INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROGRAM

Loyola University Chicago’s unique and flexible Intellectual Property (IP) Program offers students a solid foundation of knowledge to succeed in an exciting practice area that protects and enforces creations of the human mind. Students may customize their areas of study to gain practical, hands-on training in the constantly evolving landscape of IP and patent law.

Unique curriculum

First-year students have the opportunity to study intellectual property starting on day one of law school. Loyola is among only a few law schools in the country to offer a legal writing section that focuses exclusively on IP law. In their second semester, students may enroll in a variety of electives that intersect with IP issues including business law, transnational litigation, and global access to affordable medicine.

Customized study

Individual academic and career counseling is offered to students who wish to customize their paths of study and focus their job searches in these specialty areas. Classes beyond externships include:

- Intellectual Property (survey)
- Advanced Research in Intellectual Property
- Global Access to Medicine: A Patent Perspective
- Copyright Law
- Patent Law Seminar
- Patent Prosecution
- Advanced Trademark Law
- Sports and Entertainment Law
- Contract Drafting

“I chose to study intellectual property at Loyola for its excellent reputation in the legal community. Professor Ho organized several networking opportunities during the school year, which helped me get a foot in the door at several law firms, including a summer associate program in Washington DC.”

– Eric Liu, JD student
Distinguished faculty

Cynthia Ho, Clifford E. Vickrey Research Professor of Law and program director, is a recognized expert in matters related to the intersection of patent laws and public health. She has published a book with Oxford University Press on this topic, as well as served as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Ho’s articles are cited in leading casebooks and domestic and international policy papers. Prior to joining Loyola, she practiced with a major IP boutique law firm. Ho is a member of the patent bar and actively involved with numerous IP organizations in Chicago.

Matthew Sag, Georgia Reithal Professor of Law, is an expert in copyright law. He serves as an advisory board member of the HathiTrust Research Center. Sag’s articles on copyright and fair use have been cited in judicial opinions, government reports, and academic works. He has practiced as an IP attorney in the United Kingdom and in Silicon Valley.

Nanette Norton gained extensive experience as a former partner at a leading Chicago law firm that specializes in IP. She has also provided IP advice as in-house counsel. Norton is coauthor of the treatise Trademark Practice Throughout the World (Thomson Reuters).

Skills-building externships

Externships provide additional opportunities for students to focus on patent, trademark, and copyright issues in a live clinical setting. Examples of past externships include Lawyers for the Creative Arts, Shirley Ryan Abilitylab, Museum of Science of Industry, and Chicago Historical Society, as well as the law firms Partridge Partners and Steptoe and Johnson.

IP colloquium

Professor Ho cofounded the Chicago Intellectual Property Colloquium, which promotes discussion of a range of issues in IP and cyberspace law. Held during the spring semester, the IP Colloquium invites nationally renowned IP scholars to Chicago to discuss their current research projects with law faculty, students, and interested practitioners.

Fellowships and scholarships

Qualified incoming students with a strong interest in IP may apply for an IP fellowship and enrollment in the IP Legal Writing course. In addition, second and third-year students are eligible for the Laura Terlizzi Scholarship.

Extracurricular opportunities

Loyola offers a variety of co-curricular and extracurricular activities for students to hone their skills. Three Loyola student organizations—the Intellectual Property Society, Arts Law Society, and Entertainment and Sports Law Society—focus on IP. Students may also participate in a number of local and national IP organizations for networking and professional enrichment:

- Intellectual Property Lawyers Association of Chicago
- IP Section of the Chicago Bar Association
- Chicago Chapter of the Copyright Law Society
- International Trademark Association
- IP Section of the American Bar Association