

LL.M. Application Packet: 2015-16

Animal Law

Summary of Program

The program leading to the master of laws (LL.M.) in animal law is for U.S. and international law school graduates who want to emphasize this area in practice, teaching, research, or public policy. The program is intended for both recent law school graduates and established lawyers who want to enhance their current practice or develop a new specialty.

Lewis & Clark's LL.M. program requires completion of 26 semester hours of credit for U.S. students and 28 hours for international students. All students participate in a 2-credit-hour LL.M. seminar in which students produce a paper and accompanying presentation on an animal law topic of their choice.

The program can be completed in two semesters or spread over two and a half years. U.S. students can apply to begin their LL.M. studies in the fall semester (which generally begins in late August) or in the spring semester (which generally begins in mid-January). Absent unusual circumstances, we require international students to begin in the fall semester and to take a 2-credit course designed to help prepare international students for law study in the United States.

Please consult our website, CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org, for a complete description of the LL.M. program, courses, and faculty.

Admissions Criteria

Admission to the LL.M. program is highly competitive. Applicants must be graduates of a U.S. or international law school and must demonstrate an excellent academic record, strong legal research and writing skills, and an interest in animal law. Membership in the bar is not necessary for admission.

Each application is evaluated as a whole. We are interested in your scholarly capacity, your skills as a lawyer, your academic performance, and your interest in the animal law field.

We welcome applications from international law school graduates who wish to learn more about animal law in the U.S. legal system. However, the program is not suitable for students seeking an introduction to U.S. law or basic comparative law studies. The animal law LL.M. alone is not designed to equip international students for U.S. practice or to take the U.S. bar exam.

LL.M. students can expect extensive reading assignments, vigorous class discussion, and either a written examination or extensive research paper in each course. For international students, superb English language skills are essential.

Costs and Financial Aid

Please contact the LL.M. program director for the current cost of tuition. The actual cost in any semester depends on the number of credits a student takes. In addition, there are other costs (fees, health insurance, and living expenses) that should be calculated into a total expense.

Financial aid (in the form of loans) is available to qualified U.S. students. International students are encouraged to explore funding options with their governments or private foundations. We will work to minimize the costs of the LL.M. program to make this innovative, high-quality legal education a possibility

for all accepted students (both U.S. and international).

If you plan to apply for loans (available to qualified U.S. citizens), request financial aid forms by checking the box on the attached application. You should complete and return the financial aid forms as soon as possible. Because financial aid decisions may lag behind admission decisions, *you should not wait until you have received an offer of admission to apply for financial aid.*

Application Deadlines

For U.S. students, applications for fall semester (August) admission are due March 15 each year; applications for spring semester (January) admission are due August 15 each year. For international students, applications for fall semester are due by February 15. (As noted above, we require international students to take a short 2-credit course to prepare them for law study in the United States. For this reason, except in rare circumstances, we encourage all international applicants to begin in the fall semester.) However, we consider all U.S. and international applications on a rolling basis and accept applications throughout the year. We will also consider applications past the admissions deadlines if there is still room in the class.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit the following to the LL.M. program director (address on next page):

- Completed LL.M. application (attached), *signed and dated*.
 - Nonrefundable \$50 application fee. (Please make any checks payable to Lewis & Clark Law School.)
 - Statement of purpose: In 500 words or fewer, explain your objective in pursuing graduate legal studies. Please be thoughtful in your explanation as to why you believe this degree will be valuable and comment on your long-term professional goals.
 - References: Three letters of reference written by people who know you well, written to help the Admissions Committee evaluate your academic capacity and ethical character, writing and research skills, and professional ability as a lawyer using concrete examples and descriptions. The letters do not need to be sealed and may be submitted directly to the law school or with the other application materials. Letters for international applicants should discuss ability to study in a U.S. law school and facility with English, if known.
 - Current resume or curriculum vitae.
 - Writing sample of approximately 10-15 pages that will demonstrate your ability to organize, reason, and communicate. The sample need not be animal law in nature, but should be an example of *legal* writing that demonstrates your best writing, research, and analytical skills.
 - Official transcripts from all law schools and any post-graduate programs attended whether or not a degree was granted sent directly to the LL.M. program director.
- International students must send official English translations.
- International students only:
 - For students for whom English is a second language, a TOEFL score or other measure of facility with English (e.g., other tests of English or previous study in an English-speaking school). Our minimum scores are the following:
 - Internet-based TOEFL (IBT): 100
 - IELTS: 8

- Certificate of financial responsibility.*
- International student information sheet.*

*If you are admitted, we need these two forms to process your visa. Both forms are available from the admissions office or online at go.lclark.edu/lawfincert and go.lclark.edu/lawintappsup. All international students need these two forms.

Admission Process

Your admission file is created when the law school receives your completed application form and application fee. You may choose to submit all of your documents at once or to submit as many of the documents as you can at one time, with other items such as transcripts and reference letters, to follow. For U.S. students seeking loans, please submit and file financial aid forms as soon as possible; *do not wait until you have received an offer of admission*.

Once your file is complete, the Admissions Committee will review it and contact you regarding the decision. If you accept an offer of admission, you must submit a nonrefundable tuition deposit of \$250 within three weeks after notification of admission to hold your place in the class. Please make any checks payable to Lewis & Clark Law School.

For efficiency and environmental reasons, we use email to update candidates on the status of their files whenever we can.

Academic Calendar

The law school is on the semester system, with 13 weeks of classes and two weeks of exams in each semester. The fall semester generally begins the last week of August and ends the second or third week of December for a three-week winter break. The spring semester generally begins in mid-January and ends in late April, with a one-week spring break in March. The International LL.M. seminar begins early in August prior to the start of fall classes.

Questions

For more information about the LL.M. program, please contact:

Natasha L. Dolezal
 Director, Animal Law LL.M. Program
 Center for Animal Law Studies
 Lewis & Clark Law School
 10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd.
 Portland, Oregon 97219
 503-768-6976
ndolezal@lclark.edu

Lewis & Clark Law School is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

The law school adheres to a nondiscriminatory policy with respect to employment, enrollment, and program. The law school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or marital status and has a firm commitment to promote the letter and spirit of all equal opportunity and civil rights laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and their implementing regulations. We encourage applications from persons in groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession.

Application for Admission: Animal Law LL.M.

LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL

Office Use: ID#

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Applications should be mailed to:

Natasha L. Dolezal
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97219-7799
Phone: 503-768-6976
Fax: 503-768-6917
Email: ndolezal@lclark.edu

Social Security number
(U.S. citizens)

LSAS Code Number R4384

NAME: Last First Middle

CURRENT ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE: Home () Work ()

PERMANENT ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE: () EMAIL

FAX: ()

Application for Year _____

Fall semester

Spring semester (U.S. students only)

International Students Required Statements

If not a citizen of the U.S., are you a Permanent Resident? Yes No VISA TYPE _____

COUNTRY OF: Citizenship Residence Birth

Education Information

List all colleges, universities, graduate, and professional schools you have attended. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

SCHOOL	MAJOR	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	DEGREE	DATE AWARDED OR EXPECTED
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List all scholastic or academic honors you have received after secondary school including scholarships, fellowships, prizes, honor societies, etc. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

AWARD NAME	DATE RECEIVED	PURPOSE OF AWARD
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References

List three individuals who will furnish the required letters of recommendation.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT
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Work Experience

List your last four positions of employment, including present employment and summer employment.

DATES	EMPLOYER	POSITION/DUTIES

Are you a member of the bar? Yes No If yes, indicate in what jurisdiction(s) and when admitted.

Miscellaneous

You have an ongoing obligation to notify us if additional events occur between the time you sign this application and your matriculation at Lewis & Clark Law School that fit within the parameters of the following two questions.

Have you been charged, convicted, or forfeited bond or bail in any court proceeding of a criminal nature (including major traffic offenses)? Yes No If yes, attach a detailed explanation on a separate sheet.

Have you ever been dismissed from or suspended by any school, college, university, or law school? Yes No If yes, attach a detailed explanation on a separate sheet.

Answering "yes" to either of the above two questions does not automatically disqualify you from consideration for admission.

Have you served in the armed forces? Yes No If yes, indicate location(s), name, branch, rank, date, and type of discharge.

Do you plan to apply for financial assistance? Yes No

Do you need the law school to send you financial aid information (for loans for U.S. citizens)? Yes No

You need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor at the earliest possible date if you want to be considered for loans. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Answers to the following questions are needed if you are admitted, but are not used by the law school to make an admission decision.

DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH MALE FEMALE COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
MM/DD/YY

How do you describe your race and/or ethnicity?

The U.S. Department of Education requires that we collect data on race and ethnicity in the following manner. Please answer to the best of your ability and indicate any of the following that apply.

Hispanic or Latino

- Chicano/Mexican American
- Puerto Rican
- Other Hispanic/Latino (please specify)

Not Hispanic or Latino

- American Indian/Alaska Native: Tribe/Enrollment #
- Asian
- Black/African American
- Canadian Aboriginal

- Middle Eastern
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Other (please specify)

If you wish to discuss any special factors in your personal, family, social, ethnic, or economic background that we should consider in evaluating your application, please attach an explanation.

How did you hear about our LL.M. Program? _____

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is complete and accurate. I also understand that knowingly providing false information or failing to provide complete information relevant to this application may subject me later to the rescinding of my admission, or disciplinary action should I matriculate at Lewis & Clark Law School.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____