



SMALL SCHOOL. **BIG VALUE.**



THE UNIVERSITY *of*  
NEW MEXICO

SCHOOL *of* LAW



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**A**t the University of New Mexico School of Law, practical experience forms the core of our students' legal education. Our faculty are committed to providing top quality, hands-on legal education to ensure that students are client-ready upon graduation. Our law school has always been recognized for having one of the best clinical law programs in the nation. Our curriculum, clinical program, and a very active relationship with the Bench and Bar offer students countless opportunities for collaboration, training, and employment.

## QUICK VIEW

- ◆ 2013 Enrollment: 344
- ◆ Full-time Faculty: 36
- ◆ Close community encourages one-to-one faculty-student contact
- ◆ One of the best and most competitive tuition rates in the country
- ◆ State-of-the-art hands-on clinic enables students to hit the ground running
- ◆ Highly ranked for popularity, diversity, and value





Snaveley Associates

## Academic Overview

The University of New Mexico School of Law is known for its small class size, close student-faculty interaction, and our programs in Clinical Law, Natural Resources and Environmental Law, and Indian Law.

Team-teaching, interdisciplinary teaching, and course innovations keep our curriculum fresh and our approach progressive.

The J.D. program is a full-time day program. Students must complete 86 credit hours in order to earn their J.D. over three years.

During the first year, students take courses that address the fundamental aspects of the law and develop skills in advocacy, legal writing, oral argument, litigation, counseling, and negotiation.

After the first year, students have the flexibility to tailor the coursework to their individual interests. Second and third year students may choose to complete a certificate in Indian Law or Natural Resources and Environmental Law, or they can focus in specialty areas such as business law, child advocacy and family law, constitutional law, criminal law, and international law.

### DEGREES OFFERED

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

J.D./Master of Business Administration

J.D./Master of Arts in Latin American Studies

J.D./Master of Arts in Accounting

J.D./Master of Public Administration

Most Popular Law School  
*ABA Journal, 2013*

**5<sup>th</sup>**

Best Value Law Schools  
*The National Jurist, 2012*

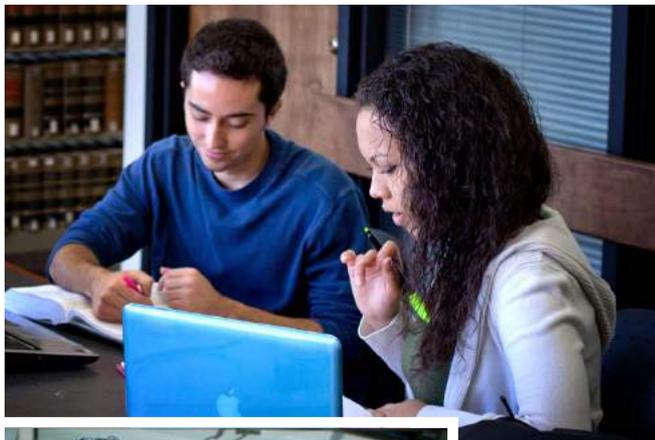
**8<sup>th</sup>**

Clinical Education  
*US News & World Report, 2013*

**11<sup>th</sup>**

Student-faculty ratio

**10:1**



## Certificate Programs

### Indian Law

Since 1967, the UNM School of Law has led the way in educating lawyers among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. The Indian Law certificate includes 21 credit hours of academic study, practical experience, and Indian Law-specific courses such as tax law, gaming, and water law. This comprehensive program prepares students to assist in the legal protection and representation of Native American individuals, communities, and nations on tribal, state, and federal levels.

[lawschool.unm.edu/indianlaw](https://lawschool.unm.edu/indianlaw)

### Natural Resources and Environmental Law

Students gain a more comprehensive understanding of legal issues relating to water quality, wildlife protection, sustainable land development, renewable energy, and climate change. The 21 credit hour program prepares students to participate in making key decisions that affect the environment, either as attorneys/advisors within various local, tribal, state, and federal agencies who have regulatory authority over natural resources and the environment, or with private entities and nonprofit organizations.

[lawschool.unm.edu/nrelaw](https://lawschool.unm.edu/nrelaw)



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Most Diverse Law School  
*US News & World Report, 2013*

10<sup>th</sup>

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Best Law Schools for Hispanics  
*Hispanic Business, 2013*

7<sup>th</sup>

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Top 50 Law Schools - Public  
*Above the Law, 2013*

8<sup>th</sup>

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Top 50 Law Schools  
*Above the Law, 2013*

26<sup>th</sup>

# One of the Nation's Best Clinical Law Programs

The UNM School of Law clinical program, one of the oldest in the country, is consistently recognized as one of the top programs in the nation. Unlike many other law schools, all students at UNM complete a six credit-hour clinical course as part of the J.D. requirements.

Students represent real clients with supervision by tenured and tenure-track faculty. Frequent interaction and collaboration between faculty, students, and clients are essential aspects of the clinical experience. Working in multidisciplinary teams in the clinic, students enhance their analytical and problem-solving skills, develop counseling skills, and acquire familiarity with the legal system in advance of their graduation.

Our students have appeared in Metropolitan Court, District Courts, Tribal Courts, the New Mexico Court of Appeals, and the New Mexico Supreme Court as part of their clinical training.

[lawschool.unm.edu/clinic](https://lawschool.unm.edu/clinic)



"The clinical experience itself—the connection of bringing together the doctrinal teachings with real-life cases—crystallized all the things I wanted to explore as a lawyer."

— **Aliza Organick**  
*Class of 1996*  
*Professor of Law*



UNM Law Media Center

## Clinical Sections

### Business and Tax

Students provide legal services to businesses and individuals in areas such as taxation, supporting community-based efforts to promote economic development, dispute resolution, and working with the IRS.

### Community Lawyering

Students work closely with physicians, social workers, community planners, community activists, and nonprofits at sites across Albuquerque.

### Law Practice

In an experiential learning rotation typical of a general law practice, students represent clients in a variety of both civil and criminal cases.

### Southwest Indian Law

Students represent individual clients, tribal groups, and/or Indian communities, and learn how to approach legal solutions premised on tribal sovereignty, cultural rights, and more.

## Beyond the Classroom

A variety of academic competitions allow UNM Law students to sharpen their advocacy skills. The School of Law competes annually nationwide, receiving numerous accolades in:

- ♦ Moot Court
- ♦ Mock Trial
- ♦ Alternative Dispute Resolution

The law school publishes three student-edited journals, each embodying a key area of expertise within the school. Students in their second or third year may join these academic journals:

- ♦ *The New Mexico Law Review*
- ♦ *Tribal Law Journal*
- ♦ *Natural Resources Journal*

[lawschool.unm.edu/academics](http://lawschool.unm.edu/academics)



## Summer Programs and Exchange Programs

### Guanajuato Summer Law Institute

In a four week, six-credit introduction to Mexican law and subjects such as immigration law, human rights, and international law, students are immersed in Mexican life and culture. Some students choose to extend the program by two weeks and enroll in an externship to work alongside a Mexican judge or lawyer.

### Madrid Summer Law Institute

A four-week, five-credit summer law program in Madrid, Spain offers classes on European Union law and international and comparative law subjects. The program is open to law students, graduate students, and legal professionals from around the world. Classes meet only half-days Mondays through Thursdays, giving students ample opportunity to experience life in Europe.

### Exchange Program, University of New Hampshire

Up to two UNM Law students every semester can take advantage of the student exchange program at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, consistently ranked in the top five law schools in Patent Law and Intellectual Property Law. Patent law is important to the economy of New Mexico with its national laboratories and its burgeoning high-tech start-up corporations.

### Washington, DC Experiential Enrichment Program

This program sends six UNM Law students to Washington, DC in the fall semester to work full-time for credit at a governmental agency or approved non-profit organization. In addition, students take a seminar that allows them to learn from and interact with judges, practitioners, and political leaders from the DC area.



## Institutes and Research Centers

### The American Indian Law Center, Inc.

The American Indian Law Center has been instrumental in forming federal and state policy responsive to tribes. ALLC and UNM collaborate on projects related to these policies, often incorporating law student contributions. It also operates the Pre-Law Summer Institute, a two-month pre-professional program taught by law professors from around the United States. Many of the preeminent Native American attorneys working in the field of Indian Law are alumni of the Institute.

### The Institute of Public Law

The Institute of Public Law promotes justice and community engagement by providing high quality law-related education to New Mexico's judicial systems and communities. IPL primarily focuses its activities through its Judicial Education Center, Children's Law Center, and Wild Friends program.

### The Utton Transboundary Resource Center

The Utton Transboundary Resources Center researches and provides information to the public about water, natural resources, and environmental issues, with a particular focus on New Mexico and the Southwest. It also supports collaborative natural resource management using multidisciplinary expertise and inclusive, diverse stakeholder involvement.



*Nestled in the Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque has an extensive network of biking/hiking trails along the Bosque of the Rio Grande.*

## Living in Albuquerque

The University of New Mexico School of Law is situated in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a dynamic metropolitan city with a unique multicultural heritage set against a backdrop of spectacular mountains and southwestern cultures.

Downtown Albuquerque, the economic, social, and cultural center of New Mexico, is home to many of the city's law firms and courts, contemporary art, shopping, and gourmet dining.

Old Town features charming streets and courtyards just waiting to be discovered. Historic neon signs still glow on Route 66 through Albuquerque.

Nob Hill is nearby, with popular restaurants, eclectic specialty shops, vintage boutiques, and thriving nightlife.

Over 300 days of sunshine each year are perfect for hiking in the Sandia Mountains, biking along the Rio Grande river, or just strolling through the plazas of Albuquerque, Taos, or Santa Fe.



Facing page: MarbleStreetStudios.com. Clockwise above: JB Photos; www.itsatrip.org; MarbleStreetStudios.com; MarbleStreetStudios.com; Mark Holm; itsatrip.org

## Strong Employment Outcomes for Graduates

From the first year of law school to graduation and beyond, the Office of Career Services offers individualized career counseling to assist students and alumni in imagining, planning, starting, or expanding their professional careers.

The Mock Interview Program gives students experience and confidence as they meet with potential employers. During the fall and spring recruitment programs, legal employers of all types arrive on campus seeking applicants for both internship and full-time opportunities. By organizing networking opportunities with prospective employers, the Office of Career Services helps students forge relationships they can build on throughout their legal careers.

### An Employment-Focused Community

The University of New Mexico School of Law is led by administration and faculty deeply involved in a critical dialogue about students' skill sets and employability upon graduation. We believe it is not enough to help students simply obtain a law degree. Our law school community is working hard to develop classroom tools and teaching innovations that measure our success and that help to maintain strong employment rates.

The Office of Career Services hosts a variety of student support programs throughout the year, offering advice on topics ranging from studying and time management to getting the most from the classroom experience.

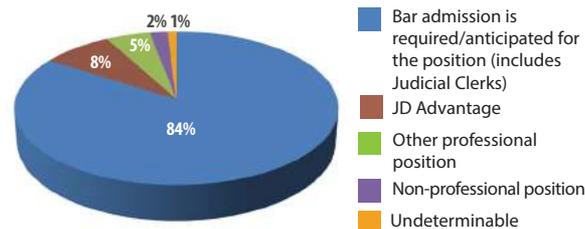
[lawschool.unm.edu/careers](http://lawschool.unm.edu/careers)



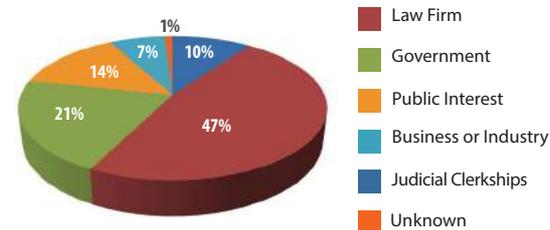
"My community has always supported me and now I owe it to them to give back. Everything I've done, I've taken the challenge and I hope young Pueblo men and women will take the initiative to get a post-secondary education. If I can do it, anyone can do it."

— Terry Aguilar, *Class of 2009*  
Governor  
Pueblo of San Ildefonso

### Class of 2012 9-Month Employment by Employer Type



### Class of 2012 9-Month Employment by Employment Type



For more detailed information on our class of 2012 statistics, please visit [lawschool.unm.edu/careers](http://lawschool.unm.edu/careers)

Bar Passage Rate for First Time  
Test Takers in New Mexico, July 2013

**87%**



## Admissions & Financial Aid

The UNM School of Law requires that all applicants apply through the Law School Admissions Council ([www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)) in order to be considered for admission.

### Application/Deadlines

**First year applicants: February 15th**

**Transfer and Visitor Applicants: June 15th**

### Application Requirements

- ◆ Completed application form
- ◆ Non-refundable \$50 application fee
- ◆ Personal Statement
- ◆ Resumé
- ◆ Letter(s) of Recommendation
- ◆ Register with LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS)
- ◆ Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- ◆ Proof of English Language Proficiency (international applicants only)

### Financial Aid

File FAFSA after January 1st but before March 1st to apply for the federal loan program. File Need Access application by March 1st to be considered for law school need-based scholarships. The law school offers several merit-based, need-based, and named scholarships. Descriptions of award opportunities can be found online.

### Residency

The State of New Mexico Higher Education Department has a generous definition for in-state residents. All applicants are classified according to their residency for tuition purposes. Nonresident students may be eligible for resident tuition after their first year if they fulfill the requirements for residency and petition for residency reclassification. The State has made provisions for several groups who qualify as in-state residents for tuition purposes. **Not sure if you're a resident? To find out, visit [lawschool.unm.edu/residency](http://lawschool.unm.edu/residency).**

## Visit Us

Experience the informal, supportive atmosphere of the UNM School of Law. Explore the ways the UNM School of Law focuses on education, community, diversity, and life-long learning.

[lawschool.unm.edu/admissions](http://lawschool.unm.edu/admissions)

505.277.0958 (phone)

505.277.9958 (fax)

[admissions@law.unm.edu](mailto:admissions@law.unm.edu)



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"I've obtained what I wanted: a fantastic education, connections with all levels of the legal community, deep familiarity with classmates and employment after school; all from one of the most affordable and comfortable law schools in the nation."

— Alex Flores, *Class of 2013*

*B.A., Public Policy, George Washington University;*

*M.P.A., Public Policy, Princeton University*

*Judicial Law Clerk for Justice Edward L. Chávez*

*New Mexico Supreme Court*



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