
University of Chicago Law School

by Zoe Leibowitz, CC'00

Founded in 1902, the University of Chicago Law School seeks to embody a broader outlook than most other leading American law schools. The institution stresses the relationship between law and other social sciences, while maintaining a rigorous professional emphasis. To this end, the faculty includes members from disciplines including economics, history, philosophy, and political science. Therefore, the focus of the academic curriculum is not on law as an isolated field; rather, Chicago emphasizes law within a social and human context.

Chicago boasts an excellent ratio of faculty to students. There are over 45 faculty members dedicated to the approximately 560 students contending for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree. Faculty offices are centrally located in a way that fosters close faculty-student relationships. Chicago places a high value on the ease of informal exchange with faculty as an integral part of the educational process. The program leading to the J.D. degree generally lasts three years and is divided into nine quarters. Chicago accepts approximately 25 percent of applicants, and a given class has about 180 members. The small student body, along with the deep faculty-student relationships, contributes to the strong sense of community that pervades Chicago.

Regardless of the small class size, Chicago maintains quite a diverse student body. The students that make up the current first-year class hail from 84 undergraduate schools, 37 states and two foreign countries. Typically, about 20 percent of University of Chicago Law students are minorities.

Many factors contribute to the likelihood of one's acceptance into this institution. They include one's interview and essay, as well as one's grades, LSAT score, and work experience. As Mr. Badger stresses, "the biggest misconception applicants have is that schools have a formula. We don't do that." The median undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) is 3.75, and the median LSAT score of Chicago students is 170. Chicago utilizes the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSD AS) report to equalize the standards of the many undergraduate institutions that provide applicants. This helps insure that one's UGPA is not the only factor of consequence in the admissions process. Once enrolled in the institution, one is subject to a numerical grading system ranging from about 63 to 85, in which most students achieve grades between 75 and 79.

An excellent academic institution, Chicago is currently tied with Columbia's own law school as fourth in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of the country's best law schools. In fact, it boasts an even higher BAR pass rate than the current number-one law school in the rankings, Yale. This contributes to Chicago's job-placement success rate. 98 percent of Chicago graduates are employed within nine months of graduation, and the employment opportunities at graduation, as well as during summers, encompass a broad range of fields. The high job-placement rate is also aided by a well-established office of career services and an active alumni program with strong connections in New York, Washington, DC, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Since its founding, the University of Chicago Law School has been a pioneer in the field of economics and law. It is a leading center for the study of criminal justice, and has a highly professional program of clinical education. The school's D'Angelo Law Library is one of the leading law libraries in the United States. It houses over 600,000 volumes, with an especially strong section devoted to foreign law. There is a strong faculty disposition towards research at Chicago. Therefore, many opportunities exist for employment as research assistants to faculty members, as well as for independent research and writing.

The academic program at Chicago is quite flexible, especially after the first year of study. The first year typically covers basic common law fields, and emphasizes training in legal reasoning and research, along with legal-writing exercises. Bigelow Teaching Fellows run small, intensive legal-writing sections. In the spring term of the first year, students choose one elective from a social science that provides a special perspective toward law. The remainder of years spent at the school are entirely elective, with the exclusion of one course in professional responsibility. Students are expected to do substantial research and writing, and develop a strong foundation in major subject areas. Many of the courses offered require students to draw on and apply acquired theoretical knowledge. In addition to courses and research opportunities, many students join journals and other programs.

The four faculty-edited journals at Chicago are *The Supreme Court Review*, *The Journal of Law and Economics*, *The Journal of Legal Studies* and *Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research*. Chicago also houses three student-edited journals. An open writing competition helps to determine journal membership.

An active moot court program at Chicago provides extensive training in writing briefs and practicing oral arguments before appellate benches.

Are Professionalism and Zealous Advocacy Compatible in the Legal Profession?

by Grant Dawson, CC '95

INTRODUCTION

Lawyers are not monolithic figures who stand aloof from the world like a Howard Roark;¹ rather, lawyers are desperately engaged in the world — sometimes for good and sometimes for ill, but always engaged. The first sentence of the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct (hereinafter Model Rules) states, "A lawyer is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice."² Being a lawyer necessitates contact with others; "no one would choose to have the whole world on condition of being alone; for humans are political creatures whose nature it is to live with others."³ Lawyers are defined by their interaction with others, and it is at the nexus of this interaction that the duties of professionalism and zealous advocacy commingle.

The Model Rules make an attempt to draw a distinction between professionalism and zealous advocacy and to propose a compromise between these two competing demands on the conscience of a lawyer.⁴ However, if the Model Rules' treatment were adequate, the topic of this essay would likely be unwarranted. The cliché holding that both professionalism and zealous advocacy are essential ingredients to a well-rounded and effective lawyer must yield to a deeper analysis of the compatibility of professionalism and zealous advocacy. The first section of this essay suggests a framework within which a more detailed inquiry into the concepts professionalism and zealous advocacy can proceed. The next section strives to define both these terms within this proposed framework. Finally, the third section compares these defined terms and attempts to determine the degree to which they may be mutually compatible.

I. DEONTOLOGICAL REASONING AND THE ADVERSARIAL SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

A useful way in which to approach the task of defining zealous advocacy and professionalism is to apply an "ends" and "means" analysis to the legal system's pursuit of conflict resolution. Putting aside lawyers who engage in illegal activity in order to "win" a case, lawyers involved in

Thirty second- and third-year students contribute to the *University of Chicago Law Review*, which is a leading general-purpose legal periodical. Another thirty students are members of the University of Chicago Legal Forum. This forum publishes annual papers from a symposium on topics of current legal interest, along with student commentary. Still another 30 students participate in the University of Chicago Law School Roundtable, which focuses on interdisciplinary issues. More than eighty students take part in the Law School's Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, which represents destitute clients.

Located in ethnically-diverse Hyde Park, the University is surrounded by a wealth of cultural attractions. Museums in the area showcase art collections drawn from all artistic genres. On campus, the "University of Chicago Presents" series features a range of musical performances, including chamber and early music. Blues, jazz, rock and folk music can be found in clubs and auditoriums. The University also boasts award-winning repertory productions that are sure to entertain any audience. Perhaps the best aspect of the institution's location is the fifteen-minute ride by car, train or bus from downtown Chicago. There, one can visit the downtown Loop, Chicago's center of commerce. Chicago offers some of the finest shopping in the nation, as well as many galleries, clubs, bistros, restaurants and parks. The Chicago Architectural Foundation runs guided tours of Chicago's downtown and neighboring areas.

The University of Chicago Law School is recognized as a premier learning, teaching and research institution. It provides a rigorous professional education without sacrificing serious scholarship. It combines technical legal training with a focus on the connections between law and other academic disciplines, and is set in the heart of a city full of attractions. This provides Chicago students and alumni with a unique perspective on life, as well as on the study of law.