



# A New Path to Legal Knowledge

**Maryland Carey Law's new programs at the University of Maryland, College Park immerse professionals and undergraduates in the law.**

ON A LATE SPRING AFTERNOON, approximately 60 prospective students, faculty members, and administrative staff mingle over snacks at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union in College Park. They're there to learn more about a new degree—a Master of Science in Law (MSL) from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law—in Baltimore.

“I was working for the Obama administration when the Affordable Care Act [ACA] was upheld by the Supreme Court,” says Katina Rojas Joy, 43, who attended the College Park information session. “The ACA completely changed every aspect of health care,” she notes, “and in the process, it created new opportunities for professionals who want to enhance their careers.”

Which is why she not only applied for admission to the MSL program, but soon after accepted a position to help coordinate it.

The new MSL degree—which Maryland Carey Law is offering exclusively in the evenings at College Park—promises targeted legal knowledge, without a JD, for professionals from a range of industries who are working in the Washington-Baltimore corridor. “I’m a mid-career professional with a master’s degree in public administration,” says Rojas Joy. “The MSL offers me the legal foundation and knowledge I’ve always wanted.”

#### **A Win-Win**

Working professionals aren’t the only prospective beneficiaries of the new MSL.

Employers, particularly those in science- and technology-based industries, have much to gain when their employees earn an MSL degree, due to the increasing complexity of law and its integration into other fields, says Maryland Carey Law Dean Donald B. Tobin. “The MSL is a natural consequence of law’s

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*Barbara Gontrum  
Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs  
and Law School Professor*

growing importance to other disciplines.”

And each of those disciplines can be just as complex as law itself. For example, it can take an advanced degree in engineering or information technology to grasp the science of a new invention that a company wants to patent. Typically, a lawyer and a scientific or technology expert work together, slogging through a patent application that, while legal in nature, is largely shaped by the underlying science. The scientist or technical expert can spend hours “translating” the invention to a lawyer, who prepares the actual application.

And that can be a problem.

“Due to recent changes in the law, it is more important than ever to file a patent application as soon as possible after a new technology has been developed,” says Professor Patricia Campbell, who runs the law school’s Intellectual Property Clinic out of an incubator for new, high-tech businesses at the University of Maryland’s A. James Clark School of Engineering in

College Park. “Potentially, the time it takes an attorney to prepare and file a patent application could be the difference between securing rights to an innovation and losing them to a competitor,” she asserts.

With stakes like that, companies large and small are seeking a competitive advantage. The new MSL specialty in patent law, which will be offered in Fall 2016 under Campbell’s direction, may provide one.

“This program will enable employees in high-tech or biotech companies to prepare high-quality invention disclosures or draft patent applications faster, and to work more effectively with their attorneys,” says Campbell. It also will help prepare people with an education in science or engineering to take the patent bar exam and work as patent agents, all without a JD.

The MSL may provide some interesting opportunities for both companies and law firms to diversify staff and assignments. For instance, an engineer with an MSL

## MSL – The Basics

The MSL is a two-year, part-time, master's degree program with classes taught in the evening at College Park. It is:

- **Affordable**—tuition is currently \$750 per credit hour for a 30-credit degree.
- **Specialized**—students choose one of five specialties:
  - Crisis Management
  - Cybersecurity
  - Environmental Law
  - Health Care Law
  - Patent Law (to begin fall 2016)
- **Easy to apply to**—applicants need a bachelor's degree, transcript, personal statement, and one letter of recommendation.
- **Not a JD**—credits earned for the MSL cannot be applied to a JD.

may be able to draft a patent application quickly, and then send it to an experienced lawyer to make sure it's legally correct and strengthens the organization's overall patent portfolio and strategy. But here's the twist: the engineer with the MSL and the IP lawyer could both be working at the same technology company—or law firm. In addition, a paralegal with an MSL in patent law—which can be earned by Maryland residents for just over \$22,500 for the two-year program—could assist in expediting the patent application process for a firm's client.

Similar models may emerge in environmental regulatory compliance, where rules can at times be so complicated and depend so deeply on specialized knowledge that compliance demands both special expertise and legal skills. “Environmental lawyers have always had to keep abreast of changes in science and law, but the field in some areas is now changing so rapidly and dramatically that specialized legal and scientific skills are essential to handle compliance,” notes Robert

Percival, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director of Maryland Carey Law's Environmental Law Program and its MSL specialization.

“The MSL offers an excellent educational opportunity for professionals working in the in-house legal departments of corporations, in government agencies, or in law firms that provide legal counsel and services in the degree's specialty areas,” says Maryland Carey Law's Associate Dean for Professional Education José Bahamonde-González, who will provide counseling and professional development programs to MSL students. “With the MSL, graduate students will get the legal knowledge and problem-solving skills they need for professional growth and enhanced opportunities.”

### Growing Trends

Since 2013, the number of American Bar Association-accredited law schools offering master's degrees for non-lawyers has more than doubled, rising from 25 to 58—or almost 30 percent of all accredited law schools, including top-tier institutions.

The specific names of the master's degrees vary greatly—MSL, Master of Legal Studies, or Juris Master—as does their content, which can be general in nature or include specialties such as tax or health care law.

Maryland Carey Law is drawing on its nationally ranked programs in health care law and environmental law, its internationally recognized Center for Health and Homeland Security, and a strong partnership with the University of Maryland's engineering school to offer training in specialized areas of the law.

“We’ve built the MSL on an extraordinary foundation,” says Tobin. “The law school has tremendous existing knowledge and credibility in its MSL specialties, all of which serve industries with significant legal and regulatory processes.”

Maryland Carey Law has used those strengths as the departure point for

creating new curricula designed exclusively for the MSL. The program includes seminars taught by both Maryland Carey Law faculty and practicing professionals actively involved in the five MSL specializations. “In our research, prospective students told us they wanted to draw on the experience of practicing professionals, who were immersed in the application of current law to a particular industry, and we’re responding,” says Barbara Gontrum, Maryland Carey Law’s associate dean for academic and administrative affairs.

Students will begin the program with foundational courses, research and writing classes, and a survey of their chosen specialization. By the second year, they are completely focused on their specializations through seminars and a faculty-supervised capstone project.

“Because the health law specialty is very diverse—it can include people

in governmental positions, practicing health care providers, administrators in the hospital—we’re going to customize what they do in their capstone,” says Professor Diane Hoffmann, who directs the law school’s nationally-ranked Law and Health Care Program and the MSL’s health law specialty. “Depending on their interests, students in the program may have the opportunity to draft a statute or regulations, comment on proposed regulations, or draft a contract between health care providers.”

Like health care, cybersecurity spans the public and private sectors, as breaches at Target, Sony Pictures, JPMorgan Chase—even the federal government’s personnel database—show. Threats to the nation’s infrastructure and its citizens’ privacy demand coordinated, interdisciplinary action—and technical solutions aren’t enough, says Maryland Carey Law Professor Michael Greenberger, founding director of the university’s Center for Health and Homeland Security. “There is a growing demand for professionals who know the relevant laws, regulations, and best practices that touch a breached organization’s customers and employees, including potential liability,” he notes.

The MSL also can bring real value to government, believes alumna Christina McDonald ’00, deputy associate general counsel for regulatory affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington. She is convinced that it can help “bridge the gap” between lawyers and other professionals, who must often work together, particularly in a field like hers. “There are many times when law is mixed with technical constraints, policy development, or regulations. It would be [continued on pg. 10]

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*Donald B. Tobin*  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

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*Introducing the profession: Dean Tobin teaches a mock law school class to undergraduates during an MLAW session in College Park (see pg. 10). Attendees had to prepare for the class by reviewing a case and answering questions posed using the Socratic method, the oldest teaching tactic for fostering critical thinking.*

## Crisis Management vs. Cybersecurity: What's the Difference?

*Professor Michael Greenberger, founding director of the Center for Health and Homeland Security, leads the MSL's crisis management and cybersecurity specializations. Here's how he describes the difference between the two:*



### **Crisis Management:**

“Organizing either public or private institutions to respond to natural [e.g., Super Storm Sandy or worldwide Ebola outbreak] and man-made [terror attacks] catastrophes has become increasingly specialized and now verges on being a science. There are federal, state, and private institutional rules, regulations, standard operating procedures, and best practices that govern the way an entity

responds. Those institutions seeking help in their response to these crises want professionals who speak the language of crisis management and understand all the rules and players involved in responding to a disaster.”

### **Cybersecurity:**

“There are few, if any, graduate professional academic programs focusing on the way public and private institutions under-

stand the law and policy governing today's cyber environment. Those critical laws and policies governing either defensive cyber measures or offensive cyber tactics are usually abbreviated and submerged within technical cyber training. This specialization concentrates on training professionals about the existing and proposed statutes, case law, regulations, executive orders, standard operating procedures, and best practices relating to cyber.”



## College Park: Expanding the Pipeline



*McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park*

The MSL, which will be taught by Maryland Carey Law faculty at College Park, is just one sign of new synergies between the two schools, says Robert Koulish, a PhD in political science, lecturer at the law school, and director of the University of Maryland, College Park's (UMCP) program called MLAW.

"MLAW is for students who are thinking that they might want to go to law school, or are interested in questions pertaining to human rights, or civil rights, or social justice," says Koulish. "They get the skills to learn how to think critically about these issues and how to begin to write about them." The program is designed for undergraduates at all levels and is part of the state's MPower initiative to encourage greater collaboration between the Baltimore and College Park institutions.

MLAW has several components. It offers a living-and-learning experience in

justice and legal thought for freshmen and sophomores—one of 12 such undergraduate programs on the College Park campus—and has enrolled 75 undergraduates so far.

MLAW also offers an interdisciplinary minor in law and society for upper-level undergraduates seeking concentrated insight into law. "There are an awful lot of students coming in thinking they want to go to law school, but there is no undergraduate law program," Koulish says. "Our focus is not necessarily pre-law, it is on the relationship between law and society. The students are looking at questions of legal culture, of race and gender through a lens of social theory as applied to the real world."

But they are doing so with some practical experience. "There's a required internship, so every student is spending time working at a law firm, a nonprofit, a public agency, or some kind of private organization where their work

fits into the larger curriculum," Koulish says. "The idea is that by the time these students are done with the minor, they're going to know whether or not they want to go to law school."

MLAW is rolling out new opportunities to help students—even those in high school—make that critical decision. This summer, it's launching a three-week, for-credit Mock Trial course for high school students. In the fall, it will introduce a mentoring program that pairs undergrads with both practicing attorneys and Maryland Carey Law students. It also has a partnership with College Park's nationally-recognized Mock Trial Team.

And for those who already are convinced about law school, there is the recently reinstated "three-plus-three" program, which allows UMCP students to spend their senior year as a first-year law student at Maryland Carey Law.

*[MSL: continued from pg. 8]*

extremely beneficial to have professionals, who are crucial to our agency's mission, learn the practical foundation in those aspects of the law that shape their own work."

Tina Laboy, who already works on crisis management issues and holds one master's degree, wants to enroll in the MSL's crisis management specialization to get just that kind of legal foundation—what she calls "a fundamental understanding of the legal system and the policy framework that guides homeland security planning and response efforts," so that she can work hand in hand with "lawyers on regulatory and compliance issues."

As Rojas Joy points out, "There is nothing about the way we live today that says you're bound by what you thought you were going to do when you graduated from college or earned an advanced degree. The great thing about being in early- or even mid-career is that you can pivot and do something completely different. I don't see any boundaries or walls. Just professional growth and new opportunities."