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Fordham Law School at Lincoln Square

Office of Admissions, Fordham Law School

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Fordham Law School
at Lincoln Square
It is indeed difficult to convey in booklet form, no matter how eloquently composed or elegantly rendered, the challenges and the opportunities of the study of law at Fordham Law School in Lincoln Square. This is an effort, however, to present to prospective law students some idea of the facilities and activities at Fordham in a form which we trust is more graphic and exciting than the prosaic catalogue which is of course available on request. We cordially invite all of those who are interested in entering the legal profession to visit the new Fordham Law School at Lincoln Square — a personal tour of inspection will be more effective than all of the words and all of the pictures herein contained.

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Fordham University is a Catholic institution, conducted by the Jesuits and founded in 1841. The School of Law was organized in 1905, graduating its first class in 1908. For many years the school was located in various buildings in lower Manhattan. In the fall of 1961, the Law School was moved into a luxurious new building at Lincoln Square in mid-town Manhattan adjacent to the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Occupied solely by the Law School, it is a three and one half million dollar structure of limestone and glass with an interior decor featuring a bold and striking use of color.

The law library has a capacity of more than a quarter million volumes on five stack levels with a spacious reading room overlooking a landscaped quadrangle. In addition to its modern class and seminar rooms, the fully air-conditioned building has a magnificent moot court room of Vermont marble and English oak.

Most classrooms are equipped for closed circuit television. The ground level houses locker and shower rooms for male and female students as well as a student cafeteria, with modern vending equipment for hot and cold meals.

No feature has been spared in designing the school for study in as comfortable and attractive an atmosphere as possible.
The Law School is a member of the American Association of Law Schools and on the approved list of the American Bar Association. It offers a three-year full-time course and a four-year evening course to qualified graduates of accredited colleges. More than one hundred and fifty undergraduate schools are represented in the present enrollment of seven hundred students.

To prepare young men and women scientifically for the practice of the law wherever the Anglo-American system of law prevails, the curriculum has been organized to present all phases of the common and statute laws of the United States.

At Fordham, as in virtually all American law schools, the law is studied largely by reading cases rather than a textbook compendium of legal rules. Cases are the written discussions by a court of legal problems it has considered, setting forth the facts of the controversy, the decision reached by the court, and, most importantly, its reasons therefor. This approach to the law, commonly known as the case system, places a premium on the two values that are the lawyer's stock in trade: analytical skill and critical judgment.

The study of law is, therefore, learning to analyze and criticize, in short "to think like a lawyer." It is a talent not easily come by. If, however, the student possesses the raw mate-
rial, the case system will hone it to a fine edge. It will teach him to winnow the emotionally appealing from the legally controlling fact, the irrelevant from the relevant. If he is not carried away by the first maxim that comes to mind, it will teach him to pry loose the legal principle that is decisive of the case. Subsequent cases may demonstrate, often to the student's chagrin, that the principle he laboriously extracted may be something less sweeping than he had conceived. Such is the training of the law student.

Teaching at Fordham is dominated by discussion, rather than lecture. Discussion usually begins after a student has stated what he concludes to be the important facts of a case, the questions presented, and the legal principle involved. He must be prepared to take a position and defend it against the attacks of his fellow students and the teacher. Thus is developed his ability to dissect a case, state it crisply, and support his interpretation of the law.

Through the guidance of provocative questions the student develops a healthy skepticism, a capacity for independent judgment, and a tough-minded approach to legal materials.

The class discussion following the statement of a case is the most important part of law school work. Apart from its pedagogical value in learning the law, it affords the student an opportunity to articulate legal ideas persuasively and carefully. It is learning by doing. After a semester of this experience, the student is ready for the moot court.
In each of his three years the Fordham law student has the valuable opportunity of taking a fictitious case on appeal. He is presented with a statement of facts along with a decision of a supposed lower court rendered on those facts. It becomes his task either to attack that decision or to support it. The student must first study the problems presented, research the law, and write a brief to buttress his position. He is then prepared to argue his case in court.

Located in the nerve center of New York City, Fordham has the opportunity to draw upon an outstanding pool of judicial talent. The judges who sit upon its moot court come from the courts of New York, Federal courts, and the most outstanding law firms in the State. The student's first appearance before so honorable a bench is never forgotten, as he finds himself alone and unprotected, representing his "client" against not only the arguments of his student-adversary, but the penetrating questions of the professional jurist.

In his second and third years, the student also participates in the trial moot court. Unlike the appellate moot court where only questions of law are argued and decided, the trial court goes a step further by leaving even the facts open to question. Here the young trial lawyer learns to marshal the facts, prepare his witnesses, and finally try his case before a jury. In this arena are forged the powers of expression and persuasion that have marked all great trial lawyers, not a few of whom have been sons of Fordham.
If any trend can be said to be most significant in the contemporary practice of the law, it is the ever-expanding demand on the lawyer to write. There are all types of agreements to be drafted, briefs to be prepared, and opinions to be given. Lawyers deal almost exclusively in verbal symbols. Unless the student learns to handle these with precision, to pierce fuzzy and ambiguous concepts and to state his position clearly, concisely and attractively, he will limp woefully unprepared into his profession.

Verbal accuracy and at least a modicum of verbal sophistication will necessarily result from the student's day to day preparation of cases for class. Moreover, his basic course on legal writing and research, where he will write memoranda on legal problems, will further develop this ability. But unquestionably his finest training will come from service on the staff of the Law Review.

The Law Review is a legal journal of national circulation edited entirely by students. Half of the material that appears in the Review is prepared by students, who are assigned to write a critical commentary on significant developments in the law. The other half is written by judges, professors, and lawyers on problems of interest to the profession. The publication is frequently helpful to attorneys, and will often be cited by judges in their decisions. More important to the student is the training it affords in research and writing, which, in the final analysis, are the basic tools of the lawyer. Recognition of this value has made membership on the Review a coveted goal of all students, and membership is restricted to the top scholars.
the library

Fordham takes particular pride in the physical layout of its law library. The main reading room is modernistically designed to seat three hundred. Gone are the stodgy, high backed furnishings, and dimly lit corners of the Victorian library; in their place are found the comfortable, if not luxurious, appointments identified with modern furnishings, and soft but brilliant overhead lighting. Carrells are also available for special research projects.
The study of law is the study of ideas, and in this, books are the indispensable tools. The library, with its associated research facilities, is the heart of the law school. The Fordham Law School Library occupies thirty-six thousand square feet, over one-third of the space of the school. With a capacity of over two hundred and fifty thousand volumes, its collection is constantly growing and is among the finest in the New York area. It includes substantially all the reported decisions of the courts of the United States, Great Britain, and Canada, together with their statutes and session laws and all subsidiary publications necessary to a complete working collection. There is, additionally, a fine foreign collection.

The course of instruction has been planned to encourage the use of the library, and to assure that each student will be independently capable of scholarly research. In his first year, the student is introduced to the mystique of legal research and is taught the art of using and assembling the varied materials of research in the law. During the remaining years of his law studies, he accumulates and develops his powers of research in conjunction with classroom preparation, the moot court, and the Law Review.

A section of the library is fully fitted with the equipment for the use of micro-film and micro-cards, designed to replace conventional books and to ameliorate the problems of bulk and deterioration.

Although intended primarily to serve the research needs of the Law School, the library is open to the profession. Special office facilities are provided for visiting lawyers and judges.
the student bar association

Reading cases and listening to lectures are not the students sole fare in law school. There are many other activities that play an equally important part in his legal education. The center of most extra-curricular activity is the Student Bar Association, which is the undergraduate equivalent of state and local bar associations and is affiliated with the American Law Student Association. All students at the school are eligible for membership, and its officers are elected by the student body.

The Fordham Law Forum is conducted under the auspices of this association. Periodically the Forum presents discussions on professional and topical problems by men of prominence in the law and related fields. These meetings are commonly held in the evening and contribute significantly to the education offered at Fordham.

The official organ of the association is the Lexagram, an intramural newspaper, edited and published by its members. It keeps students and alumni alike posted on developments at the school and contains many items of general interest to the bench and bar.

On the social side, the association provides many opportunities for students and faculty to meet informally. The outstanding event of the year is the annual Barrister’s Ball at which students may put aside the cares of the academic world for an evening of pleasant camaraderie with their colleagues, wives, and friends.
Professional training of the highest caliber requires a physical plant that affords the opportunity for large scale class work where many minds may stimulate each other to deeper inquiry as well as the facilities for smaller groups where the more subtle ramifications of the law may be explored. Additionally, the location and atmosphere of the Law School must imbue the student with an understanding of the role of the law in a modern culture and an appreciation for the ancient professional heritage he will share.

These ideals were impressed upon the glass and mortar that place Fordham Law School among the most modern law schools in the country. Each of the major classrooms is al-

Speakers at the Law School:
A. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy
B. Professor Arthur Sutherland, Harvard Law School
C. Justice John M. Harlan, United States Supreme Court
Justice Moshe Landau, right, of the Supreme Court of Israel, and William Hughes Mulligan, Dean, School of Law.

Left to right: Sen. Thomas Dodd; Hon. Irving Kaufman; Henry Hogan, (Ret) Vice President and Gen. Counsel, General Motors; Caesar Pitassy, Pres. FORDHAM LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION with Dean Mulligan.

At cornerstone ceremonies: left to right: Very Reverend John A. Flynn C.M., president, St. Johns University; John D. Rockefeller III; Paul T. O'Keefe, Deputy Mayor of New York City; His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman; Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller; Very Reverend Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., President and Rector, Fordham University; Earl Warren, Chief Justice, United States Supreme Court; Robert Moses, President, New York World's Fair; On rostrum, Rev. Edward F. Clark S.J., Academic Vice President, Fordham University.
most acoustically perfect, and is equipped for the use of audio-visual aids. There is a spacious student lounge completely furnished and equipped with a kitchen.

For instruction at a more advanced and individualized level the building provides several seminar rooms. Here small groups of students may gather with a faculty member for an informal and detailed analysis of problem areas lying at the frontier of legal thought.

New York City is an ideal location for a law school. In historic Foley Square are located the busiest federal and state courts, both trial and appellate, in the country. It is there that the student of the law will see the principles over which he has labored so mightily spring to life in the adjudication of real claims by real people.

For the student captivated by the intricacies of business and finance, New York City offers unequalled opportunities to observe the brokerage houses, the stock and commodity exchanges, and the large banks that make Wall Street the financial center of the world. For students of the international scene, there is the United Nations Headquarters, only a short distance away.

The cultural riches of the City are universal. Its museums, libraries, art galleries, concert halls, opera houses, and theaters are among the finest in the world. In this respect, Fordham Law School enjoys a unique distinction. It is immediately adjacent to what is designed to be the cultural pride of the nation, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Here are, or soon will be, the new Metropolitan Opera House, the Philharmonic Hall, the Juilliard School of Music, the New York Repertory Theatre, a Dance-Operetta Theatre, and the Library-Museum of the Performing Arts. Facing the school is Damrosch Park with an outdoor band shell for concerts.
New York City in general, and Lincoln Center in particular offer magnificent vistas of culture and education to the Fordham Law student. Such opportunities do not merely embellish legal education; they are essential to it.
Upon graduation a wide range of positions is open to the Law School alumnus.

To provide its graduates with advice, guidance and a broad selection of opportunities for their legal careers, the school maintains a placement office. Through this office are channelled all inquiries and requests from law firms, corporations and government agencies.

Most of the Law School’s alumni are engaged in the private practice of law. Many have chosen to remain in New York City to join some of the leading law firms that regularly visit the school in search of promising candidates. Others have settled in cities and towns throughout every state in the country.

Not all the alumni elect the rewards of private practice. Furthering a Fordham tradition of public service, a number of graduates accept positions in all levels of government. The roster of Law School alumni includes governors, mayors, diplomats, attorneys-general and legislators.

In the judiciary, Fordham is particularly proud of its many alumni gracing the benches of the highest courts in the state and nation. Many clerkship opportunities are also available to graduates in the state and federal courts.

Alumni have also risen to principal executive posts in many of the nation’s large corporations engaged in a wide range of enterprise. Growing recognition of the value of legal training has motivated these businesses to seek out graduates of the Law School in increasing numbers.

The Fordham Law Alumni Association which has an office at the law school is very active sponsoring an annual luncheon, monthly luncheons, receptions and other events. Law School alumni are prominent in Fordham Clubs located throughout the United States.
The faculty of Fordham Law School balances the wisdom of experience with the vigor of youth. All courses for the first two years are taught in sections to minimize the problem of large classes. In addition to the traditional required subjects, a variety of electives are available including Administrative Law, Labor Law, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey or Federal Practice, Comparative Law, International Law, Estate Planning, Taxation and Trade Regulation. Seminar courses are also offered to small groups of upper classmen in specialized areas of public and private law. Faculty offices are located on the first and second floors of the school adjacent to the library and classrooms, serving as a convenient place for personal conferences before and after class.

For more detailed information write to:
Office of the Registrar
Fordham University School of Law
Lincoln Square, New York 23, N.Y.