

UNIVERSITY *of* HAWAII *at* MĀNOA

WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON

SCHOOL OF LAW

JD | AJD | JD/MBA | JD/MSW | LLM





WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW



# HAWAI‘I’S LAW SCHOOL

The William S. Richardson School of Law develops highly qualified, ethical professionals through excellence in teaching, scholarship and public service. Richardson’s collaborative, multicultural community prepares students for excellence in the practice of law and related careers that advance justice and the rule of law. Our faculty are recognized nationally and internationally for their scholarship, which they combine with extensive real-world experience both in the state of Hawai‘i and beyond.



*The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa | William S. Richardson School of Law is truly unique. It is distinct because of its history of excellence and inclusivity, its location in Hawai‘i, which is singular in its beauty, its rich culture, its provision of a truly inspiring setting in which to study the law, and its commitment as a Hawaiian place of learning.*

— DEAN CAMILLE NELSON

## PROGRAMS

### FULL-TIME JD

The Full-Time JD is designed for students who are able to dedicate most of their time to taking day time courses during the week. A law student may also concurrently earn a graduate degree from any discipline available at UH Mānoa such as the JD/MBA, JD/MSW or JD/MPH.

### EVENING PART-TIME JD

The Evening Part-Time-JD Program is tailored to meet the needs of students who have professional, financial, or family obligations that make it difficult to attend Law School during the day.

### ADVANCED JURIS DOCTOR AJD

The Advanced Juris Doctor enables graduates from foreign Law Schools to receive up to one year’s worth of credit (*up to 29 credits*) towards the JD program, earning the degree in as little as two years as a full-time student.

### MASTER OF LAWS LLM

The Master of Laws is open to foreign and domestic law graduates who would like to specialize in a certain field of law, e.g. Environmental Law, International & Comparative Law, etc.

## ULU LEHUA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Ulu Lehua Scholars Program manifests the Law School’s commitment to make legal education accessible to those who are underrepresented and underserved groups in and beyond Hawai‘i. Each year, the Law School admits up to twelve students who have overcome adversity, have demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to social justice, and who have academic records that evince the persistence, dedication, and intellectual ability needed to succeed in our Law School.



*Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal  
Executive Board & Staff Editors*

# WHERE WE EXCEL

The William S. Richardson School of Law certificate and concentration programs represent key areas that help make the school a leader in legal education. With robust programs in the areas of Environmental Law, Native Hawaiian Law, Pacific-Asian Legal Studies, International Law, and Business Law, students can enhance their legal education by diving deeper into these topics while leveraging the unique advantages of having access to Hawai'i, Asia and the Pacific.

PHOTO: JOSE MAGNO

*“Richardson is law school with the aloha spirit. A supportive community of students and faculty whose main goal is to better the state of Hawai'i, the nation, and the world, through the legal profession.”*

— **CARISSA GUSMAN**  
EPT Student and Academic Advisor Shidler College of Business



**HONOLULU**  
Center for Business,  
Major Law Firms,  
Government and the  
Judiciary

## CERTIFICATES

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Environmental Law Program (ELP) helps students build the knowledge and skills needed to address complex legal and policy issues affecting our environment. The unique challenges of developing an environmentally sustainable economy while protecting spectacular ecosystems vulnerable to disruptions make Hawai'i an ideal place to study Environmental Law.

### INTERNATIONAL LAW

The International Law program provides students with the opportunity to learn from many leading scholars who specialize in areas such as International Criminal Law, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and International Environmental Law. The Law School offers a wide variety of international law courses, in both public and private law, allowing students to earn a certificate in these areas.



### KA HULI AO CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN NATIVE HAWAIIAN LAW

The mission of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law is to promote education, scholarship, community outreach, and collaboration on issues of law, culture, and justice for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific and Indigenous peoples. Ka Huli Ao facilitates research and scholarship on the unique aspects of Native Hawaiian Law and the intersection of local, federal, and international laws affecting Native Hawaiians.

### PACIFIC-ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES

The Pacific-Asian Legal Studies program at Richardson gives students a comparative perspective on the U.S. legal system. The Law School's unique location and access to Asia and the Pacific make it ideally situated to provide a broad selection of courses on Pacific-Asian legal issues.

### BUSINESS LAW CONCENTRATION

Richardson's Business Law Concentration capitalizes on Hawai'i's central position linking Asia and the Pacific. The curriculum prepares students for the practice of law in the spheres of corporate law, cross-border & comparative commercial law, innovation & entrepreneurship, and small firm practice.

# BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

## ONE GRADUATE AT A TIME



Richardson students benefit every day by interacting with other students and faculty in a collaborative, multicultural community that prepares them to effectively practice law in a variety of fields, locations, and situations. Their diverse backgrounds and experiences contribute to the richness of student life while also inspiring fellow Law students as they pursue their own professional paths.



**Chief Justice William Shaw Richardson** fought to establish the state of Hawai'i's only law school. Before his retirement from the bar, the Law School was named in his honor. To this day, his principles and perspectives continue to guide the Law School and serve as an inspiration to faculty, students, alumni, and the community.



### 2023 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

26th Environmental Law Program  
21st Best Part-Time Program  
91st Best Law School

### 2022 THE PRINCETON REVIEW

Best Law Schools  
2nd Most Diverse Faculty  
3rd Most Chosen By Older Students

### 2022 NATIONAL JURIST PRE-LAW MAGAZINE

A for Environmental Law  
A- Practical Training  
A- for International Law  
Best Law School for Diversity

### PUBLICATIONS

The University of Hawai'i Law Review  
Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL)  
'Ahahei o Hawai'i Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice  
American Bar Association - Law Student Division  
American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS)  
Black Law Students Association (BLSA)  
Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity (DTP)  
Environmental Law Society (ELS)  
Ete Bowl  
Federalist Society  
Filipino Law Students Association (FLSA)  
James S. Burns Aloha Chapter, American Inns of Court IV  
La Alianza  
Lambda Law Student Association  
Law and Business Organization (LBO)  
Law for Youth Empowerment (LYTE)  
Lawyers Against Sexual Violence (LASV)  
National Lawyers Guild  
Native American Law Students Association Hawai'i Chapter (Native American Moot Court)  
Pacific Islander Legal Association (PILA)  
Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Organization (PALSO)  
Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, Richardson Inn (PDP)  
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)  
Student Bar Association (SBA)  
Students for Public Outreach & Civic Education (SPOCE)  
Students with Keiki

2021-22



### NATIONAL JURIST MAGAZINE LAW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Meleana 'Mana' Shim '22  
Mahesh Cleveland '18\*  
Katherine 'Kaki' Vessels '16

\*PHOTO: TOOTIE GLENDON PHOTOGRAPHY



*There's a strong sense of belonging when you step onto campus. Whatever the day is going to throw at you, whatever the next challenge may be, you've got people ready to fight right alongside you."*

— **KELLY KWAN '22**  
Patsy Mink Fellow & Ulu Lehua Scholar



# AMONG THE BEST LAW SCHOOLS FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING

The Experiential Learning Requirement prepares students to become practice-ready legal professionals.

*Devin Forrest '22, recognized in National Jurist Magazine (Spring 2021) for his pro bono work in the Kaua'i community; laying the legal groundwork to give Wai'oli farmers a perpetual easement guaranteeing access to their ancient lo'i kalo irrigation system.*

## PRO BONO

The Pro Bono Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law amplifies the School's commitment to social justice. It was one of the first Law School pro bono programs in the nation and is believed to be the first student-initiated mandatory program. Students are required to complete 60 hours of pro bono work under the supervision of an attorney in any number of legal settings that match their interests and gain practical experience to aid their understanding and application of the law.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM

The William S. Richardson School of Law's Experiential Learning Program provides students with many opportunities to learn a full range of lawyering skills and develop their professional identity and values. Below is a partial list of our simulation-based courses and clinics, where students serve clients under the supervision of a faculty member:

- Defense Clinic
- Elder Law Clinic (Veteran-focused)
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Clinic
- Environmental Law Clinic
- Estate Planning Workshop
- Family Law Clinic
- Hawai'i Innocence Project
- Lawyering Skills Workshop
- Mediation Workshop
- Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
- Native Hawaiian Rights Clinic
- Negotiations and ADR
- Prosecution Clinic
- Refugee and Immigration Clinic
- Trial Practice

**FIRST**  
student-initiated  
mandatory  
Pro Bono program  
in the nation

*Professor Susan Serrano '98 teaching Lawyering Fundamentals to first-year law students*



Richardson is also home to a number of institutes, centers and projects that foster cooperative relationships with state, local, national and international agencies and entities. These programs share knowledge, promote legal education and advocacy, such as the Family Court Projects, Beyond Guilt, Institute of Asian-Pacific Business Law, Jon Van Dyke Institute, and Richardson Law & Justice.



*Professor Kapua Sproat '98 and Post JD Fellow Troy Ballard '22 co-teaching the Native Hawaiian Rights Clinic*

## LIVE CLIENT CLINICS, SIMULATION COURSES AND EXTERNSHIPS

Through live client clinics, simulation courses, and externships, students explore their desired career paths and interests. The experience enhances overall professional development while learning basic and advanced lawyering skills in supportive real-world settings. Richardson students have engaged in externships with local and national hosts in a variety of legal environments, such as:

- In-house counsel at national and international companies
- State and federal agencies
- Prosecutors' and judges' offices
- Public defenders' offices
- Nonprofit legal services
- Private law firms

“*The Defense Clinic was a valuable experience because I was able to stand before others and act everything out. Through the practice in this clinic, I learned to formulate more powerful arguments and communicate more confidently.*”

— JARED ONO '21

# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2022 ENTERING CLASS PROFILE

<b>77</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>APPLIED</b> 745
FULL-TIME JD STUDENTS	PART-TIME JD STUDENTS	<b>ACCEPTED</b> 224
		<b>ENROLLED</b> 89

	25TH PERCENTILE	MEDIAN	75TH PERCENTILE
<b>UGPA</b>	3.26	3.52	3.70
<b>LSAT</b>	154	156	160

\*Updated August 24, 2022: The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) and American Bar Association (ABA) are yet to certify these LSAT and GPA percentiles.



The entering class of 2022 take the Law School student pledge.

STUDENT-FACULTY  
**8:1**  
RATIO  
2021-22

**HAWAI'I BAR  
PASSAGE RATE  
(2021)**

**76%**

UH LAW FIRST TIME  
TEST TAKERS

**71%**

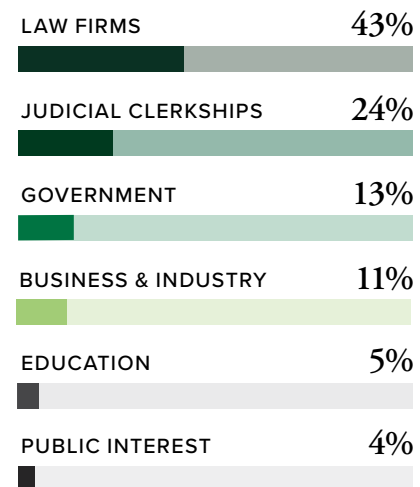
ALL TEST TAKERS

**84%**

ULTIMATE BAR PASS  
RATE (2019 GRADUATES)



### CLASS OF 2021 EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES



## 2023-24 COST OF ATTENDANCE\*

### FULL-TIME

(12 or more credits per semester for 2 semesters)

BUDGETARY CATEGORY EXPENSE	HI RESIDENT	PIE/WRGP	NON-RESIDENT
Tuition	\$22,392	\$33,588	\$45,816
Fees	\$772	\$772	\$772
Meals/Housing	\$16,870	\$16,870	\$16,870
Books/ Supplies	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$1,350
Personal Expenses	\$2,742	\$2,742	\$2,742
Transportation	\$2,067	\$2,067	\$2,067
Loan Fees	\$350	\$350	\$350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,543</b>	<b>\$57,739</b>	<b>\$69,967</b>

### PART-TIME

(9-10 or more credits per semester)

BUDGETARY CATEGORY EXPENSE	HI RESIDENT	PIE/WRGP	NON-RESIDENT
Tuition (Cost per credit hour)	\$933	\$1,399.50	\$1909

Part-Time Cost of attendance will also include Fees, Meals/Housing, Books/Supplies, Personal Expenses, Transportation and Loan Fees (~\$23,814).

PIE: Pacific Island Exemption | WRGP: Western Regional Graduate Program

\*The cost of attendance is designed to provide students with projected costs to attend for an academic year. The totals listed above are subject to change.

# ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

## HOW TO APPLY

- Take the **GRE** or **LSAT**
- Apply to Richardson at **lsac.org**
- Pay for the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and have all transcripts sent to LSAC as well as 2-3 letters of recommendation
- LSAT applicants: Ask LSAC to send your CAS report to Richardson **4867** (LSAC will add any and all reportable LSAT scores)
- GRE applicants: Ask ETS to send all reportable GRE scores to Richardson **2381**
- Priority Application Deadline: Feb. 1
- Application Deadline: Apr. 1

## TIPS

- ✓ Complete the FAFSA! You may be eligible for Federal financial aid (Our federal school code is **001610**)
- ✓ See Khan Academy for FREE lessons and videos to prepare for the LSAT or GRE
- ✓ If eligible, apply for a need-based fee waiver or fee waiver from LSAC or ETS (maker of the GRE)
- ✓ Apply Early: We have rolling admissions
- ✓ Check out Admissions FAQs on our website
- ✓ Contact a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Pre-Law Advisor **prelaw@hawaii.edu**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

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FOLLOW US

Instagram: @uhmlaw

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn: @UHMLawSchool



## ► FIND MORE TIPS

[law.hawaii.edu/jd-admission](http://law.hawaii.edu/jd-admission)  
[accesslex.org/max-prelaw](http://accesslex.org/max-prelaw)



## SCHEDULE A TOUR

guided by Ulu Lehua  
scholars Matthew Smith  
'24 and Nicole Tabios '24  
and sit in on a first-  
year class.

