Chicago’s Practice-Ready Law School

Knowledge, Skills & Experience

The John Marshall Law School
Prepare to Succeed
Prepare to Succeed

At The John Marshall Law School, we’ll prepare you with the knowledge, skills, and experience you’ll need to be practice-ready from day one.

We know what legal employers look for in new hires. When you enroll at John Marshall, you’ll develop the strategic, analytical, and transactional lawyering skills that are so valuable to employers. And we specialize in educating attorneys who can be successful without needing lots of on-the-job training and hand-holding.

As a John Marshall student, you’ll be able to:

- Choose courses from one of the most robust curriculums in the nation
- Benefit from several nationally ranked and nationally recognized programs
- Master advanced law practice and cutting-edge courtroom technology
- Gain valuable real-world law practice and client experience
- Connect in Chicago, one of the nation’s most dynamic legal markets

$11 million in scholarship assistance awarded by John Marshall each year. Several scholarships offer full tuition plus a stipend for living expenses.


Practical Experience Guaranteed

Practice-ready experience is a hallmark of your training at John Marshall. Whether you earn credit in one of our 9 Community Legal Clinics or 100+ Externship Opportunities, our experiential learning requirement will prepare you to enter the field of law with the real-world experience employers demand.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Recent building purchases, award-winning renovations, and cutting-edge technology ensure our students have the best classrooms and courtrooms for their legal education.

Supportive Community

We were a pioneer in opportunity and access, and today we continue to lead the way with comprehensive support programs for students from underserved communities.
During your first semesters in law school—at any law school, not just John Marshall—you take required courses. You’ll be at least a year into your career as a law student before you have to choose electives.

So it’s perfectly fine if you, right now, don’t have a clear idea of what type of law you’d like to practice after you graduate. You’ll be exposed to a wide range of legal endeavors and opportunities as you make your way through the required courses, and the knowledge you acquire will help you narrow down the range of choices.

Practical Courses
We call them “Lawyering Skills,” and you’ll master them—legal writing, analysis, research, and oral arguments—over the course of four semesters. Our program ensures that by the time you graduate, you’ll have received twice the foundational skills training most other schools require.

Experiential Learning
As part of your education, you’ll put these lawyering skills to the test in one of our 9 Community Legal Clinics or 100+ externships. This experiential component is required of all our graduates—it’s one of the ways we ensure you’re practice-ready from day one.
## Degree Tracks

**Full-Time Track**  
Estimated completion: 6 semesters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts I</td>
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<td>Civil Procedure I</td>
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<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyering Skills II</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Civil Procedure II</td>
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<td>Evidence</td>
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<td>Professional Responsibility</td>
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<td>*Trial Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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*These required courses may be taken at any time during a student’s second or third year. Evidence is a prerequisite to Trial Advocacy. Trial Lawyer may be taken in lieu of these two courses. The required 3 credits of clinic or externship experience may be fulfilled any time after your first year.

**Part-Time Track**  
(Day or Evening Program)  
Estimated completion: 8 semesters + 2 summer sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Contracts II</td>
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<td>Property</td>
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<td>Lawyering Skills II</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Civil Procedure I</td>
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<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
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<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<td><strong>Fourth Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Civil Procedure II</td>
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<td>Constitutional Law II</td>
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<td>Lawyering Skills III</td>
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<td>Professional Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sixth Semester</strong></td>
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<td>*Trial Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td><strong>Ninth Semester/Summer Sessions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An additional 6 semester hours are required for graduation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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This information, plus a lot more, is also available online at [www.jmls.edu/academics/jd](http://www.jmls.edu/academics/jd).
Choices
On your terms. On your schedule.

Most people have the idea that it takes three years to complete law school. But that’s only true if you attend full time, and going to school full time doesn’t work for everyone who wants to be an attorney.

John Marshall offers full-time, part-time day, and part-time evening degree tracks. (We were one of the first law schools in the country to offer alternatives to the traditional full-time approach.) We also offer the added flexibility of spring enrollment.

No matter which approach you take, you’ll need to earn 90 credit hours with a GPA of 2.25 or better in order to receive your JD.

Courses
Create your own path to success.

One of the things that makes John Marshall so special is that we offer a lot of variety in our course selection. We have more courses than almost any other law school.

John Marshall is also a leader in distance education, and we add new online courses every semester.

JD Certificates. We also have ways for you to focus your degree and get recognition for it. Our JD Certificates give you an opportunity to develop courtroom-ready skills in selected areas:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Elder Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property Law (Ranked #21)
- International Human Rights Law
- Sustainability
- Trial Advocacy (Ranked #19)

You can learn more about the JD Certificates program at www.jmls.edu/certificates.

When I started law school, I was working full time as a manager at CNA Insurance. I’m a husband and a father (my fourth child was born when I was a 2L).

Other law schools would not allow me to take day-time classes during my lunch hour and take evening classes at the same time. Because of this flexibility, I was even able to participate in some extra-curricular activities, such as competing in moot court and serving on the law review. I also took advantage of some of the online course offerings.

The flexibility of the scheduling and the staff were instrumental in enabling me to complete my law degree.

- The John Marshall Law Review
- First Place, Herzog Moot Court Competition
Lawyering Skills
Gain the skills employers seek.

Our graduates have a significant advantage over graduates from other law schools because of our Lawyering Skills program. A solid and extensive foundation in legal research, writing, advocacy, and legal drafting will prevent you from having to do a lot of learning on the job once you’re an attorney. These are the skills that employers value the most.

We give you more than just an overview of what you need to succeed. We give you the whole package, which translates to requiring that all of our students complete four semesters of Lawyering Skills.

In the beginning, you focus on legal research and analyzing legal problems. Further along you develop your skills at oral advocacy and pragmatic legal writing. We’ve fine-tuned this part of the legal education at John Marshall, and we know it works.

We’re not the only people who think so. U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks our legal writing program in the top 10 in the nation; in 2017 it was ranked #5.

Lawyering Skills Courses
- Lawyering Skills I: Objective Analysis, Writing, and Research
- Lawyering Skills II: Advocacy
- Lawyering Skills III: Appellate Advocacy
- Lawyering Skills IV: Drafting*

*In LS IV, students can specialize their drafting course in civil litigation, criminal law, elder law, employee benefits, family law, health law, information technology law, intellectual property law, international practice, legislation, or real estate law. Students can also take Spanish for Lawyers, a course specifically designed to equip you with the cultural competencies and sensitivities necessary for building a career with Spanish-speaking clients.

Writing Resource Center

Your professor gives you a writing assignment, but you’re not sure how to get started. You could really use a one-on-one session with a professional. Under the direction of Professor Lurene Contento, John Marshall’s four professional lawyer advisors hold more than 1,500 one-on-one student conferences each year. This is where you go early, and often, to refine your written presentations.

I went into Lawyering Skills with a background in English, so I figured I knew how to write, but I had to learn to be concise to be effective. And then came the speaking part, where we delivered our oral arguments in front of real judges.

Sure, you wrote a great brief. But how will that sound when you try to speak it? And how well can you think on your feet, when the judges barely let you get going before they start interrupting with questions?

In my job, I go to court every day, so Lawyering Skills was a tremendous foundation for my career.

CALVIN TOWNSEND (JD ’11)
Associate, Craig L. Manchik & Associates

• Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition
• Alvin H. Baum Public Interest and Public Service Scholarship
• President, Black Law Students Association
At John Marshall, we’re dedicated to offering you lots of opportunities to explore and develop your practical skills. After you complete your core courses, you’ll be ready to advance your legal education by learning from experience. Our wide range of curricular offerings includes clinics, internships, and externships.

We were the first law school in the Midwest to require 3 credit hours of practical experience for graduation.

The Value of Experience

As stated by The Carnegie Report, the most striking element of a clinical experience is “the power...to engage and expand students’ expertise and professional identity through supervised responsibility for clients.”

By requiring you to complete a clinic or externship, we are providing you with a more thorough and richer professional experience that more fully integrates all of the skills, knowledge, and values you will learn in law school.

Under the direction of faculty and licensed attorneys, students develop the courtroom-ready skills that employers seek in career applicants.
Community Legal Clinics
- Business Enterprise Law Clinic
- Domestic Violence Clinical Advocacy Program
- Fair Housing Legal Clinic
- Conflict Resolution Institute & Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Patent Clinic
- Pro Bono Program & Clinic
- Trademark Clinic
- Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic

100+ Externships

These placements for credit can be with a judge, a government agency, a nonprofit organization, or others. We have hundreds of offerings, including:
- AT&T Legal Department
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)
- Circuit Court of Cook County
- City of Chicago
- Cook County Public Defender
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Groupon Inc. Tax Department
- Illinois Attorney General
- U.S. Department of Justice

In my externship, I worked full-time for an entire summer as a law clerk directly under Judge Gettleman. It was an opportunity to ‘go behind the curtain’ and see legal practice as it really is, beyond just reading transcripts and opinions. And it was thrilling to know I could produce a federal opinion—I actually wrote three opinions for the judge. My externship was by far the most challenging and satisfying experience I had at John Marshall.

- John Marshall Distinguished Scholar
- Founder, American Constitution Society Chapter
- The John Marshall Law Review
- Externship, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Gettleman

ALI ABID (JD ’10)
Inaugural George N. Leighton Fellow for the Study of Prisoners’ Rights
The John Marshall Law School
Honors Programs
Get involved. Distinguish yourself.

John Marshall has five honors programs—three are law journals and two are devoted to oral advocacy. Participation in any one of these programs is an academic honor.

- The John Marshall Law Review
- The John Marshall Journal of Information Technology & Privacy Law
- Moot Court Honors Program
- Trial Advocacy & Dispute Resolution Honors Board

To learn about these programs, visit www.jmls.edu/honors.

Moot court transformed how I presented my arguments, both orally and in writing.

The support team of professors and practicing attorneys helped me understand that an effective advocate is not only well-versed in the law and the facts, but is also passionate—after all, we practice law to help people.

I’m a more effective advocate and attorney because of John Marshall’s moot court program.

- Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition
- The John Marshall Journal of Computer & Information Law
In addition to the JD, we offer master of laws (LLM) programs to attorneys interested in career specialization. Since many of our electives are cross-listed courses, JD students have the added benefit of sharing the classroom with knowledgeable practicing professionals.

**LLM Degrees**
- Employee Benefits
- Estate Planning
- Information Technology & Privacy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Business & Trade Law
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Law

**Joint JD/LLM Degrees**
Once you select a specialty, you may decide you want to augment your JD with an LLM in that area, and the joint degree program allows you to do this in the most timely and cost-effective way.

- Learn more at [www.jmls.edu/joint-degrees](http://www.jmls.edu/joint-degrees).

**Combined JD/Master’s Degrees**
- JD/MBA – In collaboration with Benedictine University
- JD/MBA—In collaboration with Dominican University
- JD/MBA—In collaboration with Elmhurst College
- JD/MBA—In collaboration with Robert Morris University
- JD/MPA—In collaboration with Roosevelt University
- JD/MBA—In collaboration with Saint Xavier University

- Learn more at [www.jmls.edu/dual-degrees](http://www.jmls.edu/dual-degrees).

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**LISA K. JOHNSON** (JD/LLM ’09)
Associate, Case Lombardi & Pettit

"As a JD/LLM joint degree student in tax law, I was able to coordinate both my JD and LLM classes with work and extracurricular activities, allowing me to graduate with both degrees in three years.

Having a specialized LLM degree has been a valuable addition to my JD education."
$11M in Scholarships

As soon as you apply to John Marshall, you’re automatically considered for our full range of merit scholarships, including some that provide full tuition with a stipend for living expenses for the duration of your enrollment at John Marshall.

Other scholarships become available after you complete your first semester of law school. When you finish in the top 5%, 10%, or 15% of your class after your first, second, or third semester, you’ll automatically receive a scholarship of $4,000, $3,000, or $2,000, respectively.

Then there are Continuing Student scholarships that you can apply for after your first semester, which are awarded based on academic performance, financial need, service to the law school, and service to the community.

► For information on the many other scholarships available to our students, visit www.jmls.edu/students/scholarships.
► For information on student loans and other financial aid opportunities, visit www.jmls.edu/students/financial-aid.

The Markey Scholarship™ gave me the opportunity to attend law school and allowed me the flexibility to set my own schedule. I was working full-time at a large corporation when I started at John Marshall, and was able to arrange a schedule that worked for me.

CHRISTOPHER R. WALKER (JD ’11)
Associate, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek

- JD Certificate in Intellectual Property Law

*The Hon. Howard T. Markey Distinguished Scholarship is awarded to incoming students with academic distinction and an interest in pursuing intellectual property law. It confers full tuition and a $10,000 stipend.
The tradition at John Marshall has been to hire full-time professors who have actual experience practicing law. Our faculty members are also encouraged to be active leaders in the legal profession.

This means your courses will be taught by scholars who have a clear and personally direct understanding of the real world and who are plugged-in and contributing to the advancement of legal education and the practice of law. They'll teach you the things you need to know so that you can go right to work as an attorney and be valuable to your employer from your first day on the job.

We supplement instruction from our 47 full-time professors by drawing on the expertise of a large contingent of adjunct professors. They bring practical advice and experience to the classroom, along with their leading-edge connections to the practice world. We’re proud of the fact that many of the adjunct professors who help teach and mentor our students are also our alumni.

To learn about our faculty, visit www.jmls.edu/directory/faculty.
Career Services
At John Marshall, we’re committed to helping you find a great job, and we’ll work tirelessly for your success.

After you have your first couple of months of law school under your belt, our counselors will be eager to work with you. They offer:

- One-on-one counseling
- Mock interviews
- Career development workshops
- Career panels
- In-house and online employment research resources

Professional Development
John Marshall offers innovative programs that prepare you for the legal workplace. Through our Office of Professionalism & Career Strategy, experienced members of the legal community visit classes and share insights about resolving ethical challenges, the skills employers value, and marketing yourself. The Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program pairs experienced mentors and new lawyer mentees. Our course, Law Practice and Management, covers critical areas such as office accounting, fees, marketing and promotion, modern law office technology, and use of clerks and paralegals.
Almost all students need help to perform well in law school and on the bar exam. The difference between getting an A or a C in a class could come down to who chooses to get help.

Some of that help is built in. The Academic Achievement Program meets with students on an individual basis to help them improve their law school and bar exam performance, in addition to providing programming to help all students excel.

You need to know that the bar exam is not some far-off event. You need to start preparing from day one. Your early good performance will make studying for the bar easier.

Litigation Technology and other classes incorporate state-of-the-art software and devices.

Renovated areas connect classroom access with the new student commons and the State Street entrance.

Academic Achievement & Bar Passage
The Academic Achievement Program provides assistance and advice at crucial points throughout your law school career. Our faculty and advisors help prepare you for law school classwork and exams, as well as the bar exam. We offer more than 20 bar prep courses and programs, and we’ll guide you through the filing deadlines and requirements for your bar application.

Library
The legal environment changes. Our professional librarians—all of whom have advanced degrees in both law and library science—anticipate the changes to give you dynamic guidance and practical assistance in all your legal information needs.

Technology & Facilities
Our recently upgraded “smart” classrooms, courtrooms, and library provide the utmost in education-based technology, including online video streaming of lectures. We also offer you a wide variety of technological tools, including online exams, and free tech support for all students.

JAMIE KLEPPETSCH (JD ’04)
Professor and Associate Director
Academic Achievement Program
The John Marshall Law School
You can find a strong sense of community by joining a student organization, participating in on-campus events, and networking with alumni.

The established student framework at John Marshall consists of the Student Bar Association and more than 50 active organizations that engage in social awareness, community service, legal discussions, and social activities. Student groups for every professional, cultural, and political interest exist to expand and enhance your law school experience.

For listings and descriptions of the student organizations, visit www.jmls.edu/students/organizations.

Belonging to the Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA) allowed me to understand the true meaning of effective leadership and professional responsibility, which helped me to flourish in law school, pass the bar exam, and launch my career as a successful attorney in Chicago.

Through my involvement in student organizations I’ve built lifelong connections with others who share my interest in pursuing justice and making a difference in the community.

MARVET M. SWEIS
Associate, Levin & Perconti

• President, MELSA
• Class Gift Officer
• The John Marshall Review of Intellectual Property Law
Diversity and opportunity have been guiding ideals at John Marshall since it was founded back in 1899. We actively recruit and support minority and otherwise-underrepresented students. Each year, more than 30% of entering students who call John Marshall home proudly identify themselves as persons of diverse ethnicities. Our diversity is one of the hallmarks for measuring our success.

Our **Office of Diversity Affairs & Outreach Programs** hosts diversity programs, including the Unity Dinner, Diversity Week, and other academic-focused programs to ensure your success in law school.

Additionally, our **Multicultural Leadership Council**, comprised of student leaders from all of our ethnic/cultural organizations, works to ensure that John Marshall remains at the forefront of diversity and inclusion.

To learn more about prelaw support and diversity programs, visit the web page of our Office of Diversity Affairs & Outreach Programs at [www.jmls.edu/diversity](http://www.jmls.edu/diversity).

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I had a close-knit group of friends at John Marshall. There were about a dozen of us, and we ate lunch together and studied together. We were known as the “United Nations.” Men and women, we were Greek and Serbian and Polish and you name it. I’m mixed-race myself, and it just seemed completely appropriate that we could be color-blind while we were studying the law.

**Diversity Firsts**

- Jessie Cook, our first female student, graduated in 1903
- James Randle, our first African-American student, graduated in 1904
- William Rodriguez, our first Hispanic student, graduated in 1912
- Euclid Taylor, the first African-American lawyer to teach at an integrated law school, began teaching at John Marshall in 1934

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**NATOSHA CUYLER-SHERMAN** (JD ’05)
Assistant State’s Attorney
Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office

“I had a close-knit group of friends at John Marshall. There were about a dozen of us, and we ate lunch together and studied together. We were known as the “United Nations.” Men and women, we were Greek and Serbian and Polish and you name it. I’m mixed-race myself, and it just seemed completely appropriate that we could be color-blind while we were studying the law.”
As a major metropolitan center of finance, culture, transportation, industry, medicine, and higher education—and home to one of the largest legal markets in the U.S.—Chicago gives our students all the advantages of living in a world-class city. In addition to the second largest circuit court system in the country and numerous law firms, many major organizations and businesses are headquartered here in America’s Second City, including the American Bar Association, United Airlines, Kraft Foods, and McDonald’s.

Located downtown in Chicago’s Loop, within a block of all major elevated and subway lines, John Marshall’s central location allows degree candidates to take advantage of the myriad of resources and provides easy access to numerous state and federal institutions including:

- Richard J. Daley Center, headquarters of the Circuit Court of Cook County
- Everette M. Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, home to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- Chicago Board of Trade
- Kluczynski Federal Building
- Metcalfe Federal Building
- Chicago Bar Association
With more than 18,000 alumni of The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association, graduates have familiar faces they can turn to all across the United States, as well as in South America and Central Asia.

The regional chapters act as a contact point for new John Marshall graduates in their areas. They host social and networking events and continuing legal education programs.

Alumni Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) support John Marshall socially and philanthropically, and members are committed to the concept that it is important for young professionals to stay involved with their law school, as well as the broader community they serve.

For more information about alumni services and events, visit http://alumni.jmls.edu.

"Law school teaches you how to learn what the law is. Then you graduate and get hired, and now you have to apply the law. That’s where your relationship with a mentor can be so valuable.

I was a good law student, but the primary reason I was able to handle actual legal transactions right away on the job was because I’d taken advantage of the opportunity to learn from willing mentors. Your guidance from a good mentor can be just as valuable as law school itself."

- Christopher Cali (JD ‘09)
  Associate, Christopher W. Matern Law Firm
Take the next step and learn more about Chicago’s Practice-Ready Law School by visiting www.jmls.edu/imready.