

**Pacific Coast University,  
SCHOOL OF LAW**

Long Beach, California



*Founded 1927*

**2018 - 2019 Catalog**

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## Prospective Student Informational Seminar

*Hosted by the Dean and Faculty*

Tour the school and library.

Meet current first year students and alumni.

**Saturdays in 2018**

2:00 P.M.

February 3

March 3

April 14

May 12

June 2

July 7

August 4

September 8

October 6

November 3

RSVP by contacting the school at: **562-961-8200**

**Program begins promptly at 2:00 PM**

*Please visit our website for additional information:*

**[www.pculaw.org](http://www.pculaw.org)**

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Pacific Coast University is accredited,  
by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

“Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the Bar Examination or be admitted to practice law in jurisdictions other than California. A student who intends to seek admission to practice law outside of California should contact the admitting authority in that jurisdiction for information regarding its education and admission requirements.”

PCU’s Bar Examination passing rates are available at the  
State Bar’s website, [www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions).

**Pacific Coast University, School of Law**  
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Long Beach, CA 90804  
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[www.pculaw.org](http://www.pculaw.org)

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It is the goal of PCU that the attorneys receiving their legal training here, representing as they do a diversity of ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds but sharing a common dedication to their chosen profession and the community they will serve, shall begin their work morally determined and professionally equipped to enter the legal profession.

## HISTORY

**Pacific Coast University** was founded in 1927, before the California State Bar itself was formed. The University originally offered graduate programs in Business and Divinity as well as Law, but the former schools, as well as an undergraduate college, fell victim to the Great Depression.

The Law School survived not only the Great Depression but also World War II, thanks to Dean Carl Manson who taught all classes while the professors were off to war. During the post-war years, Dr. Manson assumed the duties as Dean, a post he held until his death in 1980. Under his leadership, the University operated successfully in the Long Beach area for over three quarters of a century. The University has graduated hundreds of attorneys who served and still serve the area in private law practice, in public service, and as judges and leaders in the legal community.

Under the continued stewardship of Dean Irv Schleimer, elevated to that post from the PCU faculty in 1981, the University continued to meet its goal of providing an affordable legal education to a diverse group of working men and women of different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Dean Schleimer officially retired from PCU in late 1999. He was succeeded by Dean William J. Lewis, both a graduate of PCU and an 18 year faculty member, who continued to carry on the time-tested traditions of the University.

Following the leadership of Dean Lewis is Dean Andrea L. Lua. She is also a graduate of PCU and has been a faculty member for over 20 years.

Pacific Coast University law professors are all dedicated, local practicing attorneys and judges, and the University's alumni serve in a wide variety of specialties in the Bar and on the Bench.

Pacific Coast University's commitment to diversity is demonstrated by the attendance at this University of one of the first African-American Superior Court Judges in Southern California, William A. Ross, as well as the first woman Superior Court Judge, Kathleen Parker. PCU's continued commitment to diversity is demonstrated by its current student body. During a period when, for example, women made up only 2.7% of the profession as late as 1963, PCU was graduating 30% or more women each year.

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Operating as a non-profit school, PCU offers opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to students with few resources. In a sense, all evening law students who work full-time during the day and are busy raising families, are at a disadvantage. However, these hard-working individuals, typically a decade or more older than the average student in major universities, bring to their law studies a wealth of practical experience in the working world and a true appreciation for the opportunity that PCU has opened for them.

Pacific Coast University, School of Law became accredited by The Committee of Bar Examiners of the State of California on September 25, 2010.

The best witnesses to the living history of Pacific Coast University can be found in the words of its graduates:

*“PCU offers a unique opportunity for the law student. The practical experiences of the faculty and fellow students add a valuable dimension not available at other law schools. I am grateful to the school for enabling me to have a successful law practice and recommend it highly to any prospective law student.”* **Modesto A. Diaz, partner in Leviton, Rabine, Diaz et al., Santa Ana.**

*“In the summer of 1949 I became aware of PCU, and I enrolled. I have never regretted it; I am proud to be a graduate of Pacific Coast University.”* **Robert Harold Lund, partner, Lund & Caplan, Long Beach.**

*“The availability of Pacific Coast University provided me with an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise to attend and complete law school. It is one of just a few law schools designed for the working adult, and its location, schedule and affordable tuition make it possible for these people to advance and enrich their personal and professional lives.”* **Robert W. Parkin, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge (Ret.).**

*“Pacific Coast University is unique among law schools in California, providing opportunities for students to assist one another in a non-competitive atmosphere designed to enhance the learning process for all. The ‘working’ faculty adds a ‘real life’ dimension to the traditional law school academic regimen.”* **William J. Lewis, Dean.**

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## **PACIFIC COAST UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW'S LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

PCU shall insure that each student receives instruction in the following:

- (1) Substantive law generally regarded as necessary to be an effective and responsible participant in the legal profession.
- (2) Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem solving, and oral communication.
- (3) Writing in a legal context that includes at least one rigorous writing class experience in the first year and at least one additional rigorous writing class experience during the fourth year.
- (4) Other professional skills generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.
- (5) The history, goals, structure, values, rules and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members.

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## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

**Pacific Coast University, School of Law** admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at PCU. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational or admissions policies.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

### **INSTRUCTION**

All classes are held at the main campus located at 1650 Ximeno Avenue, Suite 300 in Long Beach, California. The Socratic method of instruction is used in lecture/discussion setting including student briefing of cases. Each class session provides ample opportunities for interchange between professor and student.

“The central goal of instruction,” according to the late Dean William J. Lewis, “is to enable our students to become capable and effective advocates who evidence a sense of fairness and honesty toward their clients and towards the community as a whole.”

### **DEGREE PROGRAM**

**Pacific Coast University, School of Law** offers a Juris Doctor Law Degree program for students interested in the study of law which qualifies them to sit for the California Bar Examination.

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## INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

### **JURIS DOCTORATE PROGRAM**

PCU offers two class start dates for the Juris Doctorate Program which are designated 'Track I' and 'Track II'. Track I consists of one subject each Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 6:30 to 10:10 PM, with classes beginning in September and continuing until May. Track II consists of one subject each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:30 to 10:10 PM and Saturday morning from 9:30 AM to 1:10 PM with classes beginning in November and continuing until August. There is a mandatory Lab offered on Saturdays for both tracks for first year students.

The academic year is divided into three quarters with 12-quarter units per quarter. Students earn a total of 36-quarter units per year on either schedule for the four years of study in the Juris Doctor Program.

### **REQUIRED JURIS DOCTORATE SUBJECTS**

Pacific Coast University, School of Law Juris Doctor program is a four-year schedule based on 356 hours per school year over 33 weeks. Each academic year follows the traditional model with the courses for each year predetermined.

The number of quarter units indicates the number of instruction quarters per year.

Example: 4 quarter units = 1 quarter; 8 quarter units = 2 quarters; 12 quarter units = 3 quarters.

### **FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM**

**CONTRACTS** (12 quarter units): Formation, performance and discharge of contracts; the Statute of Frauds, third party beneficiary contracts, assignment of rights, delegation of duties, and illegal contracts.

**CRIMINAL LAW** (8 quarter units): Nature and elements of crime, specific crimes, defenses and procedures.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF LEGAL WRITING AND RESEARCH** (4 quarter units): An overview of legal information sources, legal citation, and legal research methodologies including internet based legal research intended for first-year students. Building upon this researching knowledge, students will receive instruction in writing legal documents appropriate for IL students.

**TORTS** (12 quarter units): Civil liability for intentional and negligent injuries to persons and property, including assault, battery, false imprisonment, defamation, fraud, deceit and other wrongs.

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## **MANDATORY LAB IL**

**LAW STUDY SKILLS EFFECTIVENESS LAB** (12 quarter units): A three hour (Track 1, Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; Track II Saturdays 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm) course focusing on teaching IL students the fundamentals of writing in the IRAC method. Instruction in integrated study methods is key to this lab.

## **SECOND YEAR CURRICULUM \*\*\***

**COMMUNITY PROPERTY** (4 quarter units): The rights and obligations of spouses in the management and control, ownership, liability and disposition of property acquired during marriage based on California Law.

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW** (12 quarter units): Constitutional powers of the Federal and State governments, the limitations of such powers, and the constitutional rights of persons and citizens within the jurisdiction of the United States.

**REAL PROPERTY** (12 quarter units): Land ownership and transfer of interest, interactions between landlord and tenant, estates and conveyancing, land use, including private property rights and public use.

**WILLS AND TRUSTS** (8 quarter units): Execution, revocation and revival of wills and administration of private and charitable trusts and estates. Students draw up wills and trusts, and follow procedures under California Law of probating a will and dealing with future interests.

## **THIRD YEAR CURRICULUM**

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS** (8 quarter units): The formation of business units (agency, joint ventures, partnerships, joint stock associations, business trusts, and private corporations); preparation of the necessary documents, the nature of proprietary interests, and the rights and liabilities of the members.

**CIVIL PROCEDURE** (12 quarter units): Procedures, documentation and rules of law oriented to the pre-trial and post-trial procedures of Federal and State Courts.

**CIVIL PROCEDURE PRACTICUM\*** (4 quarter units): Civil Procedure Practicum course provides students with the practical skills necessary to serve as a certified law student. The course consists of an introduction to basic litigation practices and techniques, in relation to procedure as opposed to substantive law.

**EVIDENCE** (8 quarter units): Laws which provide for admissibility or exclusion of evidence during trial.

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**ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION** \* (4 quarter units): This course is designed to train and to qualify students to develop or participate in conflict mediation processes. Students will review the growth and application of settlement options in the United States and specifically California. The course focuses on both traditional and non-traditional dispute resolution options. Alternative Dispute Resolution (Mediation) is designed for professionals who engage in “interest-based bargaining.” This course focuses on the settlement processes and on achieving reasonable solutions. Students that successfully complete this course are awarded a Certificate of Completion.

### **FOURTH YEAR CURRICULUM**

**ADVANCED LEGAL REASONING:** (8 quarter units): A systematic review of subjects tested on the California Bar Examination.

**PLEADING AND PRACTICE** \*(4 quarter units): An overview of lawyering skills, that emphasizes the day-to-day practical skills required to integrate facts and the law, to present coherent and cogent legal arguments, and to plan appropriate courses of action.

**PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY** (4 quarter units): The history and organization of the legal profession, ethical rules, and philosophy which govern the practice of law.

**PROFESSIONAL WRITING** \* (4 quarter units): Legal and practical applications of the principles of a civil complaint, answering a complaint and other pleadings as a follow up to the study of Civil Procedure. A class exercise requires each student to draw up a pleading paper.

**TRIAL TECHNIQUES AND ADVOCACY** \* (4 quarter units): By means of a moot court, students participate in a review of preliminary motions, preparation for trial, selection and jury voir dire, examination of witnesses, and trial procedures.

**REMEDIES** (4 quarter units): Legal and equitable remedies under statutes and the common law are examined and compared. The course objective is to enable the student not only to identify all available remedies but also to choose the preferred remedy from among them. The principal subjects covered are equity, restitution and damages.

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**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE** (8 quarter units): An overview of Constitutional Law related to criminal procedures and enforcement.

*Note: \* denotes courses that meet the future practicum requirements of the State Bar of California for admission to practice law in the State.*

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

**Juris Doctor** (J.D.) Degree candidates must fulfill the following minimum requirements: earn 144 quarter units (four academic years), maintain a grade point average not lower than 70% (2.0 GPA), and successfully complete the thirteen Bar subjects: Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Community Property, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Property, Remedies, Torts, and Wills and Trusts.

**The Juris Doctor with Distinction** is awarded to students who pursue their entire Law course at PCU with an overall 91% (3.5 GPA) or higher.

## **THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE, POLICY, CRITERIA AND TUITION**

### **ADMISSIONS, PROCEDURE AND POLICY**

- A. The Juris Doctor Degree program requires four years of class work. There are two tracks, beginning either in September and culminating in May (Track I), or beginning in November and culminating in August (Track II). PCU's enrollment is open to both Regular Students and Special Students. A Regular Student is defined by the State Bar of California as a student that has at a minimum two years of college level education, defined as sixty semester or ninety quarter units of college credit in academic courses that are non-vocational and non-occupational.

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- B. Admission Criteria for Regular and Special Students is found in Pacific Coast University's Admission Criteria. No more than 10% of the first year students may qualify for admission as a Special Student.

Note: Special students will only be admitted to Track I for special students to prepare for the FYLSX (Baby Bar).

- C. Applications for admission into Tracks I and II are accepted beginning in February of each year. Students are admitted on a rolling admissions basis at such time as their application package is complete and the Admissions Committee has approved the application. Registration for Track I begins in June and Track II registration begins in September. Prospective Students are advised that the application acceptance period for Track I closes on August 1st and for Track II on October 15th.

**To apply, an applicant must complete the following steps:**

1. Complete the application form located in the center of this bulletin or on the website [WWW.PCULAW.ORG](http://WWW.PCULAW.ORG).
2. Include a brief 2-3 typewritten pages, double spaced personal statement which explains reasons for wanting to study law, choice of Pacific Coast University, School of Law and any further information relevant for consideration by the Admissions Committee.
3. Submit the \$100.00 application fee by personal check or money order directly to Pacific Coast University, School of Law.
4. Include supplementary materials such as certificates, test scores, professional commendations, published writings.
5. Two letters of recommendation submitted directly to Pacific Coast University, School of Law. Typically, professors, academic administrators and advisors or employers are best able to provide recommendations concerning an applicant's analytical skills, communication and writing abilities.
6. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) results required for Special Students. (See requirements below) The website is [www.collegeboard.org/clepcomposition](http://www.collegeboard.org/clepcomposition).

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7. Pacific Coast University, School of Law participates in the Law School Admission Committee's (LSAC) Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS). The PCU code is 4362. Official transcripts of all college work may be sent directly to LSDAS/LSAC or to PCU.
  8. Completion of the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The LSAT examination is not required for applicants who have earned a Masters or Doctorate Degree. See the website for further information at [www.LSAT.com](http://www.LSAT.com).
  9. Applicants will be interviewed by a panel of Administrators, Board Members, Professors, and Alumni following submission of a complete application packet to determine the applicant's suitability and readiness for commencing the study of law.

Applicants will be advised on the status of their application and on documents that are still outstanding. Admission is based on college grades, relevant work/community experience, evidence of maturity and ability to complete a rigorous law study program. For more information on the admission evaluation process, refer to admission criteria. Applicants will be advised in writing whether they have been accepted to Pacific Coast University, School of Law. A successful applicant will then indicate his/her intention to register as a student by submitting a commitment form to the school.

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Before beginning the study of law, a Juris Doctor Degree Regular Student must meet the following criteria:

- (A) Have an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science Degree or higher from a qualified institution, or
- (B) Completed at least two years of college work or demonstrated equivalent intellectual achievement.
  - (1) Two years of college work means a minimum of sixty semester or ninety quarter units of college credit in academic courses that are non-vocational, and non-occupational.
  - (2) A 2.0 grade point average or higher on all subjects undertaken and substantive content was at least equal to that required for graduation from the institution attended.

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Applicants whose pre-law studies do not satisfy the requirements above are classified as Juris Doctor Degree Special Students and may be admitted only in exceptional cases. The requirements to qualify as a Special Student are as follows:

(A) Complete three (3) CLEP general examinations with a score of 50 or better to qualify for the pre-legal education with the State Bar of California.

- (1) English Composition with or without essay.
- (2) Two examinations from the following four subjects:

Humanities  
College Mathematics  
Natural Sciences  
Social Sciences and History

Generally, Pacific Coast University, School of Law limits admission to students entering the first year of law study.

## **TRANSFERS**

Pacific Coast University, School of Law, on a case by case basis may allow a student who has completed a year or more of law study at a State Bar Accredited, ABA accredited, or Registered Unaccredited Law School if the registered unaccredited law school student has passed the first-year law student's examination to be admitted into the second year only. The admission of a student into the second year of law study is at the sole discretion of the Admissions Committee. It is the policy of PCU not to accept transfer students with more than one year of credit. All prior credits will be evaluated. Credit is not awarded for experience other than academic credits earned.

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## FEE SCHEDULE

The following fees are in addition to the yearly tuition of \$7,500.00. The fees are due on the first Monday in August for Track I, which commences in September and in October for Track II which commences in November. Tuition and fees are subject to change from year to year.

### General Fees:

Application Fee\*: \$100.00

\*this is a one-time fee and is not refundable

Late Registration fee\*: \$100.00

\*Tuition is late if not received by  
September 1 for Track I and  
November 16 for track II.

Make-up exam fee: \$500.00

Same for all years

### First Year Fees

Law Study Skills Lab Fee: \$2500.00 Mandatory

### Second Year Fees

Material & On-line fees: \$1,200.00 Mandatory

### Third Year Fees

Material & On-line fees: \$1,200.00 Mandatory

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Fourth Year Fees:

Materials, On-line & Graduation fees:	\$1,800.00	Mandatory
Graduation Invitations:	\$ 2.00 each	Optional

All mandatory fees must be paid at the beginning of the school year.

## TUITION AND PAYMENT PLAN

Tuition is due on August 31st for Track I which commences in September and November 15th for Track II which commences in November. Tuition is charged on a per year basis payable in full or payment plan as enumerated below. The tuition is currently established at \$10,000 for the first year (includes the lab) and \$7,500 per year for the incoming students and transfers for years 2, 3, and 4.

### Pacific Coast University, School of Law Payment Plan

1. \$6,150.00 down payment which includes all **mandatory fees** required at the time of enrollment/registration for all first year students and transfers. \$3,500.00 down payment and all **mandatory fees** are required for all second, third and fourth year students at the time of registration.. A \$150.00 administrative fee is charged for the plan.
2. Eight monthly installment payments of \$500 are required until the balance of the tuition is paid in full. The first payment is due on the 1st of October for Track I and 15th of December for Track II.
3. There is no interest charge associated with the school's tuition payment plan however a late fee of \$35.00 per month is charged if payment is not made by the 15th of the month.
4. The tuition payment plan does not cover the general fees listed above.
5. Students who have not met their financial obligation to Pacific Coast University, School of Law by the end of the school year, are not eligible to return until all outstanding obligations are satisfied. Further, students who do not meet their payment plan obligations risk failing to honor such as defined by the State Bar.

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6. Students who have failed to make two consecutive payments risk immediate disenrollment.
  7. One week prior to exam week, letters will be issued to students who are not in compliance with payment plan obligations. Those who fail to bring their accounts to current will **not** be allowed to take exams and will be ineligible to make-up those exams.

## REFUNDS

A three-day tuition refund period is provided in the event a student enrolls and subsequently decides, before having attended any class, to cancel his/her enrollment. In such a case, a full refund of the \$10,000 or \$7,500 as approved for tuition charge is made provided the request is made in writing hand delivered or by certified letter within three (3) working days following the day of actual registration and provided the person has not attended any class. Withdrawal from classes is covered in the Enrollment Agreement. While the Agreement itself is canceled in case of withdrawal, academic records are kept for any class work completed before withdrawal.

In the event a student withdraws from classes prior to attending 3 full weeks of class, and if tuition has been paid in full, a refund will be given for the two quarters remaining only. After 3 weeks no refund is available, and the full tuition amount is due upon withdrawal from Pacific Coast University, School of Law.

If a student's tuition is paid by the U.S. Veteran's Administration, the prorated refund of tuition is based on the entire school year. For example, in the case of a student who withdraws after attending 36 hours of classes, the 36 hours would be deducted from the total of 356 class hours in the school year leaving 320 unused hours. Thus, for example, the formula would be (unused hours divided by 356) times \$7,500 equals \$6,741.57, i.e.  $(320 / 356) \times \$7,500 = \$6,741.57$ .

Attendance is recorded until a student's enrollment is formally terminated by receipt by the Registrar of written notice, hand delivered or by certified letter, from the student that he/she is withdrawing from Pacific Coast University, School of Law.

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## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Registration occurs in July and August for Track I and in September and October for Track II. All registrations must be completed two weeks prior to the commencement of classes. Students are encouraged to submit their registration package early. Students who submit their registration after September 1st for Track I and November 16th for Track II will be subject to a late registration fee.

### **FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

Regular Juris Doctor Degree students attending a California accredited law school are not required to take and pass the First Year Law Students' Examination.

A first year law student (1L) who does not maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 70% or better in all subjects taken at PCU is required to pass the First Year Law Students' Examination before continuing their studies at PCU.

Special Students must take and pass the First Year Law Students' Examination before they may progress to the second year (2L).

Applications to take the First Year Law Students' Examination (FYLSX) must be submitted to the State Bar towards the end of the first year of study at PCU.

### **ADMISSION TO THE CALIFORNIA BAR**

Within 90 days of beginning classes, each Juris Doctor Degree student must register with the Committee of Bar Examiners in order to commence the process of establishing eligibility to take the General Bar Examination. Upon graduation and award of the Juris Doctor Degree a student is eligible to apply to take the California General Bar Examination. Both examinations, the First Year Law Students' Examination and the California General Bar, are given twice yearly and may be repeated. For additional information on the requirements of the State Bar of California, visit the website, [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov).

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## LIBRARY / LEGAL RESEARCH FACILITIES

Pacific Coast University's law library meets the accredited law school requirements of the State Bar of California. The library consists of more than 4700 traditional hardbound volumes and is supplemented by computer work stations which provide access to on-line legal research tools and sites.

The library meets the legal research needs of Pacific Coast University, School of Law students by providing background information on cases in casebooks and classroom texts.

The library also serves as a legal information resource for locally-based Pacific Coast University, School of Law alumni in their research of current rulings from State and Federal courts.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance is necessary to satisfy the residence and class hour requirements for the State Bar of California. Students are required to attend all class meetings in the courses for which they have registered. Preparation and participation in class discussions is mandatory.

**Absences:** Absences of more than two class sessions per quarter in one course will result in a student being dismissed. Students must be present during the entire class period. For absences of less than fifteen minutes, either at the beginning or end of class, a "tardy" is recorded; two "tardies" equal one absence.

**Withdrawals:** A student must notify Pacific Coast University, School of Law Registrar's Office promptly and in writing via hand-delivered or mailed certified letter of his/her withdrawal from any subject or from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. Failure to give notice renders the student ineligible for readmission in a future year. If a VA student cashes a tuition check issued by the U.S. Veteran Administration after the date of withdrawal, the Veterans Administration will enforce repayment, and the student may be subject to criminal prosecution.

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## POLICY ON GRADES AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

A student is expected to maintain a grade of 74% or better (2.40 GPA) throughout the entire period of attendance at Pacific Coast University, School of Law. When a student falls below this grade, he/she will be placed on academic probation. If grades are not improved by the end of the next grading period, grades are issued in June or August of each academic year, the student will be dismissed. A Veterans Administration qualified student must inform the Veterans Administration immediately upon withdrawal or dismissal.

The grade in any subject is normally based 65% on the final exam, 35% on mid-term exams and written assignments. This may vary with each course and will be addressed in the class syllabus. Final exam papers are retained for one year for student consultation. Written examinations are the key method of evaluation in law classes and writing law examinations constitutes a rigorous exercise in critical thinking. Class discussion also challenges a student's ability to think critically and analytically. Projects are frequently assigned which involve analytical writing, drawing up contracts, preparing court documents, arguing cases and creating corporation papers.

Grades are submitted promptly by professors at the conclusion of a class, and students receive official notice of all grades. At the end of each year of study, grades are entered in the student's transcript.

**Grade Scale: Grades at Pacific Coast University, School of Law are awarded on the 0 to 100 scale. Below is a table with the letter and 4.0 scale equivalents.**

<u>%</u>	<u>GPA</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>GPA</u>	
A+	97	3.85 - 4.00	C	73	2.30 - 2.60 Academic Support
A	92	3.65 - 3.80	C-	70	2.00 - 2.20 Academic Probation
A-	90	3.50 - 3.60		69	and Below Academic Dismissal
B+	87	3.35 - 3.45	D+	67	1.70 - 1.90
B	83	3.15 - 3.30	D	63	1.30 - 1.60
B-	80	3.00 - 3.10	D-	60	1.00 - 1.20
C+	77	2.70 - 2.90	Fail	59	

**Cr:** Credit

**W:** Officially Withdrew

**N:** Course in progress no Grade assigned until sequence is completed.

**I:** Incomplete. Work to be made up before the end of the following quarter otherwise entire class must be repeated before credit may be awarded.

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## **STUDENT LIFE**

Throughout their four years of study, students at Pacific Coast University, School of Law, unlike most other traditional law schools attend classes with the same classmates. They support one another in study groups and volunteer their services to help others with efforts such as group and individual tutoring, guidance in computer research techniques, shared information on jobs and scholarships, and in many more subtle, personal ways, learning to depend on one another. When students graduate, they have formed strong bonds and are ready to enter into their profession in a spirit of collaboration and fraternal support. The mutual endeavor which marks the most successful of law partnerships could ask for no better model.

Any matter a student may wish to bring to the Dean will be heard with patience and concern. If it relates to an academic matter, the student will be encouraged to settle the issue with the appropriate faculty member with the Dean of Academic Standards; assistance, as necessary. Faculty members enjoy academic freedom and are encouraged to bring to the Dean any subject of concern. If it relates to a student matter, concerns should first be brought to the Associate Dean of Students, and to the Dean of Students as necessary.

PCU has two active student organizations on campus. Student Bar Association (SBA) and Leadership, Ability, Mentorship Program (LAMP).

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

The goal of the Pacific Coast University, School of Law's (PCU) Academic Support Program (ASP) is for students to make the most of out of their abilities. Academic support services for 2017 - 2018 include the following:

1. Academic Probation Lab
2. One-on-one counseling sessions with their assigned Academic Counselor,
3. Mandatory participation in Law Study Effectiveness Lab for IL Students

Using the activities identified above, PCU students are provided with the services needed to reach their educational goals.

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## **COUNSELING**

Support and encouragement of faculty members is crucial for some students if they are to successfully complete their legal education.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT LAB**

Students earning a grade of less than 73% in any course will be placed on Academic Support and required to register for, attend and successfully complete 11, 22, or 33 week Lab as determined appropriate by the Dean of Students, Dean of Academic Standards and Professor Peter Lee, Faculty Director of the Academic Support Lab. All students are encouraged to attend and to make use of this lab as needed.

## **TUTORING**

Pacific Coast University, School of Law does not officially provide or endorse tutoring. However, many of our professors voluntarily provide classwide and individual tutoring.

## **RESERVATION OF POWERS**

Attending Pacific Coast University, School of Law is a privilege, not a right. Pacific Coast University, School of Law reserves at its sole discretion:

1. The right to change its curriculum and administrative regulations,
2. The right to deny admission or re-admission to any applicant, and
3. The right to terminate the enrollment of any student whenever in its judgment the best interest of Pacific Coast University, School of Law the student, or the State Bar will be served.
4. The right to raise tuition as needed to fulfill Pacific Coast University, School of Law's mission.

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## **VETERAN ASSISTANCE**

Since 2009 PCU has been listed in the VA Bulletin. Veteran assisted students intending to apply for assistance through the Veteran's Administration must follow the rules set forth in the Veteran's Bulletin which is incorporated by reference in this catalog. Pacific Coast University is subject to and complies with the mandates regarding VA students.

## **STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PRACTICING LAW OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

“Study at, or graduation from, this law school may not qualify a student to take the Bar Examination in other states or to satisfy the requirements to practice in other states. Therefore, if a student intends to seek admission to practice law in a state other than California, the student should contact the admitting authority in that state for admission criteria to practice law.”

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## FACULTY

Dean Andrea Leigh Lua earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Social Sciences from the University of Southern California where she was awarded many honors. Her Juris Doctor Degree is from Pacific Coast University where she was Valedictorian in 1992. Ms. Lua has been a Trial Attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office for over 25 years.

Dean of Students/Registrar Maren Carmona earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from California State University, Long Beach. Her Juris Doctor Degree with Distinction is from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. She has practiced Workers Compensation Law and Criminal Law. Professor Carmona has taught Pleading and Practice.

Dean of Academic Standards Sherry Diamond earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She went on to earn her Master of Arts Degree in Drama Therapy at California State University, Los Angeles. Ms. Diamond then earned her Juris Doctor with Distinction at Pacific Coast University, School of Law. Ms. Diamond has taught graduate school, served as a consultant/trainer specializing in diversity and cross cultural competence and has nearly 30 years experience in non-profit administration. She has served on many non-profit boards, has extensive experience in non-profit governance, and practices non-profit law.

Associate Dean of Students, Amy Barr earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach. She earned her Juris Doctor Degree from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. She currently teaches an MBE review course at Pacific Coast University, School of Law.

Adjunct Professor Robert Bir earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Dayton. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Western State University College of Law. He was a sole practitioner for 12 years before joining State Compensation Insurance Fund as Staff Counsel. Professor Bir taught at several local law schools before joining the faculty at Pacific Coast University where has been teaching Torts for over 10 years.

Adjunct Professor Steve Carlson earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University Long Beach. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Western State University College of Law. Professor Carlson is a partner with the Law Offices of Carlson and Johnson. Professor Carlson currently teaches Professional Writing.

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Adjunct Professor Kendra Carney earned her Juris Doctor and Masters of Law Degree in Taxation from the University of San Diego, School of Law. She attended University of California, Los Angeles where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. She is a Civil Attorney in private practice. She teaches Civil Procedure Practicum.

Adjunct Professor Kristine Castro-Twomey earned her Bachelor of Science Degree and her Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law. She earned an undergraduate International Certificate in Criminal Justice/Social Sciences from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and a Graduate Studies Certificate from Trinity Law School, Cambridge University, London. She was admitted to both the California State and Federal Bar Associations and practiced as a human rights lawyer in Washington, D.C. Ms. Twomey is a former Deputy Public Defender for the County of Los Angeles and currently teaches Wills and Trusts.

Adjunct Professor, The Honorable Nana Chin earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Psychology from Augustana College in Illinois. Her Juris Doctor is from the University of Iowa, College of Law. Currently she is an attorney with the Department of Social Services in Monterey Park, California. Professor Chin teaches Civil Procedure. She became a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner in 2016.

Adjunct Professor Rondee Eagle earned her Juris Doctor Degree from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. Professor Eagle was a certified court reporter for 17 years, owning her own court reporting firm. She became a member of the Bar in 2000. She specializes in criminal defense law. Professor Eagle teaches Contracts.

Adjunct Professor Johan El-Farra earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Southwestern University School of Law, where he graduated Cum Laude. He has worked for the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Office for over ten years. Professor El-Farra is a skilled trial attorney, having tried over 70 felony and misdemeanor cases. He currently handles felony trials including capital cases. Professor El-Farra teaches Trial Techniques and Evidence.

Adjunct Professor Nima Farhadi earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree with honors from the University of California, Berkeley in Political Science. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Hofstra University School of Law. Farhadi is currently a trial attorney with the Los Angeles County Public Defender Office. As a Deputy Public Defender, he earned the 2012 Public Defender Association Gessler Awards Misdemeanor Trial Attorney of the Year and provided Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) lectures. Professor Farhadi teaches Constitutional Law.

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Adjunct Professor Gemma George earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from State University of New York. Ms. George has her Master of Arts in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution from California State University, Dominguez Hills and her Doctorate in Philosophy, Organization and Management from Capella University. Professor George has an extensive background in teaching and mediation, serving as the Chair of the State Bar of California ADR Committee for 2012-2013. Professor George currently teaches Alternate Dispute Resolution.

Adjunct Professor Jason Harper is the founder of Harper Conflict Resolution, LLC. Utilizing a collaborative approach, Professor Harper mediates an assortment of disputes including Education, Employment, Landlord/Tenant, and Homeowner/HOA. His passion, however, is teaching peer mediation and conflict resolution to students and faculty at the middle school and high school levels as well as assisting in the creation and coordination of peer mediation programs. In addition to mediation, he is an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) consultant, professor, and trainer. Most notably, Professor Harper is the ADR Consultant for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, providing mediation and conflict resolution services to 12 school districts and 22 charter schools. He has also provided mediation and conflict resolution trainings for the Western Justice Center and the International Visitors Council, training adults from over twenty different countries. Professor Harper is the President of the Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) and serves on the Board of Directors for the SCMA Education Foundation. He received his Masters degree in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding from California State University, Dominguez Hills and his mediation training from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Adjunct Professor Harriet Hawkins earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stanford. Her Juris Doctor Degree is from University of California, Hastings. Professor Hawkins has over 25 years of experience as a criminal defense attorney. She is currently with the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defenders Office. Professor Hawkins teaches Evidence.

Adjunct Professor, The Honorable James Horan earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Georgetown University Law Center. As an attorney, Judge Horan worked for the California Employment Development Department, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, and the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defenders Office. He was appointed a judgeship to the State of California Los Angeles Superior Court in 2010. Judge Horan teaches Evidence.

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Adjunct Professor Dr. Robert Kasamatsu earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from University of California, Los Angeles. He graduated with distinction from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. He earned a Masters Degree in Education as well as a Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine from Kent State University. He currently practices podiatry and law, specializing in Serious Injuries and Medical Malpractice. He teaches Pleadings and Practice.

Adjunct Faculty Alan Keating received his Juris Doctorate with Distinction from Pacific Coast University, School of Law in 2007. Professor Keating practices in the areas of Criminal Defense, Employment and Disabilities in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. He teaches Criminal Law and works with students through PCU's academic support lab.

Adjunct Professor Peter Lee earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from California State University, Long Beach. His Juris Doctor degree is from Pacific Coast University, School of Law where he was Valedictorian of his class. He has been an attorney for over 15 years. Professor Lee serves as the Senior Faculty Advisor on Metrics and Calibration. Professor Lee teaches Advanced Legal Reasoning and Remedies.

Adjunct Professor Michael Lindley earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Cornell University and his Masters in Education from Temple University. He earned his J.D. with Distinction from Pacific Coast University, School of Law. He taught at California State University, Long Beach for ten years. He is a general practitioner based in Long Beach. Professor Lindley teaches Wills & Trust.

Adjunct Professor, The Honorable Barbara McDaniel earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from City University of New York. Her Juris Doctor Degree is from Western State College of Law. She became a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner in 2015. She teaches Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

Adjunct Professor Jason McEwen received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from San Diego State University, majoring in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctor from California Western School of Law. He has worked for private firms prosecuting various cities civil code enforcement through trials. He teaches Civil Procedure Practicum.

Adjunct Professor Aastha Madaan earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Irvine and her Juris Doctor from Whittier Law School. She practices in the areas of Franchise Law, Business Law and Estate Planning. She teaches Fundamentals of Legal Writing.

Adjunct Professor Paul Nguyen earned his Juris Doctor with Distinction from Pacific Coast University, School of Law and was Valedictorian of his graduating class. He is a private Criminal Defense Attorney practicing in Los Angeles and Orange County. He currently teaches the Multi-State Bar Examination Boot Camp Program and consults for all of the lab courses.

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Adjunct Professor Carolyn J. Olson earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Chapman University. She earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with honors from The College of William and Mary. Her Juris Doctor (JD) degree is from Pacific Coast University, School of Law where she was the Eugene Levitan Memorial Scholarship recipient. Professor Olson teaches Real Property.

Adjunct Professor Juan Carlos Pallares earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Southern California. He operated his own income tax preparation business before attending Pacific Coast University, School of Law where he earned his J.D. He specializes in Immigration, Criminal Law and Taxation. He teaches Criminal Procedure.

Adjunct Professor Alan Riffel earned his B.S. Degree from the University of Southern California. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Southwestern University School of Law, where he graduated Cum Laude. At Southwestern, Riffel earned the American Jurisprudence Award in Business Associations, the Exceptional Achievement Award in Antitrust Law, and Law Review. He has worked as an attorney and lectured in both the United States and Argentina. Professor Riffel is a partner with Rose, Klein and Marias practicing Workers Compensation Law. Professor Riffel teaches Business Associations and Constitutional Law.

Adjunct Professor Richard Rosas earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Irvine. His Juris Doctor Degree is from Western State University College of Law. Professor Rosas was a Specialist with the State Compensation Insurance Fund for 14 years before leaving to enter private practice. He continues to practice in the area of Workers Compensation Law, now working for The Hartford. Professor Rosas teaches Contracts and Remedies.

Adjunct Professor Ron W. Saxman earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Northridge where he later taught Economics as a graduate student. His Juris Doctor Degree is from the University of West Los Angeles. Professor Saxman has been practicing Family Law exclusively for over 30 years, 25 of which have been as a Family Law Specialist certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. He has lectured for the State Bar of California on Family Law and is a member of the Association of Family Law Specialists. He has served as a Family Law Mediator and as Judge Pro Tempore for the Los Angeles Superior Courts. Professor Saxman teaches Community Property.



## CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

- Application form filed
- Registration with LSDAS complete
- LSAT
- Transcripts requested
- Personal interview scheduled
- Personal interview completed
- Notification letter received
- Deposit paid
- Registration complete

*Best of Luck!*

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