 3Ls, and graduates with various disabilities.
- Lavender Law Career Fair and Conference: Includes firms, corporations, and public sector employers who are committed to the hiring and promoting of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students and lawyers.
- Sunbelt Minority Law Fair: Hosted by numerous law schools in the southern states, employers from across the country interview 2Ls for summer associate positions and 3Ls for permanent attorney positions.
- In addition to participating in job fairs, the CDO team maintains an ongoing resource list for over 50 other diversity opportunities, updated as information is available, for Law Center students. The “Diversity Opportunities—UHLC List” details legal employment-related openings for individuals who are underrepresented in the legal profession, including racial and ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ law students, individuals with disabilities, and non-traditional students.

For more information, please visit law.uh.edu/career.

Academic Support

1L Mentor Groups

All first-year students are assigned to a mentor group with a professor and an upper-level student. These groups are small and include students from the same 1L section. Groups meet periodically during the year to provide support during the transition into law school. Mentors give advice on various topics such as adjusting to law school, preparing for final exams, getting involved in campus life, and selecting courses after the first year.

Academic Enrichment Program (AEP)

The AEP is designed to provide academic support, counseling, and advice to first-year students. Upper-class student tutors are assigned to each first-year section to assist 1Ls with course materials and to augment study and test-taking skills. Tutors attend classes with the section and work with the professor to develop study materials. Tutorial sessions are open to all students and provide a beneficial supplement to classroom instruction and faculty office hours. This program, coupled with our dedicated, student-centered faculty, helps foster student success in the first year.



“The diversity of the students at UHLC is almost staggering at first, but it is one of the preeminent strengths of the school. We all learn from each other, making each of us a stronger advocate. I truly believe that Houston and UHLC are unique melting pots of backgrounds, education, and individual strengths that make our graduates especially suited for practice in today’s world. I chose to attend this law school because it has world-class professors with the ability to provide guidance in any field of law that you can imagine.”

— CHEUCK YEE '16

Student Organizations–Committed to Diversity

The Law Center currently has more than 40 registered student organizations, reflecting the varied interests of our students and providing opportunities for everyone, regardless of background, to get involved. Several student groups arrange mentoring programs and match first-year students with second- or third-year students or working professionals. Others coordinate résumé writing workshops, guest speaker forums, networking opportunities, or law-related charitable efforts that benefit the community. Some of these student organizations include:

- Asian Law Students Association (ALSA)
- Association of Women in Law (AWIL)
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Christian Legal Society (CLS)
- Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)
- Lex Judaica (Jewish Law Students Association)
- OutLaw: Students for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Concerns
- St. Thomas More Society (STMS)

Please visit law.uh.edu/organizations/homepage.asp for more information.

UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program

The UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program is a preparatory program specifically designed to provide resources to undergraduate students who are first-generation, low income, or members of groups underrepresented in the legal profession who are interested in pursuing a career in law. This program aims to equip these students holistically so that they are fully prepared to meet the demands of the LSAT, the law school application process, and their law school career. Students interested in receiving more information may contact Kristen Guiseppi at kguisepp@central.uh.edu, or can visit our website at law.uh.edu/pipeline.

Admissions

In our admissions process, each applicant will have the opportunity to submit additional/optional statements (along with the required personal statement) to supplement his or her application, including a diversity statement. This addendum can focus on one or more aspects of an applicant's background, including, but not limited to, an ethnic or racial group with which the applicant identifies, sexual orientation, discrimination/hardships overcome, socioeconomic status, religious and/or political beliefs, or background. While submitting a diversity statement is not required for admission, it helps the admissions committee gain a more complete picture of an applicant while taking all factors into consideration. Please visit law.uh.edu/admissions for more details.



“My initial attraction to UHLC was due to the quality of its academic programs and the strength of the culture here, both of which I discovered quickly upon visiting the campus and learning more about the curriculum and the student body. My classmates have made my experience here at the Law Center even better. Their backgrounds vary tremendously, as do their interests, but their willingness to help and be a positive influence, both here at the school and in society, is consistent across the board.”

— ROCIO RODRIGUEZ RUIZ '17



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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