Legal Studies

School of Law

Graduate Faculty:

Adams, Jill, Associate Professor, J.D., University of New Mexico School of Law, 1982; 1988.

Anderson, Cheryl, Professor, J.D., University of North Dakota School of Law; LL.M., Temple University School of Law, 1988; 1995; 1998.

Basanta, Eugene, Southern Illinois Healthcare Professor of Law and Director of Center for Health Law and Policy, J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law; LL.M., Temple University School of Law, 1975; 1980; 1980.


Behan, Chris, Assistant Professor, J.D., Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School; LL.M., United States Army Judge Advocate's General School, 1995; 2003; 2006.

Beyler, Keith, Professor, J.D., University of Chicago, 1974; 1982.

Brittingham, Mark A., Assistant Professor, J.D., Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1982; 2007.

Britton, Thomas, Associate Professor, and Director of Graduate Legal Studies, J.D., Southern Illinois University School of Law; 1978; 1992.

Buys, Cindy, Professor and Director of International Law Programs, J.D., Syracuse University College of Law; LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, 1991; 1999; 2001.

Dervan, Lucian, Assistant Professor, J.D., Emory University School of Law, 2002; 2009.


Fountain, Cynthia, Professor and Dean, J.D., University of Southern California Gould School of Law, 1988; 2010.

Houdek, Frank, Professor and Associate Dean, J.D., M.L.S., University of California at Los Angeles, 1974; 1976; 1985.

Johnson, David C., Emeritus, J.D., University of North Dakota School of Law, 1961; 1975.

Johnson, Twinette, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Academic Support, J.D., Tulane University Law School, 1999; 2011.

Kelley, Patrick J., Emeritus, J.D., University of Iowa College of Law, 1969; 1981.


Liemer, Sue, Associate Professor and Director of Lawyering Skills, J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1986; 2000.


Lindsey, R. Hokulei, Assistant Professor, J.D., University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law; LL.M., University of Wisconsin Law School, 2002 2006; 2006.

McCubbin, Patricia, Professor, J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1990; 2000.

Mekel, Michele, Assistant Professor, J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law; MHA, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, 2002; 2003; 2008.

Munson, Valerie, Assistant Professor, J.D., Rutgers University School of Law, 1982; 2010.

Noble-Allgire, Alice, Professor, J.D., Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1990; 1993.

Porter, Tracie, Assistant Professor, J.D., Drake University Law School, 1994; 2009.

Robertson, R.J., Emeritus, J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, 1976; 1999.


Schultz, Mark F., Associate Professor, J.D., George Washington University, The National Law Center 1993; 2003.

Wells, Joanna, Clinical Assistant Professor, J.D., Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1998; 2011.

Wester-Mittan, Candle, Assistant Professor and Access Services Librarian, J.D., University of Nebraska College of Law; M.S.L.I.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004; 2006; 2006.

Wright, Nolan, Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian, J.D., M.L.I.S., University of Washington, 1995; 2008; 2009.

Master of Legal Studies

The Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) is a post-baccalaureate degree program designed for those who wish an advanced knowledge of the law and the legal system but who do not wish to become lawyers. The M.L.S. course of study is designed to provide non-lawyer professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to identify, understand, and respond to the legal issues a professional who interacts with the legal system is likely to encounter. The M.L.S. program is offered as a general
(tailored) degree in legal studies or with a concentration in health law and policy. Those pursuing the tailored course of study, however, will be encouraged to design a program within the curricular offerings of the law school which meets their more specific needs.

M.L.S. General (Tailored)
This tailored M.L.S. program is directed at serving those who are professionals in fields where there is significant legal regulation and need an introduction into basic legal principles, but who do not aspire to become lawyers themselves. This program is particularly relevant to those who deal with a complex array of state and federal legal requirements in performing their daily tasks. As the complexity of the modern workplace intensifies, due largely to increasing regulatory requirements, the demand for individuals with a knowledge of and a comfort level with the law will increase. The general M.L.S. program will help satisfy this demand.

M.L.S. in Health Law and Policy
The M.L.S. with a concentration in health law and policy is designed for those who are working (or desire to work) in health care fields and who need an introduction to the basic legal principles that are important to the health care field, but who do not wish to become lawyers themselves. In particular, physicians, hospital administrators, risk management specialists, human resources professionals, employees of insurance companies, and other health care professionals who, on a regular basis, deal with legal issues ranging from state and federal regulation of the delivery of health care services to the privacy of health-related patient information. In addition, non-lawyer government workers who are employed by agencies that regulate health-care providers also would benefit from an exposure to these basic legal principles and their application to the health care field.

Curriculum and Requirements
Coursework. To earn the M.L.S. degree students are required to complete 30 credit hours. The curriculum is designed to introduce students to legal study through two courses, Introduction to American Law and Legal System, and Legal Writing and Research for Non-Lawyers. In addition to these two required courses (three credit hours each), students will complete the remainder of their course work by taking regular law school classes. Those opting for the health law and policy concentration complete essentially the same curriculum as other M.L.S. students, but are required to complete a minimum of 12 hours in health care-related courses.

Research. Candidates must also write a thesis that demonstrates the ability to research and write at an acceptable graduate level. The thesis will be written under the supervision of a faculty sponsor approved for such purpose by the Director of Graduate Legal Studies. A candidate will earn three credit hours for successful completion of the thesis. The thesis requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of a course that satisfies the law school’s senior writing requirement.

Time Limitation. Students must complete all requirements for the M.L.S. program within four years of first matriculation.

Admission Criteria and Procedure
Admission to the M.L.S. program requires positive action by the Graduate Admissions Committee. Admission is based on demonstration of academic and professional achievement and academic and professional promise. Those whose first language is other than English must also demonstrate proficiency in English. In order to matriculate, students must also be admitted to the SIUC Graduate School. This program requires a nonrefundable $50.00 application fee that must be submitted with the Application for Admission. Applicants may pay this fee by credit card if applying electronically. Applicants submitting a paper application must pay by personal check, cashier’s check, or money order made out to SIU, and payable to a U.S. bank.

Additional application information, is available from:
Director of Graduate Legal Studies
School of Law
Lesar Law Building
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6804
or at:
http://www.law.siu.edu/Prospective%20Students/mlsapply.php?submenuheader=1

Courses (LAW)
498-3 Introduction to American Law and Legal System. This course is designed as an introduction to the law and the legal system of the United States for students enrolled in the Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) program, and for students enrolled in the LL.M. program who received their legal training in a non-common law country. The course introduces the basic organization of the legal system, basic legal concepts, the common law and the case method of studying the common law, statutory law, and legal synthesis. Prerequisite: Consent of the Director of Graduate Legal Studies.

499-3 Legal Writing and Research for Non-Lawyers. This course is designed as an introduction to the legal writing and legal research for students enrolled in the Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) program, and for students enrolled in the LL.M. program who received their legal training in a non-common law country. The course introduces students to the basic purposes and form of legal
writing, including case analysis and synthesis, and to basic legal research methodologies. The course will emphasize research materials available on the Internet, since those enrolled are unlikely to have regular access to a law library. Prerequisite: Consent of the Director of Graduate Legal Studies.

611-1 Continuing Enrollment – Master of Legal Studies. For those graduate students who have not finished the M.L.S. degree program and who are in the process of working on completing their requirements. The student must have completed a minimum of required work before being eligible to register for this course. Restricted to admission to M.L.S. Program. Special approval needed from the Director of Graduate Legal Studies.

For a complete list of law courses: http://law.siu.edu/Current%20Students/PDF/CourseDescriptions.pdf