

Dear students,

Please read this email carefully if you are considering attending law school or have interests in legal subject matters that relate to your particular career path. The University Honors College is prepared to work with you in a variety of ways to explore such interests. If you fall under either of these categories, please fill out the form located at <http://tinyurl.com/uhc-study-law> . This will enable me to update you about special opportunities including lectures and discussions that arise during the academic year.

Please notice that in addition to my role in the University Honors College I am Director of the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy, <https://www.thornburghforum.pitt.edu>. Whatever your path may be at Pitt, you will find your time as an undergraduate deeply enriched through engagement in the diverse and prestigious lecture series, independent research opportunities, and unmatched archival collection spanning Dick Thornburgh's service as Governor of Pennsylvania for two terms, Attorney General of the United States for two presidents, and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know more about all that the Dick Thornburgh Forum has to offer you.

Many students are interested in learning about preparing for law school and careers in the law. Some students ask about legal courses that are available to undergraduates, whether or not they are contemplating law school. Let me present some of the options available at Pitt in exploring your interests in the law. For those of you enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences I also urge you to speak with your Pre-Law Career Consultant, Michelle Offenberger, who can be reached at moffen@pitt.edu.

First and foremost, you should be aware that undergraduate courses in a number of legal subjects are available through the Legal Studies Program offered by the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) through the College of General Studies. These courses are taught by full-time and adjunct GSPIA faculty. The Legal Studies Program is provided to you both as a source of great courses in law and law-related studies and as an additional academic major available for your BA degree. Please review the following brochure: http://www.oafa.pitt.edu/pdf/infosheets/LEGAL_STUDIES.pdf

Second, the School of Law welcomes you to attend its law classes as an observer. This experience should afford you all that you need to know about the special character of law classes in serving their distinctive pedagogical objectives, especially the "Socratic" style of instruction typical of first year courses. If you would like to take up this option, the Law School's Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, Charmaine McCall, would be glad to help you. Indeed, Dean McCall would like to help you address any matters that weigh in your contemplation of a legal education and career. She can be reached at cmccall@pitt.edu.

Third, the Law School is ready with information to help you decide whether a legal career might be right for you and to prepare for law school should you decide on that path. Your most

effective initial step would be attending one of the group presentations that the Law School holds during the year for prospective law students. Please go to www.law.pitt.edu/admissions/visit for a list of prospective student programs. Once again, Dean McCall is your contact in the Law School for questions about these presentations and other advising issues, and she would welcome your questions. If the dates listed do not work for your schedule, please contact Dean McCall so that she can schedule an individual appointment for you.

Finally, there is the possibility of enrolling in Law School classes. This option is very limited. In each case, there must be a record of very high academic performance and an overriding rationale in order for this cross-enrollment to make sense for your education and be approved. THIS IS NOT AN OPTION THAT WILL ENHANCE YOUR CHANCE OF ADMISSION TO A LAW SCHOOL.

As an example of seeking a “rationale” for a student’s enrollment, consider a Law School seminar in medical law in which one spot is available for an undergraduate student. We would then work through academic advisors to locate an outstanding student whose envisioned career path is associated with medical issues.

Please contact me if you have any questions about these options. Also, I would like to receive feedback from you about your experience with them.

Remember to fill out the form located at <http://tinyurl.com/uhc-study-law> to alert me to your interest.

With best regards,

Ed McCord

Edward L. McCord, Ph.D., J.D.
Director of Special Programs
Director, Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy
University Honors College
University of Pittsburgh
412-624-6886