



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

Joseph F. Rice School of Law



LAWYER LEADERS START HERE.

The University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law prepares law students to become lawyer leaders who serve their communities through successful careers in private practice, public service, government, and business.



JOSEPH F.
RICE
SCHOOL
OF LAW



UNIVERSITY OF
**South
Carolina**





641

AS OF MAY 1, 2026

**STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
OUR J.D. PROGRAM**

ACADEMICS

The J.D. program at the USC Rice School of Law is a three-year, full-time experience offering a top-notch legal education emphasizing experiential learning.

1L OVERVIEW

Your first-year curriculum covers core legal principles to prepare you for more specialized courses during your second year and third year.

Take a look at the first-year courses:

FALL SEMESTER

- Torts
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Introduction to the Legal Profession
- Legal Research, Analysis and Writing I

SPRING SEMESTER

- Property
- Constitutional Law
- Civil Procedure
- Legal Research, Analysis and Writing II

2L & BEYOND

Starting your second year, you can design your own course load to deepen your understanding of a specific subject area or explore different areas of interest.

100+ UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

We offer more than 100 upper-level courses in numerous areas of interest:

- Business and Commercial Law
- Children's and Family Law
- Environmental Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property
- International and Comparative Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Litigation
- Probate Law
- Real Estate Law
- Sports and Entertainment Law
- Tax Law
- Technology Law

11 COMBINATION DEGREES

Eleven different combination degree programs for students who want to earn a master's degree in addition to their J.D.

CHILDREN'S LAW CONCENTRATION

The Children's Law Concentration offers students a way to concentrate their studies in family law, juvenile justice, education law, and child protection and welfare. Students who complete the curriculum will receive a Certificate of Concentration and recognition of their achievement at graduation.

**EXPLORE
YOUR
INTERESTS**



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The USC Rice School of Law recognizes that experiential learning is a core part of a well-rounded legal education.

8 IN-HOUSE CLINICS

Our eight in-house clinics provide students with practical legal skills, critical training in professional ethics, and a foundation in the expectations, values, and norms of the legal profession.

CAROLINA HEALTH ADVOCACY MEDICO-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP (CHAMPS) CLINIC

CHAMPS is an interdisciplinary clinic that offers students the opportunity to work with doctors, residents, social workers, and other healthcare professionals to address the social determinants of children's health through legal advocacy.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE CLINIC

The Criminal Practice Clinic provides students the opportunity to represent defendants in misdemeanor cases, parole hearings and probation revocations.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC

The Domestic Violence Clinic represents survivors of intimate partner violence to obtain temporary restraining orders and orders of protection in civil and magistrate courts.

EDUCATION RIGHTS CLINIC

The Education Rights Clinic represents parents of children with disabilities seeking access to improved educational accommodations and supports and children facing disciplinary proceedings and expulsion appeals.

FEDERAL LITIGATION CLINIC

The Federal Litigation Clinic represents formerly pro se clients in civil rights matters pending before the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic represents low-income individuals in tax appeals before the IRS.

VETERANS' LEGAL CLINIC

The Veterans' Legal Clinic serves the legal needs of indigent veterans and their families.

YOUTH DEFENDER CLINIC

The Youth Defender Clinic represents children and adolescents who are involved in juvenile court proceedings.

80+
EXTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
EACH YEAR



EXTERNSHIPS

Externships allow students to gain legal experience and develop valuable professional connections all while receiving academic credit. A variety of externships are available for students, including opportunities with federal and state agencies, law firms, general counsel offices, and non-profit organizations.



THE IN-HOUSE COUNSEL EXTERNSHIP WITH HORNETS SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED ME THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HOW LEGAL AND BUSINESS INTERESTS INTERSECT FOR A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATION AND GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.”

Cameron Newton, Class of 2026
In-House Counsel Externship
Undergrad: University of North Carolina - Greensboro



FACULTY

The USC Rice School of Law has more than 100 faculty, including judges, practicing attorneys and more than 60 full-time professors dedicated to supporting our students. They are committed to excellence in teaching and research but are also accessible to our students and excited to share their expertise.

9:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR FACULTY
& THEIR EXPERTISE.



CENTERS, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

Our centers, programs, and initiatives are key to our academic, research, and service mission. They help establish interdisciplinary programs that expand our reach within the community and provide valuable training necessary for continuing education.

CENTERS

LISA S. RICE & ANN E. RICE ERVIN CHILDREN'S LAW TRAINING CENTER

The Children's Law Training Center is a training and resource center for professionals dedicated to improving outcomes for our state's most vulnerable children and promoting sound policy and best practices in the field of children's law.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CENTER

The Constitutional Law Center provides primary source training, support and professional development opportunities for South Carolina educators and performs in-depth research and analysis of a variety of constitutional law topics.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

AI, LAW, AND ETHICS INITIATIVE

This Initiative advances a human-centered and ethically grounded approach to AI in law by developing training for students, supporting responsible AI use, and engaging the South Carolina legal community through programming and outreach.

CAROLINA HEALTH ADVOCACY MEDICO-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP (CHAMPS)

CHAMPS is an interdisciplinary partnership of the Joseph F. Rice School of Law, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Prisma Health, and Prisma Health Medical Group.

FAMILY & SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Family and Small Business Program provides resources for business owners and unique learning opportunities for our students. The program's research identifies risk factors for family and small businesses and advocates for practical solutions.

EXCELLENCE IN POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY (EPPS) PROGRAM

EPPS provides collaborative training, assistance, research, and community partnerships to advance policing and improve public safety outcomes.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP serves as a crucial resource for South Carolina residents who need help filing their taxes or who are involved in tax disputes with the IRS and do not have financial means to afford legal representation.

THE TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND LAW COLLABORATIVE (TECHINLAW)

TechInLaw focuses on combining law, innovation and technology. The collaborative addresses issues in technology law through a wide range of programming for students and the community at large.

1ST

**VOLUNTARY
PRO BONO PROGRAM
AT A U.S. LAW SCHOOL**



PRO BONO PROGRAM

As the nation's first voluntary Pro Bono Program at a U.S. law school, the USC Rice School of Law is proud to uphold a tradition of service for those who need it the most. With more than 35 years of experience, and over 30 different opportunities are offered per semester, there is a chance for everyone to get involved and give back to the community.

30 +
**OPPORTUNITIES
PER SEMESTER**



PRO BONO WORK ALLOWS YOU TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY WHILE FORMING LASTING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE LAW SCHOOL. THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED.”

Lauren Stanley, Class of 2027
Pro Bono Board, President
Undergrad: Furman University

PALMETTO LEADER

Our students have the opportunity to travel across the state on the Palmetto LEADER, a fully operational mobile law office that expands access by providing free legal services in rural and underserved communities across our state.



STUDENT LIFE

Getting involved and taking care of yourself is important to balance the academic rigors of law school.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Getting involved allows students to take their experiences inside and outside the classroom and give back to the legal and local communities, all while strengthening their interpersonal and leadership skills.

ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Law journals are industry publications run by student editors, who select and edit articles submitted by law professors. Our three law journals are *South Carolina Law Review*, the *ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal*, and *South Carolina Journal of International Law and Business*.

COMPETITION TEAMS

Second-year and third-year students compete regionally, nationally, and internationally on our award-winning Mock Trial, Moot Court and Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration competition teams.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We offer support to our students throughout their law school journey.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

We have a number of programs and courses that are geared to support students at different stages throughout law school, including the Kickstart Program, academic skills labs, tutoring, and bar preparation courses.

MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students receive mentorship from upper-level students through our Peer Mentor Program, faculty members through Academic Advising Groups, and lawyers and judges in our community through our 1L Mentoring Program.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

Law school is exhilarating, demanding, and at times, incredibly stressful. We provide tailored outreach and mental wellness programming that meets the unique needs of law students, and have an embedded clinical counselor available for appointments in the law school building.



40+

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS





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THE BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (BLSA) ALLOWS ME TO SERVE MY COMMUNITY, BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS, AND NETWORK WITH OUR ESTEEMED ALUMNI. BLSA IS MORE THAN AN ORGANIZATION - IT IS LIKE FAMILY. I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT.”

Kaleb Phelps, Class of 2027
Hometown: Columbia, SC
Undergrad: University of South Carolina - Columbia

“

LOOKING BACK, CHOOSING A PLACE WHERE I DIDN'T ALREADY HAVE ROOTS ENDED UP BEING ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I COULD HAVE MADE FOR MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AS IT FORCED ME TO STEP OUTSIDE MY COMFORT ZONE.”

Mary Beth (MB) Garrison, Class of 2028
Hometown: Fleming Island, FL
Undergrad: University of Florida



“

I FELT WELCOMED HERE IN A WAY THAT I DIDN'T EXPERIENCE AT ANY OTHER LAW SCHOOL. MY CLASSMATES, PEERS, PROFESSORS, AND THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONTINUE TO REINFORCE MY DECISION TO ATTEND USC RICE LAW ON A DAILY BASIS. THERE'S NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE.”

Abby Tabachini, Class of 2028
Hometown: Manchester, PA
Undergrad: University of South Carolina - Columbia

“

THE STUDENT BODY HERE IS KIND AND CARING, WHICH CARRIES TO THE ALUMNI NETWORK AS WELL. WHILE I DIDN'T KNOW A SOUL WHEN I CAME IN, I WILL BE LEAVING HERE WITH MANY LIFELONG FRIENDS. I AM PROUD TO SERVE ON BOTH THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE PRO BONO BOARD.”

Andrew Spratley, Class of 2027
Hometown: New Bern, NC
Undergrad: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill



CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Our Career & Professional Development team is here to help you succeed. Beginning the summer before you start your first year, they offer programming to help you feel confident and prepared for your career journey. From resume review workshops and mock interviews to individual advising and career coaching, they are there to support you during your entire three years as a law student.

BY THE NUMBERS - CLASS OF 2025

190
GRADUATES

96%
POST GRADUATE
PLACEMENT

140
DIFFERENT
EMPLOYERS

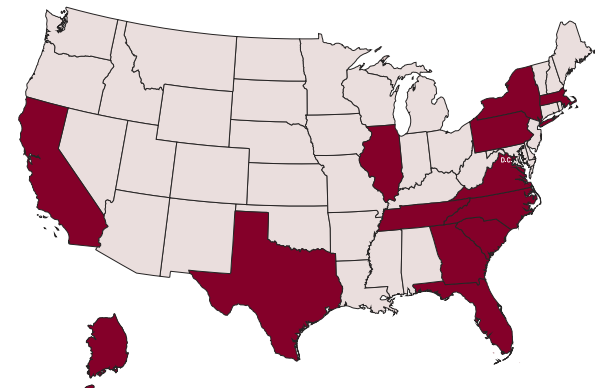
79
COMPLETED
EXTERNSHIPS

92%
SC FIRST-TIME
BAR PASSAGE

41
SERVING OUR
JUDICIARY

GRADUATES
EMPLOYED IN

12
STATES



AND SOUTH KOREA

49 STATES

AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OUR ALUMNI CALL HOME



ALUMNI

Our alumni work in industries, practice areas, and settings across the state and nation. From private practice and business roles to serving communities and the public, our graduates are practice ready and prepared to lead.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Although most of our 8,400-plus alumni are based in the United States, USC Rice School of Law graduates can be found throughout the world making a difference in their communities while also mentoring and employing students long after earning their law degrees.





COLUMBIA

Columbia is the state capital and one of South Carolina's largest cities, with a small-town charm. The USC Rice School of Law anchors Columbia's legal corridor and is located just steps from the State House, the South Carolina Supreme Court, the South Carolina Court of Appeals, the National Advocacy Center, and law firms of all sizes.

Columbia is rapidly growing into a regional hub for corporate relocation, college and professional students, and tourism. The city is relaxed and welcomes our students. Downtown areas like the Vista, Five Points, and Main Street all border campus and provide shopping and entertainment, while nearby lakes, rivers, and parks provide recreational activities to keep you grounded.

RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

One of South Carolina's most popular attractions, Riverbanks Zoo & Garden is home to more than 3,000 animals, an aquarium, and a sprawling botanical garden featuring scenic walking trails. This family-friendly destination offers enough attractions and activities to easily fill an entire day.

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK

Just 30 minutes from campus is South Carolina's only national park. Congaree National Park contains more than 20,000 acres of federally designated wilderness that visitors can explore. Whether you are interested in walking, kayaking, or camping, the park has lots to offer for any nature lover.

LAKE MURRAY

The large, scenic lake just outside of Columbia is known for boating, fishing, swimming, and beautiful sunsets. With public-access beaches, a state park, rental gear, and nearby restaurants, this relaxing outdoor destination is a great place for anyone looking to escape the city.

LEARN MORE

Take your first step by exploring our website: law.sc.edu/admissions

You can view detailed information about our admissions standards, our class profile, the application process, and frequently asked questions.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Applications open on September 1 each year, with rolling decisions. Our priority application deadline is March 1, and we encourage applicants to submit their most competitive application as early as possible. All applications must be submitted through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC).

Submit your application:

1. Create an LSAC account: LSAC.org
2. Take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and complete the LSAT writing sample.
3. Subscribe to LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS).
4. Complete the Application Form and submit all required application documents:
 - Resume
 - Personal Statement
 - Optional Statements (if applicable)
 - Character and Fitness documentation (if applicable)
 - Addenda (if applicable)
5. Submit all requisite college transcripts to LSAC.
6. Have Letters of Recommendation submitted on your behalf to LSAC and assign a minimum of two letters to USC Rice School of Law.
7. Pay your application fee and CAS report fee.
8. Submit your application.

QUESTIONS?

Reach out to the Admissions Team.

- Email us: usclaw@law.sc.edu
- Call us: (803) 777-6605

APPLY
TODAY



PRACTICE READY. PREPARED TO LEAD.

