UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

A Note from the Office of Dean Leonard M. Baynes

The University of Houston Law Center is a world-class law school in a world-class city. This is a belief that I have held steadfast since I became the Law Center's dean in 2014, and our efforts have not gone unnoticed with a No. 38 ranking in International Law by U.S. News & World Report. We intend to continue building on this work and have a firm commitment to position the Law Center as a leader in legal education on a global scale.

In today's interconnected world, having a presence in international law is imperative. Our connections allow students to gain a broader perspective on legal systems, enhancing their ability to practice law in a global context. By partnering with institutions worldwide, we can provide students with opportunities that offer a more diverse and comprehensive curriculum. This includes opportunities for students to study abroad, participate in international moot court competitions, and engage with leading legal scholars from around the globe.

International connections also open doors for our graduates, providing them with access to internships, clerkships, and job opportunities in various countries. This network is invaluable for those looking to practice law on an international stage. Our faculty and students also benefit from collaborative projects with international peers. This fosters innovation and contributes to the development of legal scholarship that addresses global challenges.

Specialized Initiatives & Programs

- **The Center for U.S. and Mexican Law**, established in 2012, is the first independent research center in the United States dedicated to the study of Mexican law and legal aspects of relations between Mexico and the U.S.
- **The Global Law and Policy for the Americas** (GLPA) initiative established in 2020, which focuses on the role of the Americas in shaping global law and policy and on the ways that domestic law and policy in the different regions of the Americas connect with the global.
- **The International Law and Comparative Legal Studies** program, which interacts with a variety of international legal and education communities. The international and comparative law curriculum spans various areas of the law that touch on global issues including international economic law, trade, human rights, international criminal law, foreign relations law, dispute resolution, health law, energy and environment, immigration law, intellectual property law, and tax law.
- **Global and Graduate Programs** (G&GP) encourages its participants to make a positive impact on the world. It offers dozens of classes, seminars, continuing legal education sessions, and collaborations covering a wide range of international and global fields. The program seeks to offer well-rounded LL.M. programs and training opportunities to foreign lawyers, among other goals.
- **LL.M. in International Law** allows concentration in public or private aspects of international law, and it provides an opportunity for lawyers to structure their LL.M. curriculum to meet individual interests and needs.
- **Learning Abroad Opportunities** are available for students after they earn 30 semester credits.
- **Houston Journal of International Law** is a scholarly law journal edited, managed, and published by students. The journal publishes articles authored by professionals and students discussing a broad range of topics in public and private international law. In a recent ranking of law journals based on citations, it ranked in the top 25 percent of all law journals published worldwide.

Partnerships & Affiliations

Outside of our city and campus, the Law Center has worked diligently to establish affiliations with multiple academic institutions around the world.

- In North America, the Law Center has a long-running partnership with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law. Calgary is one of Houston's sister cities based on the strong presence of the oil and gas industry.
- In Mexico, we have ties to Universidad Anáhuac and Universidad de LaSalle, Mexico, as well as National Hydrocarbons Commission (CNH).
- In Europe, we have a partnership with the University of Bologna Department for Political and Social Sciences
- In the Middle East, we have a partnership with Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University in Saudi Arabia.

Many current legal issues of importance take place on the global stage. Our international connections enable us to contribute meaningfully to these critical areas, and our location provides us with a unique perspective that we can share with the world. I look forward to the Law Center expanding its international alliances in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

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