LLM Curriculum with two Emphasis areas

LLM Mission Statement

The program aims to prepare high-caliber legal advisers and advocates who are conversant in international best practices in the field of law and related business topics and committed to serving both public and private sectors. Through small classes with outstanding faculty, close interaction among the students and with the faculty, and numerous short seminars and field observations, students will receive an intensive graduate law education in theoretical and practical settings.

LLM Program Objectives

- Develop a deepened understanding of law in a variety of contexts;
- Formulate research questions and develop appropriate research methodologies;
- Write clearly and in an appropriate legal style, in accordance with legal writing standards;
- Display the ability to deal with different types of legal systems and laws;
- Develop the ability to analyze, articulate and write on the subject, by linking previous or current experience with an academic inquiry;
- A critical understanding of the main legal, economic and financial matters pertaining to the entire life-cycle of a corporation in an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective;
- A sound understanding of fundamental concepts of finance and economics which are necessary for a holistic understanding of the context in which corporate law and regulation operate;
- An ability to work with international legal materials and to grasp the legal implications of transactions involving international institutions and corporations;
- A critical awareness of the theoretical and practical challenges created by the globalization of law and business and the increasing cross-border mobility of corporation;
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving legal problems.

LLM- Business Law Curriculum:

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* Course description is forthcoming
**List of Courses and Course Descriptions**

**Analytical Legal Methods**
The course provides the analytical foundations for legal practice in the modern world — a world in which sound legal advice requires the mastery of the techniques and language of disciplines such as economics, decision theory and game theory. After a brief review of the methodology of law and economics, this course exposes students to a broad survey of micro-economics, decision-theory and game-theory concepts. These analytical methods play a crucial role in the design and understanding of legal rules. The second part of the course builds on these premises to study the economic structure of several areas of law. Through this course students will develop a framework for the analysis of legal rules that will aid them in the remainder of their legal studies and professional life.

**Legal Ethics**
The course is divided into two parts, Ethics and Philosophy of Law. The Ethics component includes lectures on an area of moral philosophy known as ‘Applied Ethics’. This will involve discussions on issues such as: equality and discrimination, euthanasia, abortion, our obligations to poor and starving people, the ways in which we ought to treat animals and what ought to be done in situations where people have to make choices about suffering, life, and death. The Philosophy of Law component includes discussions on the principal theories of law, key issues in law – such as, law, rights, obligations, responsibilities, and punishment --, and the ethical foundations of the legal system. Thus, the aim of the course as a whole is to evaluate the main philosophical theories of ethics and law, probe central moral and legal issues, examine the practical application of such theories and issues, and analyze the interrelationship between ethics and law.

**Legal Research**
Legal Research is a required first-year course that teaches students the basic techniques of legal research and analysis—essential tools of the lawyering profession. The course is based on introducing case briefing, case synthesis, and analysis through a series of research assignments. Students learn how to research legal issues, frame legal arguments, and analyze legal problems. In addition to learning traditional research methods, students are also trained to use computer-assisted legal research including Lexis and Westlaw. This full-year course culminates in an oral argument in a simulated court setting, during which each student argues a motion based on a brief written by the student.

**Legal Writing**
This course will teach basic legal analysis and writing. The course will be taught in small groups under the supervision of the legal writing faculty and will consist of a series of writing assignments. Students will learn American writing conventions for legal letters, memoranda, and briefs. This course should be especially helpful for students who are inexperienced in the use of precedent in a common law system.

**Accounting, Finance and Strategy for Lawyers**
The course teaches the basics every lawyer should know about accounting and finance in order to communicate, negotiate, and counsel effectively regarding business matters: the accounting process; the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow; financial statement analysis; auditing; time value of money; interest; credit; securities; risk; valuation; derivatives; financial decision rules; and financial markets and regulation. The course will also present the fundamentals of business strategy to a legal audience and introduces the basic framework for the analysis of strategy, organizational and contractual designs and discusses special topics in competitive strategy.

**International Commercial Contracts**
The main objective of the course is to introduce law students to different aspects of contractual practice in the dynamically evolving field of international business. Rapid processes of globalization in the international trade give rise to increasing expectations regarding legal services accompanying cross-border commercial exchange. Lawyers, assisting transnational transactions, are also frequently facing specific demands which do not have direct counterparts in the domestic practice.

**International Corporate and Commercial Taxation**
The course is designed with a view to providing non-tax practitioners with a sound understanding of tax concepts and the ability to identify tax issues which arise in the context of structuring business entities and international business transactions. The course will concentrate on a structural analysis of the underlying issues and the panoply of solutions and approaches devised by various tax systems.
Capital Markets Law and Regulation
The course provides an overview of international capital markets law and practice. Traditional as well as structured capital markets products will be considered in terms of the underlying legal techniques and commercial rationale and set against the background of the legislative and regulatory framework in Europe. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with the main concepts, the structures and terminology used in capital markets and will develop an understanding of the interests of the parties involved as well as the policy reasons behind the national and international law relevant to capital markets transactions.

Corporate Finance Laws
The course provides an in-depth examination of the legal framework for equity finance over the entire corporate lifecycle, including venture capital, management buyouts, initial and subsequent public offers of shares, rights issues, private equity buyouts and share buybacks. It will examine the use of different types of equity finance instruments and the legal rights associated with them. Close attention will be paid to the regime governing legal capital its implications for corporate transactions. The role of capital markets in raising new capital and trading shares will be examined along with the role of financial regulators in controlling that process.

Corporate Governance
The course will provide an in-depth examination of the legal and market framework in which corporate governance operates. It will examine how the law approaches the governance structure of companies, focusing on the role of different stakeholders and the structure and powers of the two decision-making organs of the company, the general meeting of shareholders and the board of directors. Close attention will be paid to the role of institutional shareholders and financial markets and to the development of ‘soft-law’ governance codes and voluntary self-regulation as alternatives to formal legal control.

Family Business and Offices
This course explores the challenges and opportunities facing individuals and families involved in family business relationships. The course uses a systems model of the family and business to demonstrate the interrelationships and connections among the key stakeholders. Some of the specific topics include the family system, culture, entrepreneurial influences, conflict and negotiation, career planning, ethics, governance, succession and strategic planning, professional support relationships, and survival skills as a son or daughter in a family business.

Secured Transactions
Course is concerned with all aspects of security in personal property, including creation of security interests, perfection, priorities (between competing security interests and between security interests and other property interests), default, realization procedures, and redemption.

International Financial and Banking Regulations
The course will introduce the structure and regulation of international banking and finance. Topics include the regulatory environment, including local, and international regulatory systems; methods of entry into foreign banking markets; regulation of international banking activities; economic sanctions and their effect on international banking.

Corporate Insolvency Law and Bankruptcy
This course introduces students to the law of personal bankruptcy and further develops the law of corporate insolvency. While understanding legal terminology, concepts, doctrine and processes are all vital to grasping and applying bankruptcy and insolvency laws, the course also seeks to frame those aspects in a wider historical, social, economic and policy context. The course begins with an overview of debtor-creditor relations and the pre-insolvency context. Beyond this introductory phase, the course is broadly divided into two blocks, focusing initially upon personal bankruptcy and then corporate insolvency.

International Intellectual Property
This course will focus on international treaties as they relate to protection of trademarks, and copyrights. These treaties include the Paris Convention, the Berne Conventions, WTO TRIPs, NAFTA, and the EC Harmonization Directives and Trademarks. The course will introduce students to the international aspects of branches of intellectual property as well as patent laws. Attention will be given to general principles of comparative and international law (e.g. territoriality), and to specific law related to obtaining and enforcing intellectual property rights in foreign countries.
**International Courts and Processes**  
This course introduces students to several important international courts including the (Permanent) International Court of Justice, the European Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal and the Central American Court of Justice. The course seeks to explain the formation, design, and expansion of international courts from both political and legal perspectives. On the political side, the course focuses on factors such as states’ capabilities, regime type, functional need, and diffusion. On the legal side, the course examines the intersection of domestic and international law, emphasizing the major legal systems in the world (civil law, common law, Islamic law). The course also focuses on what difference international courts make for interstate interactions and foreign policy behavior more broadly.

**International Sale of Goods**  
This course provides an advanced introduction to the study of the law of international sale of goods, with a particular focus on: the impact of international conventions, transnational model laws and uniform principles on international sales law; the relationship between international law and domestic law relating to sales transactions; and jurisdiction, choice of law, and cross-border litigation issues that may arise in the context of international sales transactions.

**Law of Mergers, Acquisitions and Restructurings**  
The course involves analysis of corporate restructuring strategies including mergers, acquisitions, and takeovers, leveraged buyouts, management buyouts, going private, and reorganization under bankruptcy. The course integrates the corporate governance and agency dimensions, financial and strategic management aspects, and legal considerations into a unified framework for investigating issues such as, pre-merger planning, fact-finding, antitrust problems, post-merger integration, and short-term and long-term shareholder wealth consequences of financial and organizational restructuring transactions. The course combines applied theoretical approach with the case study method through detailed analysis of domestic and global restructuring cases. The focus will be on fundamental concepts of valuation and analytical tools of corporate finance related to restructuring.

**International Trade**  
Study of domestic and international laws and institutions governing foreign trade. Legal aspects of U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization, NAFTA, and other international forums; laws regulating customs and tariffs, most-favored nation treatment, subsidies, dumping, unfair trade practices, and disruptive imports under the escape clause. Specialized problems in regulating exports under the Export Administration Act, boycotts, corrupt practices, and restrictive business practices may be covered.

**Islamic Banking and Finance**  
This Islamic Banking & Finance training course, aims at enabling the candidate to deeply understand the Islamic Banking operating system and the concepts of Islamic Finance through participation in class discussions and activities. Market participant candidates are to be well-equipped with an excellent background about Islamic Finance and its innovative products. An introductory background on the related Islamic concepts is offered linking them to the emerging banking and financial issues.

**Private Public Partnerships**  
This course will examine both the costs and benefits of public-private partnerships (P3s) as alternative public procurement methods, will contrast these with other procurement modes, and will consider how best to design P3 projects to serve public ends. Topics covered will include: (i) theories of P3s: where are the costs and benefits and how do these compare with other procurement models?; (ii) the financing of P3s; (iii) identifying, pricing and allocating risks in P3 projects; (iv) preparing a sustainable long-term concession agreement; and (v) assessing “value for money” in P3 arrangements.

**Topics in Business Law**  
This course presents diverse theoretical, and methodological, perspectives on selected topics relevant to the field of Business Law. The course may offer an in-depth analysis of the relevant topics (e.g. Estate and Gift Taxation, Business Torts, International Business Transactions, Advanced Real Estate Transactions, etc...) or explore one relevant issue across others.