“You’ll immediately begin putting your skills into practice by serving the community in your first year. Your classmates will be your partners, not your competitors. And, our loyal and involved alumni will become your mentors.”

Gary S. Gildin
Dean and Professor of Law
Why Penn State’s Dickinson Law?

I simply love to teach. I particularly enjoy watching my students acquire the analytical, problem-solving, and persuasion skills they’ll use on a daily basis while serving their clients. But as much as I like being in the classroom, my favorite part of the day is joining students around a table in the Commons for informal discussions about topics inside and outside the world of the law. I sincerely believe that the moments I treasure represent the distinctive features of Penn State’s Dickinson Law—what we teach, and the environment in which our students learn.

Established in 1834 as the first law school in Pennsylvania, Dickinson Law has a well-deserved reputation for producing first-rate lawyers due in no small measure to the fact that every member of our faculty has had a distinguished career practicing law. While they continue to engage with the legal profession through their scholarship and public service, the number one priority and passion of our faculty is our students. But having exceptional and caring teachers is not sufficient to prepare you to succeed. A law school must teach the right skills in the right way. Rapid and radical changes in the competencies a lawyer needs to effectively represent clients in an interconnected and global society prompted our faculty to reinvent the substance of our curriculum and expand the forum of instruction from the classroom to real-world settings. We are committed to a single goal—to ensure that our students graduate ready to practice law in a competitive and ever-changing marketplace.

An equally distinctive part of the Dickinson Law experience is our community. This is one of the reasons we aim to limit our entering class to 75 students. Without compromising academic rigor, our professors are supportive of your success. We not only view community as a proper ethos, but also believe that cultivating the interpersonal skills, respect, and tolerance that promote community will enable our students to more professionally and sensitively counsel their clients and accomplish their professional goals.

You’ll immediately begin putting your skills into practice by serving the community in your first year. Your classmates will be your partners, not your competitors. And, our loyal and involved alumni will become your mentors.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Dickinson Law family.

Gary S. Gildin
Dean and Professor of Law

“I simply love to teach. I particularly enjoy watching my students acquire the analytical, problem-solving, and persuasion skills they’ll use on a daily basis while serving their clients.”

Gary S. Gildin
Dean and Professor of Law
Training for profession-readiness is our mantra, and it’s exactly what we deliver.

Course offerings at Penn State's Dickinson Law are subject to change at any time.

Practice Law From Day One

When we say you will be profession-ready on graduation day, we mean it. Dickinson Law’s innovative curriculum goes beyond the traditional law school experience, methods of teaching, and ways of analysis. You’ll develop the ability to think strategically and fine-tune the skills needed to make an impact in today’s evolving legal landscape. You’ll acquire a strong understanding of national and transnational law fortified by repeated practice experience.

The Dickinson Law curriculum is uniquely designed to prepare you for a brilliant career from day one. During your very first semester of law school, you will take a class called Problem Solving I: The Lawyer and Client, where you’ll begin to develop core lawyering skills used to build and maintain relationships with clients. You will conduct a simulated interview under the supervision of a practicing attorney during the second week of class—and by the end of your first semester, you will conduct an intake interview of a potential client in one of several real-world community settings.

Our upper-level curriculum, which we call “The Lawyer As...,” helps concentrate your studies in specific practice areas, blending substantive knowledge and lawyering skills. During your 2L and 3L years, you will have the opportunity to choose from numerous electives organized around twenty different career paths. This is where your career begins to take shape.

PRACTICE GLOBALLY

We recognize that every lawyer must be conversant in transnational and international law. Your second semester will introduce you to law on an international scale with Practicing Law in a Global World: Contexts and Competencies. Then, through our upper-level elective curriculum, you’ll further explore the practice and application of international and transnational law through course work in a variety of fields, including International Business Transactions, Comparative International Tax Law, Cross-Border Legal Practice, International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law, and National Security Law.

JOINT DEGREE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Your choice of courses is not limited to those offered by Dickinson Law. You may earn up to six credits towards your law degree from approved graduate–level courses offered by other Penn State departments. Alternatively, you may enroll in a joint degree program, graduating with both your J.D. from Dickinson Law and an advanced degree from a coordinate department of Penn State. Learn more about our joint degree programs at dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/jointdegrees.

First Semester. First Client. First Interview.

Donned in their professional attire and under the watchful eye of a practicing attorney, our first-year students conducted their first simulated client interview within the first two weeks of law school—a result of our reimagined curriculum that ensures students graduate profession-ready and are equipped with the legal and extra-legal competencies necessary to represent their clients. This simulated client interview is part of a class called Problem Solving I: The Lawyer and Client.

Over the course of the semester, each of our first-year students also interviewed a witness, took a deposition, interviewed a second client with a transactional problem, and negotiated a commercial lease. Before the end of the semester, each student also conducted a real-world interview at a community agency or pro bono organization, including MidPenn Legal Services, Bethesda Mission, and the Cumberland County Bar Association Pro Bono Program.

“The practical experience I gained during my first semester rivals that of my friends at other law schools. I participated in a simulated deposition and negotiation, and conducted a client intake interview at our local clinic. Dickinson Law isn’t just showing me how to think like a lawyer, it’s showing me how to act like a lawyer, too.”

Anisha Reddy ‘19
Staten Island, NY

PRACTICE GLOBALLY

First Semester. First Client. First Interview.
Excel in a Nurturing Yet Challenging Environment

Dickinson Law’s class sizes, kept intentionally small, foster close personal interaction with your professors, and a deep connection with other students. We aspire to cap our incoming class size at just 75 students to ensure that every student receives individualized attention and training in an intimate environment backed by the resources of a world-class university. Our faculty will know more than just your name. They'll know you as a person.

“I like surrounding myself with friendly, like-minded classmates, and intellectually challenging myself on a daily basis. The faculty not only strive to help me absorb the information in the classroom, but they also go out of their way to get to know me as a person which makes all the difference. In a sense, they aren’t professors just teaching a class; they’re mentors working tirelessly with a group of individuals they want to see succeed.”

— Tyler Sheridan ‘18
Concord, CA

ACCOMPLISHED FACULTY

Your professors have spent years practicing law, and they continue to interact nationally and internationally with the legal profession through pro bono litigation, mediation, advisory committees, and scholarship. In addition to our dedicated full-time faculty, you’ll learn from an adjunct faculty of practicing attorneys and judges who translate years of legal experience into exercises in critical thinking and problem solving. Their experience becomes your experience as you prepare to represent your clients at the local, state, national, and international levels.

The Dickinson Law faculty believes that its scholarly and teaching missions should be complementary. As engaged scholars, our professors believe that having both a solid understanding of existing theory and the ability to develop new theories is indispensable to our students’ ability to operate as legal professionals in an increasingly global, diverse, and sophisticated legal environment.

“The greatest reward for a law teacher is to be part of a community of students and alumni who share an extraordinary common bond to their law school. Through my work creating three experiential learning programs for students to work in government in the nation’s capital in Washington, D.C. and the state capital in Harrisburg, and in the financial services sector in New York City, I have also become a part of an even more intensely bonded group of students and alumni who share a common passion for government service. Maintaining and strengthening both these programs and our broader Law School community is my highest personal priority as a member of the faculty of our Law School.”

— Lance Cole
Professor of Law

“I enjoy having lunch in the Commons with students. I get to know the students as the individuals that they are while I learn about their motivations and aspirations, thereby allowing me to better serve them as a potential job reference and friendly ear as their educations proceed. These lunches are truly one of my favorite moments of the day, and one of the ways Dickinson Law stands out from other law schools.”

— Michael Mogill
Professor of Law
Experiential learning opportunities allow you to build a legal career specific to your interests.

Clinical Offerings

Located within walking distance from the Law School, our in-house legal clinics include children’s advocacy, family and disability law, and health care clinical opportunities.

“Every day, low-income families in central Pennsylvania face health challenges that cannot be solved in an exam room or with a prescription. Often, the underlying cause of a health problem is a legal issue. Students in the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic work with medical providers from Penn State Medical Group to address intertwined legal and health issues through joint advocacy. Students benefit from this interprofessional collaboration, and from taking a lead role in all aspects of their cases. The community benefits from the Clinic’s innovative approach to improving population health and reducing health disparities.”

Medha Makhlouf
Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic

“Learn by Experience

As your legal knowledge grows, so will your opportunities to put it to work. We’re committed to experiential learning that goes beyond the minimum requirements set by the American Bar Association. At Dickinson Law, our students must earn at least six of twelve required experiential learning credits in a real-world practice setting through participation in one of our in-house legal clinics, approved internship placements with a federal or state judge, prosecutor or public defender, government agency, nonprofit organization, or start-up, or immersion in a semester-in-practice program. These practical opportunities, coupled with electives as part of our “The Lawyer As…” curriculum, are effective in producing lawyers who know how to think on their feet, analyze complex situations, win cases, and graduate profession-ready.

Semester Internships for Credit

Thanks to our location, history, and alumni base, we offer a wide variety of internships: we’re just 20 minutes from the state capital and a federal district court; two hours from our nation’s capital; and within commuting distance of five different county courthouses and Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Shawn Baldwin ’18
Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office
Carlisle, PA

“I believe that the opportunity to write briefs to the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Court helped me enhance my communication skills and obtain a job in the appellate division of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office.”

After completing his first year of law school, Shawn Baldwin obtained a two-year internship with the Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office. Working as a Junior Law Clerk and then a Senior Law Clerk, his role transformed from observing court proceedings to conducting summary appeals, pre-trial hearings, jury trials, and non-jury bench trials. Shawn has developed close working relationships with every attorney in the office, and has honed his research and communication skills by writing appellate briefs to the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Court.

Semester-in–Practice

Our Semester-in-Practice programs offer real-world opportunities in federal and state government agencies, in nonprofit and public interest offices, and in the financial services sector in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Harrisburg, PA, or at an international tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. Potential placements in Washington, D.C. include the Departments of Justice, State, and Treasury; Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia; and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In New York City, potential placements include the New York Regional Office of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority; Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association; in legal departments of brokerage firms, commercial banks, insurance companies, investment banks, or private equity firms; and in compliance departments of private corporations. Students participating in a Semester-in-Harrisburg can take advantage of placements such as the State’s Attorney General’s Office, Department of Corrections, Governor’s Office of General Counsel, Department of Environmental Protection, Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sentencing Commission.

“ Sensors

“Aubrey Abaya ’18
Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
Toronto, Canada

“Shawn Baldwin ’18
Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office
Carlisle, PA

“I believe that the opportunity to write briefs to the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Court helped me enhance my communication skills and obtain a job in the appellate division of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office.”

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Semester–in–Practice

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“ Sensors

“Aubrey Abaya ’18
Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
Toronto, Canada

““What I enjoy most about working at the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic is the diversity of issues, such as public benefits and immigration. Prior to serving in the Clinic, most of my legal experience was in policy work. The Clinic has given me valuable hands-on experience interacting with clients who I would not otherwise have an opportunity to work with.”

Medha Makhlouf
Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic

““What I enjoy most about working at the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic is the diversity of issues, such as public benefits and immigration. Prior to serving in the Clinic, most of my legal experience was in policy work. The Clinic has given me valuable hands-on experience interacting with clients who I would not otherwise have an opportunity to work with.”

Aubrey Abaya ’18
Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic
Toronto, Canada
Enhance Your Newfound Lawyering Skills Between Semesters

You’ll have a wealth of opportunities to practice law in an actual legal setting before you graduate. Here’s a sampling of where our students have gained relevant, practical legal experience.

Yio “Joy” Lee ’18
School of Law, University of Havana
Havana, Cuba

“Witnessing Cuba during a time of reform reminded me of the lawyer’s integral role in any type of social change.”

An intersession trip to Cuba with Professor Katherine Pearson and several of her fellow classmates as part of her comparative international law course allowed Joy Lee to expand her intellectual legal knowledge and intercultural skills—and challenged her predispositions about the country. While there, Joy met with a panel of professional judges at a municipal court, participated in a community development project, and visited a polyclinic, where she saw the Cuban health care system in action.

Alexia Tomlinson ’18
Immigration and Refugee Policy Program of Church World Service
Washington, D.C.

“My work in the Immigration and Refugee Policy Program demonstrated the importance of advocacy and the role of an advocate and attorney in serving their clients, whether that client is an individual, a group, or an entire population.”

An internship during the summer before her final year in law school allowed Alexia Tomlinson to see first-hand the importance of collaboration. The Immigration and Refugee Policy Program of Church World Service works to serve refugee and immigrant populations through legislation efforts, communications, and grassroots organization. While Alexia worked in all three sectors, her internship focused primarily on legislation and policy. She drafted House Resolutions and advocacy toolkits, and represented Church World Service in meetings with non-governmental organizations and Congressional hearings.

Malcolm McDermond ’19
International Justice Mission
Chiang Mai, Thailand

“In a justice system that often disregards the legitimate claims and rights of the poor, securing these convictions and damages awards is not only a huge victory for our clients, but also an even larger symbolic victory for the poor. These judgments proved that the Thai justice system can be an effective means of ensuring the equal rights of all Thai citizens no matter their income level.”

As a summer intern with The International Justice Mission—an international non-governmental organization committed to bringing justice to the world’s poor—Malcolm McDermond worked primarily with child sexual assault cases conducting research, drafting memos, managing client data, and attending field visits to follow up with survivors, as well as serving as a liaison with other NGOs who support local law enforcement.

Courtney Lewis ’19
Pennsylvania Innocence Project
Philadelphia, PA

“The Pennsylvania Innocence Project performs some of the most important legal work that can be done to serve the public’s interest. All energy spent to free an innocent person incarcerated by our broken legal system is well worth every bit of effort.”

While an intern at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, an organization that works to exonerate those convicted of crimes they did not commit and to prevent innocent people from being convicted, Courtney Lewis conducted legal research, edited briefs, met with clients and their families, and prepared letters and materials on behalf of those clients.

Pete Young ’19
Office of the Vice President of the United States, National Security Affairs
Washington, D.C.

“It was fast-paced and exhaustive work, but I was proud to serve my country. Every day was different. There were many late nights, but none of them felt like work.”

An impressive military service record—including a national security clearance—provided a stepping stone for Pete Young to intern for the Office of the Vice President of the United States, National Security Affairs. Pete served five years in the military and was the only law student selected to work in the National Security Affairs Office. He spent his time preparing briefings for the Vice President on a variety of topics such as natural disasters, situational analyses on terrorist activities, and diplomatic meetings with foreign leaders.

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Pennsylvania Innocence Project
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Preparing for a Rewarding Law Career

We know one size doesn’t fit all—and that’s why from the beginning we offer a personalized approach to legal career advising by getting to know you: learning what you like, don’t like, and where you want to be when you graduate; strategizing with you about your next steps; and helping you become the professional you want to be.

In addition to being preeminent scholars, our faculty are committed to a unique, intensive initiative of partnering with students in their career planning and job searches. Together, our goal is to help every student find employment within nine months of graduation.

With a strong network of more than 673,000 Penn State alumni—approximately 26,000 who reside in the greater Harrisburg/Capital region—and nearly 9,000 living Law School alumni, accessibility to professors who are experts in their fields, and a career services team comprised of experienced lawyers who provide one-on-one counseling, you’ll have the necessary resources to assist you wherever your career may take you.

CAREER PLANNING

Throughout your time at Dickinson Law, you’ll have access to employers around the world—and our career services team will help you to connect with them. In addition to an on-campus interview program and robust database of job postings, we also offer:

- professional development and individual career strategy planning
- application review and interview preparation, including mock interviews with practicing attorneys
- cover letter and résumé writing workshops
- training on social media use for networking and career development
- an introduction to practitioners and various career paths
- counseling and advising on summer employment and internship opportunities

Career planning doesn’t stop when you earn your degree. You’ll always have access to our Career Services portal where you can view job openings and receive email alerts targeted toward your specific career interests.

Our professional staff is available to review your résumé and discuss job search strategy. Of course, you can always take advantage of the Law School’s alumni networking events held at Dickinson Law and in nearby legal markets.

“What’s unique is the intimacy that exists here: the partnership among the Career Services team and the faculty is something that is truly different than other law schools. Our faculty are invested in student success not only inside the classroom, but also as students start to consider life after law school.”

Laura Williams ’90
Assistant Dean for Career Services
Practicing Greatness

You will graduate from Dickinson Law having mastered the foundations of the legal system—a knowledge which will be deepened by a breadth of practical experiences. We know law. As will you.

For nearly 185 years, Dickinson Law has produced some of the nation’s finest lawyers. Our alumni live and work in all 50 states, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the British Virgin Islands, and throughout Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Canada, the Middle East, and Africa.

GLOBAL ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

From private practice to public interest, government to industry, the judiciary to military service, we are extremely proud of the work our alumni have accomplished. Here’s a sampling of where they are putting their law degrees to work:

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Ablon & Bird, LLP
Ballard Spahr
Bengler & Montague
Buchanan Ingersoll
Cohen & Grubb
Cohen Segalas
Dickey, McCamery & Chilcote
Dentons
Duane Morris, LLP
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott
Fox Rothschild, LLP
Goldberg Segalla
Jackson Lewis
Jenner Day
K&L Gates
Kirkland & Ellis
Kostelanetz & Fink, LLP
Latham & Watkins, LLP
Marshall Dennehey
McNees, Wallace & Nurick
Mette, Evans & Woodside
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
Morris, Nichols, Arht & Tunnel, LLP
O’Melveny & Myers, LLP
Pepper Hamilton
Post & Schell
Reed Smith
Rhoads & Simon
Richards, Layton & Finger
Saul Ewing
Sellers & Lee
Staley Rekon
White & Williams
Winston & Strawn
Womble Carlyle
Young Conway Stangst & Taylor

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Apple Inc.
Barclays
Bessemer Trust Co.
Bloomberg BNA
Burnham Holdings
Capital Blue Cross
Charter Communications
Comcast Corporation
Deloitte
Ernst & Young
Esprit Europe GmbH
Fahlerger Construction Group, LLC
Geisinger Health Plan
The Hershey Company
Highmark Inc.
Independence Blue Cross
KPMG
Marriott International, Inc./Ritz-Carlton
Hotel Co. LLC
Microsoft Corporation
Neustar, Inc.
The Nexius Group
NRS Energy
PDC Energy
Pennsylvania American Water Company
Penke
Pittsburgh Pirates
PPG Industries, Inc.
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Rite Aid Corporation
Saudi Aramco-Aramco Services
Select Medical Corporation
Shire Pharmaceuticals
Simulmedia
Subaru of America
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
United Concordia

GOVERNMENT

City of Chicago
City of Harrisburg
City of Philadelphia
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Office of Attorney General
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Office of General Counsel
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Judiciary
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania legislature
Delaware Department of Labor
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Internal Revenue Service
NOAA/National Weather Service
State & Federal Public Defender’s Offices
State of Arizona
State of Delaware
State of New Jersey—Office of the Attorney General
State of Vermont
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Board
U.S. Customs & Immigration Office
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Department of Secret Service
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy and U.S. Army IAG Corps
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
U.S. Social Security Administration

PUBLIC INTEREST

Adams County Children’s & Youth Services
American Bar Association
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
China Foreign Economic and Financial Law Institute
Community Service Council
Consumer Advocacy Center
CURE International
Equal Justice Works
Girls on the Run Atlanta
K-12 Institute
MidPenn Legal Services
Mississippi Association of Justice
MONUSCO
North Carolina Bar Association
NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance
Operation Smile
Pennsylvania Bar Association
The Pennsylvania Economy League
Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Public Interest Law Center
Space Foundation
Surface Transportation Board
Tahir Justice Center
Utah Foundation
World Relief
Youth for Understanding

EDUCATION

Argosy University
Michigan State University
Neumann University
Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Penn State University
Shippensburg University
Smith College
Temple University
University of Pittsburgh
University of Scranton
Widener University

Dickinson Law has the oldest law school alumni network in Pennsylvania with nearly 9,000 living alumni.

You’re in Great Company

TWO GREAT ALUMNI NETWORKS

Your Dickinson Law degree carries national and international recognition. As a graduate, you’ll become part of two loyal alumni networks—Dickinson Law alumni and Penn State University alumni—providing access to over 673,000 loyal and enthusiastic Penn State alumni worldwide, including distinguished lawyers, statespersons, business leaders, innovators, and advocates.

ALUMNI MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

Ask any successful graduate: nothing kick-starts a legal career like having a great mentor. You will benefit from the largest dues-paying alumni network of its kind in the world before and after graduation. Through dedicated programming like our Alumni Mentor Match Program, you are partnered with an alum who will serve as a mentor for you beginning in your first semester. This experienced attorney will listen and offer advice on how to navigate the many challenges you will face during law school and as you enter the legal profession. Your alumni mentor can provide insight about his or her field of practice and the legal market, and may be instrumental in helping you launch your career.

“My alumni mentor keeps it real for me. It’s easy to get lost in the weeds of readings, case briefings, and exams, and lose the big picture of why I’m in law school. When I speak to or meet with Erin, I’m reminded of and feel closer to my purpose. She’s a fantastic resource who offers guidance on how best to position myself to practice law after graduation. I can ask her questions that I might not ask a stranger practicing in her field.”

Jordan Yatsko ’18
Connellsville, PA
Live and Learn in Carlisle

The Dickinson Law campus is perfectly situated in the town of Carlisle within the greater Harrisburg metropolitan area. Carlisle continuously ranks as one of the country’s most livable small towns due in part to the diversity of the people and institutions, amenities, and array of things happening here. Everything you need is within easy walking or biking distance. In fact, most Dickinson Law students find reasonably-priced housing close to the school for just that reason.

There’s a balance in Carlisle. As a springboard to nearby major legal markets and networking opportunities of the East Coast, you’ll find that you’re close to policy makers and professionals who will be ready collaborators. The slower pace of life in town moves in counter-rhythm to the intensity of academic activity on campus—giving you the space to focus on your personal and professional growth.

Beyond our campus sits a region of unparalleled beauty and culture. Known for its historic charm, Carlisle features our valued neighbor, Dickinson College; a variety of restaurants, shops, and galleries; an independent movie theatre; a downtown farmers market; and much more.

If you need a big city culture fix, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and New York City are all easily accessible, by car or by train. Whatever you crave, it’s easy to find an adventure just a short trip away.

Make our home your home for the next three years.

We are well-positioned in the heart of a vibrant legal community offering a diverse selection of career-building opportunities.

5 state and federal courthouses within a 30-minute drive from the Law School including 1 courthouse just a few blocks from the Law School

LEGAL MARKETS NEARBY

Harrisburg.........................17 miles
Baltimore.........................90 miles
Washington, D.C..................115 miles
Wilmington......................119 miles
Philadelphia..................124 miles
Pittsburgh.......................190 miles
New York City...............190 miles

Our proximity to the state capital opens the doors to internships, networking, and cultural experiences beyond the classroom

Farmers Market

You’ll find a year-round, producer-only farmers market on the square in downtown Carlisle to satiate your appetite with fresh-picked vegetables, seasonal fruits, hearth-baked breads, and more.

Carlisle features a variety of restaurants, shops, and galleries; an independent movie theatre; and much more.

of the Appalachian Trail meander through Cumberland Valley, with its halfway point located in Boiling Springs—a short drive from campus.
We believe that cultural diversity enriches everyone’s educational experience, and we strive to maintain an inclusive community. We are as committed to welcoming people of diverse cultures and lifestyles as we are to preparing them to become the next generation of profession-ready attorneys.

Dickinson Law defines diversity broadly to include racial and ethnic minorities; women; individuals with disabilities; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ) community; veterans; first-generation students; adult learners; and any others who have experienced subordination, marginalization, or isolation in academic communities because of their identity status.

THIRD THURSDAYS

While faculty-student interaction happens daily at Dickinson Law, Third Thursdays are special. On the third Thursday of every month, you’ll gather with faculty and staff in the Ridge Commons to unwind, socialize, and enjoy good food and music.

FIRST FRIDAYS

Sponsored by the Carlisle Downtown Association, First Fridays in Carlisle are a breath of fresh air at the beginning of every month. Local merchants offer you a chance to sample the restaurants, arts, music, and culture this historic town has to offer.

THIRD IN THE ‘BURG

Every third Friday, Harrisburg hosts its popular Third in the ‘Burg, an invitation to enjoy the capital city’s vibrant arts and entertainment culture, including restaurants, art galleries, bookstores, and theatres.

Law Review and Moot Court

Our flagship Dickinson Law Review offers opportunities for student publication and production of scholarly articles. In addition to publishing four printed issues, Dickinson Law Review organizes an annual symposium, hosts scholarly dialogues for authors with forthcoming or recently published articles, and maintains an online companion to the Dickinson Law Review. Students are selected for Dickinson Law Review membership after the first year of legal study based on academic achievement and performance in the annual write-on competition, which is held during the summer months.

Additionally, Dickinson Law students participate in national moot court competitions. Team members chosen each year through an intraschool competition advance their writing, problem-solving, and advocacy skills under the guidance of full-time faculty and experienced lawyers. We sponsor moot court teams in negotiation, mediation, civil and criminal trials, and appellate advocacy in a variety of areas.

Students may also serve as research assistants, working closely with professors writing books, articles, draft legislation, and advisory opinions.

Wellness and Athletics

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS

At Dickinson Law, your education includes more than lawyering skills. To help you manage the stress that comes with the study of law, we offer free yoga and mindfulness classes at the Law School taught by certified instructors.

Off campus, you’ll find a number of fitness centers, yoga and Pilates studios, meditation centers, acupuncture practitioners, massage therapists, and chiropractors within easy walking distance. We think you’ll discover that learning how to channel stress and clear your mind helps you develop more creative solutions to your clients’ problems.

CO-ED INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Sign up for one of Dickinson Law’s co-ed intramural sports leagues and play flag football, basketball, or volleyball. Dickinson Law also sponsors a softball team that competes in a national tournament each spring along with nearly 1,500 law students from across the country. Additionally, our students have coached soccer, lacrosse, track, swimming, and field hockey teams at Dickinson College and in local youth leagues.

PENN STATE FOOTBALL STUDENT TICKETS

One of the perks of being a Dickinson Law student is discounted tickets to Penn State football games. These season tickets are available to any full-time student.

We proudly support a variety of student-run affinity groups including the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, the Latino/a Law Students Association, OutLaw (an organization for LGBTQ law students and allies), Middle Eastern Law Students Association, Military Law Caucus, and Women’s Law Caucus.
Professional and Community Partnerships

One of the unexpected but exciting aspects of lawyering is collaborating with professionals from other disciplines and practicing your skills while giving back to the surrounding community.

PHI ALPHA DELTA JUDGES’ NIGHT AND PROFESSIONALS’ NIGHT

Attend the Law School’s annual Phi Alpha Delta Judges’ Night and mingle with members of the state and federal judiciary. The event features a reception, panel discussion, and dinner where students and judges sit together and have the chance to build strong relationships. Students who have attended this highly-anticipated event have secured summer judicial internships and post-graduate clerkships.

Similar to Judges’ Night, the annual spring semester Professionals’ Night connects you with alumni from a variety of practice areas for an entertaining evening of discussion and networking.

THE CULTURE OF MEDICINE IN THE COURTROOM

As a Dickinson Law student, you’ll be given a unique opportunity to participate in a mock medical malpractice trial with Penn State Children’s Hospital’s pediatric medicine residents. Together, Medha Makhlof, assistant professor of law and director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, and Steven Wassner, M.D., professor of pediatrics at Penn State College of Medicine, coordinate Dickinson Law students and pediatric residents who present an abbreviated civil trial centered on the issues of proving and defending against claims of medical negligence. Trial preparation begins with a dinner at the medical school, where you’ll meet your medical resident partners. Then, as the plaintiff and defense prepare their respective cases, you’ll connect with physician witnesses through phone interviews, emails, and virtual sessions. Finally, you’ll present your case in Dickinson Law’s signature Apfelbaum Family Courtroom & Auditorium to a jury drawn from the community.

In addition to practicing their trial advocacy skills and receiving immediate feedback from jurors, law students gain experience working closely with physicians, exposure to the professional culture of medicine, and a unique opportunity to sit down with fellow professionals in a non-adversarial setting to discuss whether the medical malpractice system needs to be reformed.

“The legal profession, like many other professions, is enhanced when different skillsets work together in a multidisciplinary fashion to solve problems. The Colloquium allowed me to gain courtroom experience as well as work with not only other law students, but also medical residents who bring a different perspective and way of thinking about the intersection of health care and law.”

Marc Wagner ’19
Camp Hill, PA
ENTREPRENEURIAL PARTNERSHIP

Students interested in entrepreneurship will have the opportunity to work alongside students and faculty from Penn State College of Medicine and Penn State Harrisburg, bringing discoveries to the marketplace as part of Invent Penn State, a University-wide initiative to drive innovation, economic development, and student career success. You will interact directly with entrepreneurs through an internship at the TechCelerator start-up program. Led by Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP and the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation, the TechCelerator nurtures pre-venture and early stage businesses and entrepreneurs, and offers start-ups a shared space in a business incubator environment in which to grow their company.

MILLER CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW AND ADVOCACY

Our Miller Center for Public Interest Law and Advocacy is the hub of public interest law at Dickinson Law. The Center creates practice experiences for students through pro bono service and provides ongoing support for public interest practitioners through training and resources. Dickinson Law students have provided pro bono legal research and other support to attorneys from the Legal Services Corporation, public defenders and court-appointed criminal defense counsel, and state and national public interest organizations. Students may also become involved in project-based service, such as Wills for Heroes (co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division), the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Berethas Mission Legal Intake Clinic, and the Dauphin County Bar Association Expungement Clinic.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FUND

The Public Interest Law Fund (PILF) is a student organization dedicated to promoting the practice of public interest law. Its annual auction and fundraising efforts underwrite the Cherie M. Millage Summer Fellowship Program. The fellowships allow students to pursue summer employment in public service organizations that otherwise are unable to offer compensation for their student employee advocates. Students work for international, national, or regional nonprofit organizations, or for government entities at the federal, state, or local levels. By increasing access to justice for those who can't afford representation, students not only provide a valuable public service, but also gain a rewarding opportunity to give back to the community. As part of Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Dickinson Law annually sponsors fellowships for law students performing full-time work in Pennsylvania legal services offices or other IOLTA-funded organizations during the summer. Students assist staff attorneys in representing eligible clients in a variety of case types, most commonly protection from abuse, custody, landlord tenant, public benefits, and consumer law matters.

LEADING LAW STUDENTS PROGRAM

A nonprofit board provides an excellent environment to promote individual growth in leadership. Leading Law Students offers students an opportunity to serve the local community by participating on the board of a nonprofit organization during their second year of law school. Students can help develop an active and healthy local community, while also preparing to be future leaders. Organizations that have participated include the Carlisle Borough Council, Carlisle Chamber of Commerce, Catholic Charities, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation, Cumberland County Historical Society, Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties, Employment Skills Center, Harrisburg Regional Chamber and Capital Region Economic Development Corporation, Jump Street, Leadership Education and Farming, Project SHARE, South Mountain Partnership, and YWCA.

PILF fellowships award public service opportunities both locally and internationally. Recent public interest placements have included:

ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Roma Rights Project
Skopje, Macedonia

AOS Law Project of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

California Rural Legal Assistance
Watsonville, CA

Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Toronto, Canada

Community Justice Project
Harrisburg, PA

International Justice Mission
Bangkok, Thailand

Laurel Legal Services
Greensburg, PA

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Norristown and West Chester, PA

Luzerne County Public Defender’s Office
Wilkes-Barre, PA

MidPenn Legal Services
Carlisle, Chambersburg, Lancaster, and York Counties, PA

Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Referral Service
Harrisburg, PA

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
York, PA

Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services
Santa Rosa, CA

The Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Research
Bronx, NY

World Institute on Disability
Berkeley, CA

YWCA Domestic Violence Legal Center
Harrisburg, PA

“The IOLTA summer fellowship allowed me to spend my first law school summer helping staff attorneys serve clients in custody, divorce, and protection from abuse cases. During my internship, I conducted client interviews, observed court hearings and trials, and drafted court documents. I am glad I had the opportunity to not only explore my interest in family law, but also help victims of domestic violence. This internship provided a great deal of experience and client interactions with a population of our community that I am interested in working with.”

Caroline Koko ’19
Stone Mountain, GA

Several types of summer fellowships are available to students participating in public interest work. Interest On Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) summer fellowships are available for students who intern with legal services organizations in Pennsylvania. The student-run Public Interest Law Fund (PILF) funds students at organizations throughout the country and internationally. Recent public interest placements have included:
Your Law School Journey Begins Here

Having been through the law school application process myself, I recognize that the experience may feel overwhelming at times. To help make this process easier, our website contains everything you'll need to know to apply and everything you'll want to know after you've been accepted. In addition, my admissions team and I are always available to speak with you, so feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit. Meet with members of our admissions team, talk with students, observe a first-year class, and tour the Law School. We can't wait to show you around!

Bekah Saidman-Krauss
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

To get started, visit dickinsonlaw.psu.edu
Launch our virtual tour at dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/virtualtour
Get to know our students at dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/ambassadors
CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State’s combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery/. A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park, PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864.

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