

CAREERS IN ACADEMIA

Yale Law School

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The work of a law professor combines research, writing, and teaching. Many law professors contribute to the growth and development of the law, both through their scholarship and through engagement with the practice of law. The work involves local and global forms of intellectual community and offers opportunities to work with and mentor students. This mix presents an attractive career path for many law students and for Yale Law graduates in particular. Yale Law School alumni teach a wide range of subjects at schools of every type around the globe. In surveys of our alumni, law professors consistently express the highest satisfaction in their careers.

Despite its small size, Yale Law School is a leader in producing legal academics, both faculty and deans, including many at top law schools. Our Law Teaching Program provides students and graduates with training and information about careers in academia.

Preparing Students for Careers in Academia

Students interested in academia benefit from our lively intellectual community, unmatched faculty-student ratio, and countless opportunities for independent research and writing. Many student organizations and journals also provide opportunities for students to develop, workshop, and publish scholarship. All students also enjoy opportunities to work closely with faculty members starting in their first semester. This pattern continues throughout law school, as each student produces at least two major pieces of scholarship – often of publishable quality – under the supervision of a faculty member. Many students also collaborate with professors as research assistants.

Students also have the opportunity to engage with scholars from around the world. The Law School hosts dozens of conferences and workshops throughout the year, many organized by students. These events expose students to cutting-edge scholarship in a wide variety of areas and disciplines.

Along with its rich academic offerings, Yale sponsors a [*Law Teaching Series*](#) held throughout the academic year, providing students with information and advice about careers in academia. It includes panels on topics ranging from how to develop a research agenda and advice about publishing to pathways to clinical law teaching. These sessions also include student workshops, which give student authors a chance to present their scholarly work to the Law School community with commentary by professors.

After YLS: Services and Support for Alumni

Most aspiring law professors do not apply for tenure track jobs until they have been out of law school for two to five years. During that time, they may clerk for a judge, take a public interest fellowship, practice law at a private firm, work in the government, or complete an advanced degree. When alumni are ready to make the transition to academia, many participate in post-graduate fellowships (like those described below) that give them the time and resources to write. Alumni who are interested in a more structured experience or who want to gain additional skills and literacies may decide to pursue an additional degree, like Yale's PhD in Law.

When alumni enter the teaching market, Yale Law School offers an extensive array of support services, including:

- An extensive guide on careers in academia and the hiring process.
- Email updates from the Law Teaching Placement Committee with advice, deadline reminders, and job opportunities.
- An intake interview with a member of the Law Teaching Placement Committee to discuss application materials and prospects.
- Distribution of candidates' CVs to all the appointments committees at all U.S. law schools.
- A conference for alumni on the teaching market, affectionately known as *Moot Camp*, where candidates practice their job talks, receive feedback from faculty, and hear advice about the law teaching market from faculty and recently hired alumni.
- Mock interviews by phone or Skype with members of the Law Teaching Placement Committee.
- Assistance and support at the American Association of Law Schools Faculty Recruitment Conference, including a hospitality suite where Yale Law School alumni can prepare for interviews, consult with faculty advisors, or just relax.

Selected Academic Fellowship Opportunities

The *Robert M. Cover Fellowships* help train clinical law teachers during a two-year term by offering the chance to supervise students in the clinics, formulate scholarly research and publishable work, and develop strong mentoring relationships with clinical faculty.

Various centers at Yale Law School, including the Information Society Project, the Center for Law and Philosophy, the China Center, and the Corporate Law Center periodically offer fellowships for alumni to spend a year in residence conducting research, organizing programs, and participating in the intellectual life of the School. For more information about specific opportunities, please visit www.law.yale.edu/centersandprograms.

For more information about fellowships and other support available at Yale Law School for careers in legal academia, visit www.law.yale.edu/lawteaching.

Joint Degrees

Students interested in careers in legal academia may consider pursuing a joint MA or PhD with another graduate program. Students interested in applying for a joint degree should visit www.law.yale.edu/jointdegree. The Law School also offers a JD-PhD in Finance specifically intended for students wishing to pursue a career in business law teaching. For more information, visit www.law.yale.edu/jointdegreecorporate.

PhD in Law

Yale Law School has inaugurated a PhD in Law program, the first of its kind in the United States, which provides a new pathway to a career in law teaching. This program provides students with a year-round living stipend for three years of study and writing in residence, as well as a full tuition waiver and health insurance. PhD candidates enroll in specialized professional seminars, prepare dissertations under the guidance of a three-member faculty committee, and participate in a wide range of scholarly workshops. PhD students also receive training and practical experience in teaching. Information on this program can be found online at www.law.yale.edu/phd.



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