

STRATEGIC PLAN

July 2022



VISION: WashULaw aims to be one of the top law schools in the United States. To do so, we will provide excellent legal education, produce scholarship whose quantity and quality is of the first order, and deliver exemplary clinical services.

I. FACULTY RESEARCH

The Law School will be a place where important legal ideas and innovations are generated, discussed, and implemented.

- 1. Foster an intellectually broad faculty that grapples with major issues in the law and works toward theoretically sound and evidence-based solutions to significant domestic and global challenges.**
 - a) Grow the faculty by ten scholars over the next three years, focusing on areas of strategic need and faculty diversity.
 - b) Establish research hubs in:
 - i. Data science and the law (with Political Science, Olin, and Computer Science);
 - ii. Health care law and policy with a likely focus on regulation, drug pricing, digital health, and the ethics of patient care (with the Medical School and the Cordell Institute);
 - iii. Dispute Resolution (with the Brown School and Olin); and
 - iv. Constitutional law and political and legal institutions.
 - c) Establish rotating fellowship programs to bring national and international scholars to St. Louis on short- and long-term teaching and research visits, cultivating joint research ventures with a broad swath of the scholarly community here and abroad.

- 2. Project our academic ideas beyond the scholarly community to reach individuals with the ability to implement those ideas.**
 - a) Connect law faculty with important state, national, and international decision-makers.
 - b) Take faculty ideas to the bar, the bench, and legislative bodies.

- 3. Be a focal point for interdisciplinary work, bridging the gap between scholarly work and real-world policy debates.**
 - a) Establish joint workshop series with other units on campus and provide funds to foster collaboration.
 - b) Increase the number of joint appointments and achieve at least ten active courtesy appointments.
 - c) Strengthen faculty participation on grant applications with other units.
 - d) Increase the breadth of the interdisciplinary clinics.

II. STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS

The Law School will further strengthen its applicant pool, promote student success in the classroom, and fulfill our graduates' career aspirations.

- 1. Further diversify and improve our student body.**
 - a) Secure new resources to support — and improve — the JD financial aid and scholarship packages, including tailored scholarships to support student needs and challenges.
 - b) Expand programs to attract and ensure the success of diverse students, including first-generation students, low-income students, and students of color.
 - c) Enrich programmatic support and financial aid to diversify the international student population.
- 2. Modernize the curriculum to better serve the needs of today's lawyers.**
 - a) Revise educational offerings to ensure graduates are creative thinkers and clear writers with financial acumen and knowledge of relevant technology.
 - b) Provide innovative and robust experiential learning opportunities.
- 3. Create top-tier LLM and JSD programs for international students interested in the Law School's signature programs.**
 - a) Design new course offerings and enhanced training in U.S. law for LLM students.
 - b) Better integrate LLM and JSD students with JD students.
 - c) Refocus the JSD program into a highly selective and influential program whose graduates teach law all over the world, expanding our research footprint.
- 4. Evaluate, solidify, and enhance existing employer connections and create new ones.**
- 5. Harness data to follow students from admissions through their law school experience, their ultimate job placement, and into their careers as alumni.**

III. COMMUNICATION AND REPUTATION

The Law School will develop a new communication model that will more effectively reach stakeholders in order to elevate our reputation.

- 1. Anchor the communication of Law School activities and faculty research in multiple media platforms.**
- 2. Develop a communication plan to promote faculty research.**
 - a) Create a public repository for all faculty research and distribute that research in an easily digested form.
 - b) Formulate a plan to maximize the impact of each faculty member's research by using various tools including social media.

3. **Educate the bar, judiciary, and the academy about the depth and quality of our students, the influence of our faculty, and the achievements of our alumni.**
4. **Promote faculty and students for academic awards and honors commensurate with their achievements.**

IV. INTERNAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Law School will foster a vibrant and engaged culture that will allow students, faculty, and staff to flourish.

1. **Foster a culture that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive for all.**
 - a) Recruit diverse students, faculty, and staff.
 - b) Implement measures to educate students, faculty, and staff on how to address bias, racism, and cross-cultural competency.
2. **Embrace respectful engagement as a core value of the Law School.**
 - a) Prioritize teaching students to value civil discourse and respectful engagement, beginning at orientation and continuing throughout their law school education.
 - b) Develop a leadership program to help promote the development of skills necessary for future lawyers to become leaders.
3. **Enhance opportunities for students to engage with faculty and for faculty to engage with each other.**
 - a) Promote opportunities for faculty/student engagement outside the classroom.
 - b) Encourage faculty to be in AB Hall on a consistent basis.
 - c) Reintroduce in-person social events, creating formal and informal opportunities to reinforce a sense of collective ambition among the faculty.
4. **Align the staff's pride in and dedication to their jobs with the fulfillment of the Law School's mission.**
 - a) Identify and publicize WashU opportunities for the professional development of staff and create a process that enables staff to take advantage of these opportunities regularly.
 - b) Encourage supervisors to facilitate their team members' participation in important law school and university committees and other activities and to celebrate team members' successes.

V. ST. LOUIS ENGAGEMENT

The Law School will strengthen its engagement with St. Louis and the surrounding region.

- 1. Maximize our clinical programs' local and regional impact, and convey the positive influence our students can have in St. Louis and the surrounding region.**
- 2. Undertake steps that will position more of our clinical programs to deliver services within the law school building and within the communities where clients reside.**
- 3. Identify opportunities for all law school members to improve our region, and encourage and support community members to pursue those opportunities.**