



2016 Annual Report

Director

Professor Michelle Harner

Associate Director

Hilary Hansen

In our sixth year under the leadership of Professor and Director Michelle Harner, the Business Law Program continues to explore ways to add new courses, activities and events, and opportunities for practice-based learning. Student participation in the Business Law Track curriculum concentration, launched in the fall of 2011, remains strong. The Business Law Program awarded its first letters of completion to two Track graduates in May 2012; nine new Track graduates are now joining the alumni class, bringing it to a total of 47 in five years.

To complement business law-focused academics, the Business Law Program encourages participation in hands-on, practice-based learning activities, as available through the externship program, the mentoring program, various clinical offerings, and the annual competition in transactional law. Our collaboration with the business community, practicing business bar, and other professional schools allows students to meet experienced lawyers, judges, and other professionals in the business law arena, both to network and to learn more about their chosen fields.

In addition, business law faculty employ teaching methods that better prepare our students to be professionals in a global business community. These methods include an increasing use of case studies and simulations and interdisciplinary activities with business schools. Students gain exposure to more than traditional case and statutory law; they are learning to read balance sheets, to understand the dynamics of business, and to appreciate the role of law in business. We also emphasize communication skills and work with students to refine their writing for the business world.

2015-2016 BL Program Highlights

- Students have the opportunity to take a new short course on Legal Capital with distinguished UM Carey Law alum James J. Hanks, Jr.
- Business Law Boot Camp features expert negotiator, teacher, author, and former sports agent Ron Shapiro, in addition to Dean Donald Tobin and Deloitte financial advisory experts Steven Richards and Matt Sherman
- Our Program continues to work with the Association of Corporate Counsel to produce student-authored articles on topics such as unitranche financing and cybersecurity that were published online as “QuickCounsel” reference guides
- Five federal bankruptcy judges who sit in Maryland, as well as the Clerk of Court, present a Learning-at-Lunch session on the “Top Ten Things That Every Lawyer (and Law Student) Should Know About Bankruptcy”
- The *Journal of Business & Technology Law’s* symposium, “Bulk Data and Personal Privacy,” brings together more than 15 experts to discuss the practices and consequences of bulk data collection by the government
- The Business Law Program curriculum adds Consumer Bankruptcy: Legal Theory and Practice as a new clinical course option for students to gain hands-on practice experience
- We welcome Professor Kevin V. Tu, a new faculty member, to the Business Law Program ranks to begin teaching in the fall