PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT . . .
Learning by doing – Tulane has been an early leader in experiential education, helping generations of students integrate law, theory, skills, and ethics in academic and pro bono settings.

Locally and globally – Tulane students engage in hands-on learning through placements locally and around the globe.

Increasing Access to Justice – Tulane experiential faculty, students, and alumni have been on the front lines of rebuilding legal systems, neighborhoods, and families, one client at a time.

PRO BONO MATTERS . . .
As the first law school to establish a mandatory pro bono requirement, Tulane Law is a leader in public service and an incubator for future access to justice leaders. Our alumni hold a range of leadership positions in the government and public interest, including the MacArthur Justice Center, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, the National Fair Housing Alliance, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, and the City of New Orleans Domestic Violence Program, among others.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS . . .
At Tulane Law School, students engage with local, national and global communities and apply law and theory in the real world. Our intensive skills training opportunities include: in-house legal clinics; wide-ranging externships in courts, government offices, non-profits, and corporate counsel offices; nationally recognized Intersession boot camp program with civil, criminal, transactional, and business literacy tracks; and ever-expanding labs and simulations. Experiential courses and programs assist students in charting a career path, gaining invaluable mentors, and serving clients and communities.

CLINICS
In our well-established clinical programs founded in 1979, students practice law and help clients solve real problems in a range of practice areas under intensive faculty supervision. Clinical students learn skills such as client interviewing and counseling, fact investigation, brief writing, motion practice, discovery and deposition practice, mediation, and oral advocacy before courts and agencies.

Tulane clinical faculty and students have served on the front lines of hurricanes, oil spills, criminal defense system breakdowns, police misconduct, housing discrimination, and corrosive family violence. Our clinics train the next generation of lawyers and help fill the massive gap in access to justice for unrepresented litigants in the region.

Student attorneys in the Civil Rights & Federal Practice Clinic take on cases involving a variety of civil rights issues, such as employment discrimination, fair housing, employment discrimination, police misconduct, and free speech.

Criminal Justice Clinic student attorneys represent indigent defendants before state criminal courts. They handle voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, closing arguments and appeals up to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Student attorneys in the Domestic Violence Clinic represent clients escaping violent relationships and seeking protective orders, divorces and child custody. This clinic focuses on civil legal service but also offers excellent training for future prosecutors.

Environmental Law Clinic students handle cases involving pollution, hazardous waste, wildlife and endangered species, wetlands and coastal protection, energy conservation, transportation and urban environmental issues, including historic preservation. It is one of the first such clinics in the country.

Juvenile Clinic students aid clients in delinquency proceedings. Student attorneys cover pre-trial motions, preliminary examinations, arraignments, competency hearings, trials and appeals.

Public Law Center students aid traditionally under-represented groups, such as the elderly and disabled, before state legislative and agency proceedings. Its staff and student attorneys have worked to pass laws in every session of the Louisiana legislature since 1990.
**Exterships**

Tulane externs get a real world experience while earning credit and performing complementary coursework under the supervision of Tulane faculty. The possibilities are endless: public interest organizations, government agencies, judicial chambers, and in-house corporate counsel. Under the mentorship of experienced attorneys, students could be drafting legal opinions, interviewing vulnerable clients, researching novel legal issues, or shadowing an attorney at trial.

**Public Service Externship:** Learn about being a government lawyer in offices including the IRS, City Attorney & Port of New Orleans.

**Judicial Externship:** Clerk at a trial or appellate court in the Louisiana or federal court system and explore issues related to the roles of the judge and the judicial law clerk.

**Public Interest Externship:** Advocate for clients facing domestic violence, deportation, violations of civil rights or civil liberties, and other urgent legal needs at offices like the Public Defender, Legal Services, & Southern Poverty Law Center.

**In-house Corporate Counsel Externship:** Learn the ropes of serving as in-house counsel in a corporate setting, including at field placements such as the Saints.

**Summer Externship:** Work in a field placements from Louisiana to London as a lawyer in training to develop lawyering skills and professional responsibility, while paired with a Tulane faculty member who supervises written coursework. You could work for the Rwandan Supreme Court, Public Defender Service, US Coast Guard, or Sony Music.

**Boot Camps and Simulations**

In our simulation courses, students gain skills that will substantially increase readiness for litigation and transactional practice. Examples include trial advocacy, negotiation and mediation advocacy, deposition practice, contract drafting, and client interviewing and counseling.

Our marquis program is an intensive week-long Intersession in January right before the start of the spring semester. The criminal, civil, transactional, and business literacy “boot camps” are 1 credit skills training opportunities enabling students to hit the ground running when they take on their first legal jobs. Boot camp faculty consist of outstanding practitioners at the local and national level. The skills boot camp has won Tulane Law School recognition in Fall 2012 as one of the nation’s 20 Most Innovative Law Schools by National Jurist magazine.

**Mandatory Pro Bono Service**

In September 1987, Tulane Law School became the first U.S. law school to require its students to perform pro bono service and continues to be a leader in law school public engagement. Today, each student completes a minimum of 50 ungraded hours of legal service on behalf of indigent clients or the public.

Tulane’s pro bono program instills in law students a sense of their professional responsibility before they become members of the bar, while also helping them explore various areas of law practice. This training is now an essential part of our program of legal education, providing career development opportunities for our students to cultivate leadership, practice skills, and community involvement with alumni, practitioners, and potential employers. In addition to local opportunities, our students work with dozens of organizations all over the world.
The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), one of the law school’s largest and most active student organizations, promotes interest and opportunities in public interest law at Tulane. Founded in 1983, PILF was created as a student-run organization with three main goals:

- To encourage students to participate in public interest activities;
- To help fund summer grants; and
- To provide inspiration and support to those seeking careers in public interest law.

PILF promotes the belief that members of the legal profession have a responsibility to provide legal services to traditionally unrepresented individuals and, sometimes, unpopular interests. PILF acts on that belief by awarding grants to many of its talented student members so that they can engage in summer employment with public interest legal organizations.

In addition to raising money to fund grants, PILF promotes public interest work in the law school by inviting public interest attorneys to speak to law students, encouraging pro bono work among students, and collaborating extensively with the Career Development Office to raise awareness of summer employment options, fellowships, grants, federal loan forgiveness programs, loan repayment assistance, and post-graduation employment.

Tulane’s PILF members have the opportunity to request stipends to travel to the Equal Justice Works annual conference and career fair. In conjunction with this conference, PSJD sponsors an annual Public Service Mini-Conference and presents Pro Bono Publico awards to recognize law students for outstanding pro bono commitment. (PSJD is a network of law schools, including Tulane, and thousands of law-related public interest organizations in the U.S. and around the world.) Two Tulane law students have received national recognition at this conference for their public service activities.

**SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST JOBS**

Funds raised by PILF are used to fund summer grants to Tulane law students who wish to work for public interest organizations or state and local governmental agencies that cannot afford to pay wages comparable to private law firms. Each year PILF raises funds through various fundraisers and makes grants to 20 or more students. Since 1990, hundreds of grants have been awarded to students working in over 40 U.S. jurisdictions and 16 countries.

Students with grants usually work for 10 to 12 weeks for organizations that perform legal work in a wide variety of fields, including environmental protection, refugee and asylum, housing and public benefits, employment, AIDS, domestic violence, government whistle-blowers, adoptions, and juveniles. Grant recipients may also work in public defender offices, district attorneys’ offices, and other legal services programs.
Other Student Organizations in the Public Interest

In addition to our Public Interest Law Foundation, there are other student organizations with public interest involvement. These include:

- ACLU Student Chapter
- Alianza del Derecho
- Asian-Pacific-American Law Student Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Human Rights Law Society
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Public Interest Executive Committee of the Student Bar Association
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Tulane Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)
- Tulane Legal Assistance Program (TULAP)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Tulane law students are well known for mobilizing to address urgent community needs. Most famously, in 2005, shortly after Hurricane Katrina, even while still evacuated, Tulane Law students created the Student Hurricane Network. The organization became a national association of law students working to support legal aid entities in the storm-affected areas and monitor the rebuilding process.

Entertainment Law Legal Assistance (ELLA)

ELLA is an initiative of Tulane Law School’s pro bono program, the Tipitina’s Foundation, and the Arts Council of New Orleans. The organization was formed in January 2005 in response to the overwhelming need for legal services by artists and entertainers who could not otherwise afford to hire attorneys to protect and enforce their rights. A Tulane Law graduate entertainment law attorney who is an expert in intellectual property issues supervises Tulane law students as they help provide pro bono legal advice. ELLA provides continuing legal advice and education to its clients, who may avail themselves of a variety of legal services. ELLA has assisted local artists with life rights issues, copyright issues, sync licenses, mechanical licenses, and master use licenses for film and soundtracks. Scores of artists have also benefited from ELLA research and assistance with issues outside of the entertainment industry, such as landlord-tenant disputes and successions to help clients establish the documentation needed to secure post-Katrina housing settlements.

Tulane Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)

POPS was established at Tulane Law School in 1989 to address the problems of prisoner overcrowding and the rapidly growing geriatric inmate population in Louisiana’s prisons. The primary mission of POPS is to aid elderly and infirm inmates in seeking parole. Members of Tulane POPS travel to one of five state prisons and conduct interviews of inmates who may be eligible for POPS representation at a future parole hearing. Law students gather data, contact relevant resources, and analyze cases so that they may advocate for the selected inmate before the State of Louisiana Board of Parole. POPS offers an excellent opportunity for Tulane law students to obtain experience in interviewing and in oral advocacy under the supervision of an experienced practitioner. This program has gained national attention and has served as a model for similar programs across the nation.

Careers

Tulane’s Career Development Office (CDO) is firmly committed to supporting students interested in public service. The CDO provides information about networking and job opportunities, as well as educational panels and seminars focusing on public interest jobs. Two professional staff members of the CDO are dedicated to the public interest and government sectors: one counselor specializes in providing support and guidance to students interested in pursuing non-profit careers and fellowships, and another counselor provides assistance to students interested in government and environmental law careers.

All career counselors at Tulane use a variety of print, on-line, and alumni resources to assist students with their job searches. Tulane subscribes to PSLawNet.org, a national public interest law database that allows students access to the job postings and profiles of several thousand organizations. PSLawNet.org features current opportunities for volunteer and paid internships and jobs in a variety of public interest and government practice settings, a complete catalog of post-graduate fellowship opportunities, and a variety of other helpful resources. The CDO subscribes to many other job search sites and online databases.

Tulane has many distinguished alumni serving in the public interest arena who are willing to mentor and serve as resources for current law students considering public service careers.

Between 15 and 20 percent of the students in recent graduating classes have gone into public service after receiving the J.D. from Tulane. Graduates have pursued government employment as prosecutors, as public defenders, and in a variety of government agencies at all levels. Others work at a wide range of traditional public interest organizations in environmental law, criminal justice, civil rights, housing, health care, and more. On a regular basis, Tulane Law School graduates have been awarded public interest fellowships from organizations including Equal Justice Works, Georgetown University (Prettyman Fellowship), and New Voices. These fellowships have made it possible for Tulane graduates to work for such entities as Florida Institutional Legal Services, the Texas Civil Rights Project, the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Greater Chicago, the Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinics, and the Innocence Project, among others.
LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE
Tulane’s loan repayment assistance program can be a significant economic incentive for students who opt to pursue certain public service careers. The program helps eligible graduates pay off a portion of their law school educational loans for a specified period of time. As the program is currently structured, graduates are eligible to apply for loan repayment assistance benefits if they: (a) earn less than a specified annual amount and (b) work full-time as lawyers for certain types of public interest legal service organizations. The program requires that eligible graduates devote a certain percentage of their income toward repayment of non-family law school loans. Tulane Law School reimburses students for their loan repayments above this amount for up to five years. Details concerning salary level, type of eligible employment, percentage of income to be devoted to loan repayment, and applicable caps can be obtained from the Law School Financial Aid office. In addition, Tulane has received a grant from the Kendall Vick Foundation to provide loan repayment assistance to individuals pursuing public service work, including government employment, in the state of Louisiana.

The federal College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which went into effect in 2009, also provides income-based repayment and loan forgiveness options to individuals pursuing public service employment.

PARTNERSHIP WITH TEACH FOR AMERICA AND TEACH FOR CHINA
Tulane Law School is pleased to partner with Teach for America and the similar Teach for China program in the following ways:

(1) Waiver of Application Fee - The law school will grant a waiver of the application fee to any current Teach for America or Teach for China member or alumnus applying for admission.

(2) Two-Year Deferral - Upon request from Teach for America or Teach for China participants who have been offered admission, the law school will offer a two-year deferral to enable admitted students to begin a two-year commitment to the corps in the year in which law study was to have commenced.

(3) Tulane Scholarship - Tulane Law School will award the minimum of a $10,000 annual scholarship to each Teach for America and Teach for China alumnus accepted. All candidates will be considered for additional scholarship opportunities as well.