UF LAW

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Levin College of Law
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
DIVERSITY

A core mission of UF Law is to build an inclusive community, one that embraces and supports students of every race, religion, culture and sexual orientation.

Classrooms filled with women and men from many backgrounds lead to a better education and a richer understanding of how the world works.

At UF Law, we understand this.

We also understand that classrooms filled with a mosaic of personalities, experiences and outlooks contribute to valuable dialogue in our increasingly multicultural world. Most importantly, this results in much-needed diversity in the legal profession and, ultimately, in a more just legal system.

With about 300 students in each entering class, the Levin College of Law is sizeable enough to support an abundance of student interests and talents. The average entering class includes individuals from more than 80 different colleges and universities throughout the country and abroad. UF Law students have ranged from 18 to 64 years old. About 34 percent of entering students in 2014 were minorities and 42 percent were women.
FAST FACTS

• One of only five law schools in the country to house an academic research and resource center devoted to the study of race and race relations.
• UF Law’s Florida Bar passage rate was top in the state at 90.6 percent on the July 2014 exam.
• UF Law ranked as the 13th “Best Value Law School” by The National Jurist magazine in a 2014 ranking.
• UF Law’s Graduate Tax Program consistently ranks in the nation’s top two (No. 1 among publics).
• UF Law was ranked in 2012 as one of the top six schools for African-Americans in the South by On Being a Black Lawyer magazine.
• Our graduates have lead the way in diversifying legal practice. Eugene K. Pettis (JD 85) became the first African-American president of The Florida Bar in 2013. Stephen N. Zack (JD 71) came to the United States from Cuba in 1961 and became the first Hispanic-American president of both The Florida Bar and The American Bar Association. Martha Barnett (JD 72) was the second female ABA president in 2000.
• UF Law has had eight U.S. Supreme Court Justice visits in the past eight years.
• Recent updates to its facilities make UF Law a premier learning environment. A $25 million expansion and renovation project in 2005 made the UF Law library one of the largest in the Southeast and among the top 20 in the country.
• The new multi-million dollar advocacy center provides students with state-of-the-art trial facilities.

OPPORTUNITIES

The energy and diversity of our students foster useful discussions out of the classroom, too. The law school has more than 100 student groups, including the Asian & Pacific American Law Student Association, Black Law Students Association, Caribbean Law Student Association, Christian Legal Society, Cuban American Bar Association, Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Gator Muslim Law Students Association, Immigration Law Association, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Latino Law Student Association, Law Association for Women, OUTLaw—UF Law’s gay-straight alliance group and South Asian Law Society, among others. For more information or to get involved, visit www.law.ufl.edu.

“The Gator Nation is everywhere and representative of everyone. UF Law has shown a strong commitment to supporting and retaining a diverse student body. Professors and staff are extremely helpful and involved in the growth of students both academically and personally. I am proud to be a Gator.”

— LEONARD THOMPSON, 2L
Members of APALSA, BLSA, LLSA, LAW and OUTLaw assist Admissions in recruiting applicants and admitted students.

Alumni and faculty, along with students in diverse and co-curricular organizations and the Admissions Student Recruitment Team assist in recruiting admitted students by individually contacting them throughout the decision-making process.

Faculty and staff on UF Law’s Diversity & Community Relations Committee work with Diversity Coordinators.

Students can participate in the Law School Admission Council’s DiscoverLaw.org initiative, which encourages racially and ethnically diverse students to discover career opportunities in law and choose a path in undergraduate school to help them succeed (UF Law hosts a DiscoverLaw.org Open House for early college students in February).

The college hosts conferences, classes and other events to discuss race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation issues.

Regular social events such as a barbecue, ice cream get togethers and music night foster a sense of community.

A weekend-long reunion, with a prominent banquet speaker, is held annually for current and past members of chapter of the Black Law Students Association.

Student organizations, including APALSA, BLSA, LLSA, and OUTLaw, partner with the Center for Career Development to bring law firms to campus to speak on various topics. In addition, a number of law firms have diversity initiatives that are exclusive to UF Law students.

Students participate in three diversity job fairs (Lavender Law Conference & Career Fair, Minnesota Minority Recruitment Conference, and the Southeastern Minority Job Fair).

Our Center for Career Development compiles and disseminates to students a list of summer diversity initiatives offered by law firms and bar associations.

UF Law developed a webpage dedicated to answering questions of harassment, diversity challenges, stress or other problems, which can be found here: http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/additional-information/have-a-problem-we-can-help

It is easy to desire a more diverse student body, but it is the muscle behind the mandate that communicates who and what the Levin College of Law truly hopes to be.

Initiatives with students, faculty and staff currently include:

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The college considers all aspects of an applicant’s candidacy, including, but not limited to, the academic record, leadership and work experience, life experience, community service, first-generation status, achievements, insights gained and disadvantages overcome, with the goal of building a community that respects each member’s views, beliefs and differences. As the oldest and most prestigious law school in the state, UF is recognized as one of the nation’s most comprehensive, highly regarded law schools as well as one of the best values available. Our Financial Aid Office can provide assistance in guiding students through the financial aid process. In addition, scholarships are available to those who show high achievement or financial need. Visit www.law.ufl.edu for more information or to apply.