

**E**STABLISHED IN 1902 AND LOCATED IN THE KEADENTIAL neighborhood of Hyde Park (about twenty miles from downtown Chicago), the University of Chicago Law School is arguably the best law school in the Midwest. By placing an equal emphasis on the intellectual, academic, and pragmatic facets of the law, the University of Chicago Law School is a unique place to receive a legal education. As Professor Richard A. Epstein, the James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor of Law, commented, "The University of Chicago Law School is a place that thrives on intellectual and wide ranging inquiry, as well as professional excellence." Kim Ziev, a second year student, agreed stating, "the legal education at the University of Chicago is not merely a means to an end." This balance between the academic and the professional and one of the finest law school faculties in the nation earn Chicago a national reputation. In the 1993 US News and World Report ranking of law schools, Chicago was ranked fourth in the nation.

The highly competitive selection process is evidence to the value with which undergraduates hold a University of Chicago Law School education. The average Grade Point Average of an admitted student in 1994 was a 3.75. The average LSAT Score was in the 98th percentile. The

U. of Chicago Law School admissions committee expects 3,500 applications for 175 places in 1995. According to the law school's view book, academic record, LSAT scores, recommendation letters, candidate statement, and an evaluative interview are the primary factors in the admissions decision. Other factors may be the quality of the applicant's undergraduate school, the mix of undergraduate courses, and the ability to communicate with precision. One difference in the U. of Chicago Law School's admissions process, as compared to other law schools, is that an evaluative interview is offered to applicants. However, only about 10% of the applicants are eventually interviewed. Another difference in Chicago's admissions process is that three letters of recommendation are requested rather than the usual two. Letters from instructors or advisors who can compare the applicant to his or her class and point out the strengths and weaknesses in the candidate give the committee the clearest picture of the applicant's potential. Each application is then read by at least one member of a four member committee and decisions are made on a rolling basis, with the earliest decisions arriving shortly after January 15. While the previously mentioned criteria are the primary factors in the decision to admit or deny, Dean of Students Richard Badger, who takes part in the admissions process, ardently insists that the committee "doesn't use a strict formula. The circumstance of each applicant is considered. If an applicant has been out of college for five years, then less weight would be put on the undergraduate academic record. If the applicant comes from a smaller school, then more weight may be placed on the letters

of recommendation. Each situation is different."

Dean Badger states, "a Columbia College undergraduate education is very good preparation for law school. The core curriculum is very good." He adds, "Columbia students have done well here." Two former Columbia undergraduates were members of the 1993-1994 U. of Chicago Law School class.

The tuition to attend the University of Chicago is \$20,193. According to the law school's estimates, a single student will probably end up paying \$32,900 for his or her total expenses. The school provides financial aid to about 75% of its students in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans. Financial aid is determined primarily on need, but a limited amount of merit scholarships are given to those applicants that display exemplary academic promise.

One answer to why many applicants would bear the burden of such a costly education is the quality of the University of Chicago Law School faculty. Ziev enthusiastically commented, "The University of Chicago Law School has a complete willingness to let those that are talented teach. The University of Chicago Law School has some of the brightest young teaching

and scholarly minds in the country." The University of Chicago Law School instructors try to provide a general education in the law as well as

## The University of Chicago Law School

By David S. Lee

show how the law is linked to philosophy, history, political science, economics, and the other social sciences. A broad and general education of the law is emphasized. Teaching is so paramount that senior faculty sit in on classes and evaluate the teaching quality of the junior faculty. Describing his own educational philosophy, Professor Epstein said, "I push my students hard to comprehensively look at legal subject matter from a different perspective than those of previous commentators. I want my students to derive simple solutions from complicated questions and use general theory to systemize social problems that are raised." The caliber of the U. of Chicago faculty is second to none.

Besides having the reputation of being a superb faculty, the "conservative" label has become associated with the U. of C. faculty. Some of this conservative labeling can be attributed to the distinctively U. of Chicago analysis of the "economic efficiencies of various laws" and the spirit of conservative economist Milton Friedman at the world famous U. of Chicago Economics Department. Professor Epstein disagrees with the conservative label by saying, "the left, the center, and the right are all well represented here. There is a balanced political perspective."

Access to this esteemed faculty is one of the unequivocal strengths of the school. Students are encouraged to drop by a professor's office at any time. In fact, the offices of the professors are arranged around the library reading room where many of the students study. The student to teacher ratio is a low 16:1.

The members of the student body of 575 students come from 171 different undergraduate institutions and reside in forty-six different states and forty-one different countries.

Approximately 38% of the class were women and 15% were ethnic minorities. The average age of a law student at the University of Chicago was between twenty-five and twenty-six years of age.

Kim Ziev described her classmates as "friendly, very bright, and very down to earth." She said that Chicago students were only competitive with themselves to succeed and not with their fellow classmates. Ziev emphatically declared, "This is not a cut throat environment. One time, a book for the next assignment was missing and the students in the class were astonished at how that could happen. However, this is an intense place. But law school by its nature is an intense place" Del Kolde, a third year student, similarly described his fellow classmates and academic atmosphere as, "very, very driven. This is not a school where the students take the law lightly. But most students will have no problem working in groups or sharing notes." When questioned about the student political sentiment, Kolde said, "the majority of the students are moderate or liberal students. But the conservatives are well represented." Overall, the student body is one that seeks to explore all aspects of the discipline of law. The people are exceptionally intelligent and

motivated.

Only one hundred and seventy-five students enter the University of Chicago Law School each year, thus making the University of Chicago Law School a relatively small school. Several positives come out of this small class size. First, students have easier access to their professors and smaller classes. Furthermore,

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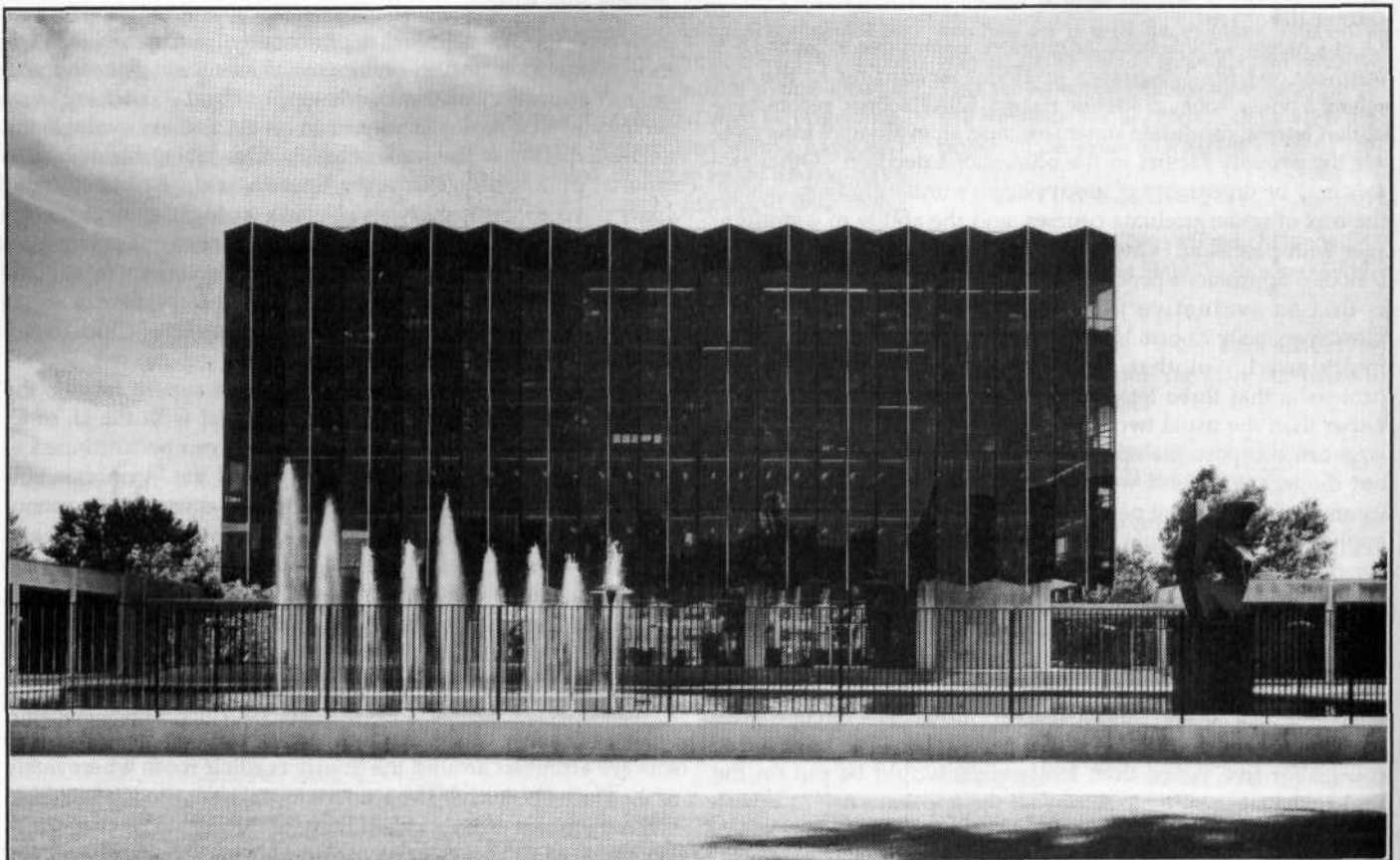
with fewer U. Of Chicago Law School graduates as compared to other schools, the graduates are a scarce commodity for employers. A potential negative aspect of the small class size may be the "fish bowl" feeling that U. of C. students can encounter at times. Kim Ziev complained, "Everyone knows what everybody else is up to. Gossip is insane" Del Kolde bemoaned the "incestuous" feeling caused by the small class size at times.

However, generally, the students find the small class size to be an advantage.

The University of Chicago Law School has a variety of special degree programs available. Both the JD and the MBA can be obtained in four years through a joint program with the Graduate School of Business. Also, the JD and an A.M. or Ph.D. in history or economics can be obtained through a joint program with the department of history and economics respectively. A JD and an A.M. in International Relations can be obtained by taking courses that jointly fill both requirements.

Other programs allow for research opportunities in various academic fields and topics of law. The University of Chicago Law Review, The University of Chicago Legal Forum, The University of Chicago Law School Roundtable, The Supreme Court Review, The Journal of Law & Economics, The Journal of Legal Studies, and Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research are the seven journals of the Law School. Several interdisciplinary fields of study such as Law and Economics, Law and Government, and Legal History are very highly respected. In addition, the Center

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*Courtesy of the University of Chicago Law School*

School.

Rated in 1990 and 1991 as one of the top five "up and coming" law schools in the nation by "U.S. News and World Report," Tulane has been ranked in the top quartile of schools in the past three years with a reputation of 27th among academics in 1994 and 31st among judges and attorneys. The cover story of the 1993 U.S. News article on law schools featured Tulane's community service program. In the summer of 1992, construction began for the new 160,000 square foot Law School building. Students and faculty alike are looking forward to moving into the brand new building December seventeenth.

With the outstanding faculty, diverse student body, enthusiastic Dean John Kramer, and an incredible new building to contain all the excitement, Tulane's reputation will only continue to soar. ■

## Chicago

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for Studies in Criminal Justice, Center for Study in Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, and the Center for Study of Central Banks are a few of the research institutions established at the University of Chicago to study how law affects both American society and the world. The Public Service Program provides incentives of summer stipends and loan deferrals to students who assist with pro bono work and other services for the public good. Myriads of outside activities are available.

While the University of Chicago Law School is an intense place to learn, University of Chicago Law students also like to enjoy themselves. "Bar Review" is a weekly Thursday outing to a different Chicago area pub. "Wine Mess" occurs Fridays, when law students drink wine and socialize on the lawns. From there, students break off to eat dinner and plan things to do for the rest of the night. Also, the various student associations plan parties and other activities away from the books. The "loop" the center of the city of Chicago, is only a few minutes away by car or mass transit. In Chicago, students can spend an afternoon at the Art Institute, a day at Soldier Field watching the Bears play, or spend an evening with the world renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The won-

derful diversions are endless in the city.

The Hyde Park campus, however, can be an unsafe place if students are not careful. Second year student Ziev commented, "Safety is a problem (in Hyde Park). It is a good idea to have a car because you are very much at the whim

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of other people." Third year student Kolde agreed, saying, "(students) should be very careful at night. Many of my female friends have expressed concerns about safety." Yet, both students agree that common sense and planning ahead will lower the risk of being involved in a dangerous situation.

After passing the extremely selective admissions procedure and after three or more years of demanding study, the University of Chicago Law School graduates have many career paths which they can choose. In 1994, seven graduates accepted clerkships with Supreme Court Justices. In recent years, only Yale has ranked higher in per capita Supreme Court clerkship offers. Twenty-five percent of the 1994 graduating class accepted judicial clerkships and seventy-per-

cent of the class took positions with law firms. About one third of the graduates that went on to work for law firms were employed by firms based in Chicago, New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles. The remaining members of the class took positions in government, with corporations, with public interest organizations, or in areas outside of the law. Employment is readily available after graduating from the law school. As Del Kolde happily pointed out, "The vast majority of people that wanted to work for a law firm, did. Many of my friends are deciding which offer to take. Not if they will get an offer."

A University of Chicago Law School education is best described as challenging and thought provoking. Students that are highly motivated, eager to learn all the various dimensions of the law, and can tolerate the sub-arctic Chicago winters should be content there. The University of Chicago Law School training prepares students to research, analyze, and think clearly about the law. Both the legal and the outside communities realize the contributions that University of Chicago Law school graduates will make. For the insight and instruction received at the U. of C. Law School may quite possibly form the foundation for the finest legal education in the country. ■

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**Congress is so strange. A man gets up to speak and says nothing. Nobody listens- and then everybody disagrees. -Boris Marshalov**