



**LLM in Comparative Law**  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW







## THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of San Diego School of Law is one of only 84 law schools in the country to have a chapter of the Order of the Coif, the most distinguished rank of American law schools. We are accredited by the American Bar Association and are a member of the Association of American Law Schools. As a long-standing leader in graduate legal education, USD School of Law offers our students personal attention from the time they apply until graduation.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

For almost 40 years, the University of San Diego has enjoyed a distinguished history of introducing the U.S. legal system to students who have earned law degrees outside of the United States. International law school graduates have the opportunity to design a program that specifically suits their academic interests and professional goals within the LLM in Comparative Law.

LLM in Comparative Law candidates can benefit substantially from the opportunity to study side-by-side with JD and LLM students from across the United States and around the world. Being immersed in our contemporary and dynamic JD curriculum prepares LLM in Comparative Law candidates to deal effectively with U.S. attorneys on questions of common interest, and aids lawyers serving international governments and international organizations in understanding U.S. legal issues.

The program is designed not only to fulfill degree requirements, but also the attorney's professional goals. We offer career counseling and many other resources, ranging from networking events to information about job opportunities. Students are also invited to participate in job fairs designed specifically for LLM candidates. Student visa regulations permit LLM candidates to gain practical experience with Optional Practical Training, which allows for placement with a U.S. law firm or agency for up to 12 months after finishing the degree.



## CURRICULUM

The LLM in Comparative Law degree requires successful completion of 25 credits of coursework, including four credits of required courses. Candidates must complete the following courses as part of their degree program: *Introduction to U.S. Law* (2 credits) and *Legal Writing and Research* (2 credits). Candidates must also complete a written work requirement in the amount of two credits to obtain the degree. LLM students work closely with an academic advisor to select their remaining credits from a variety of elective courses offered in all areas of the law. The wide selection of elective courses can be viewed on our website at [law.sandiego.edu/llmccourses](http://law.sandiego.edu/llmccourses).

Prior to the beginning of the semester, all entering students are encouraged to participate in an Introduction to U.S. Legal Education program which consists of various workshops and events. This allows our new students to seamlessly integrate into the law school community and make the most of their studies at USD School of Law.

Not every course is offered each academic year. Course availability, descriptions, content, and requirements are subject to change.

### Tindaro Valerio Calanni Fraccono, Italy, 2016

*Immigration Attorney, Spohnick Law Firm, San Diego*



As a foreigner interested in becoming an immigration lawyer, USD's LLM in Comparative Law program was an obvious choice for me. Thanks to the interactive classes and Immigration Clinic, I was able to pursue my interests while exploring the American legal system. In particular, participating in the Immigration Clinic allowed me to gain hands-on experience while learning the intricacies of this complex field. On the other hand, writing courses sharpened my legal writing skills to the point of allowing me to pass the dreaded California Bar Exam and practice law in the United States. Finally, USD's numerous networking opportunities ultimately led me to accept a position

as an immigration attorney in San Diego and realize my professional dream.

## ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS

LLM in Comparative Law degree candidates have the option of pursuing a concentration in one of six key practice areas. These concentrations highlight curricular strengths, offering a rich selection of courses taught by leading scholars and expert practitioners. Enrolled students may consult the concentration curriculum as an informal guide for shaping their education or may choose to meet the specific requirements for earning a Certificate of Concentration and corresponding transcript notation. For detailed information about concentrations, go to [law.sandiego.edu/llmc](http://law.sandiego.edu/llmc).

Academic concentrations are available in:

- Business and Corporate Law
- Criminal Law
- Environmental and Energy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- Taxation

### Marcus Suether, Germany, 2016

*Attorney-at-Law, Lorenz Seidler Gossel, Munich*



The University of San Diego campus is voted one of the most beautiful in the U.S. every year. I chose the LLM program because it allowed me to focus on my interests (Intellectual Property Law & Unfair Competition). The professors were all very welcoming and provided useful course information. They help you achieve your goals by pushing you from the get-go. The mostly small classes allow a real discussion, rather than a mere lecture. Furthermore, the staff helps out with every inquiry you might have. The LLM program helped with my career goals because not only did I improve my English, but I also learned a lot about Intellectual Property Law, which I deal with on a daily basis. Moreover, the program offered great opportunities to

network on both a personal and professional level. I met a lot of interesting people and made friends with students from all over the world. I am thankful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



## ADMISSION

Admission to the LLM in Comparative Law program is competitive and based primarily upon previous excellence in law studies and/or significant professional experience. Admission criteria include the following:

- Applicants must possess the equivalent of a U.S. law degree from an accredited institution outside the United States
- Applicants must have graduated in the upper half of their law school class or must otherwise establish qualifications indicating their ability to complete graduate law work successfully
- Applicants must establish competency in English through successful completion of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Candidates for the LLM in Comparative Law degree may complete the degree requirements in as little as one year as a full-time student, or may enroll on a part-time basis over a longer period, not exceeding three years. Enrollment status is subject to visa restrictions.

## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of San Diego School of Law is committed to providing financial assistance to eligible citizens and eligible non-citizens whose personal resources are insufficient to meet the cost of law school. Admission decisions and financial aid decisions are made independently.

Merit scholarships may be awarded to full-time LLM applicants who have demonstrated a high degree of excellence in their previous legal education or in the practice of law. These partial-tuition, non-renewable, merit-based scholarships are available to both domestic and international candidates.

International applicants may also wish to consider external sources of funding, such as Fulbright, Rotary, or private scholarship programs. For more information about financial aid, go to [law.sandiego.edu/financial\\_aid](http://law.sandiego.edu/financial_aid).



## FACULTY

USD's law professors are nationally recognized legal scholars and dedicated classroom instructors. Their backgrounds as practicing lawyers, policymakers, and ardent legal educators provide the foundation for a robust learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

Many USD faculty members have national and international reputations for excellence in numerous areas of law including business and corporate law, intellectual property, public international law, environmental and energy law, criminal law, children's rights, and family law.

Most of our professors have taught and regularly are invited to lecture around the world. Several of our faculty are members of the prestigious American Law Institute.

Our faculty welcome and value the contributions of our international law graduates and attorneys for their unique backgrounds and diverse perspectives in the classroom.

For information about USD's faculty experience and scholarly publications, go to [law.sandiego.edu/faculty](http://law.sandiego.edu/faculty).

### Juliana Mendes, Brazil, 2018

*Labor and Employment Attorney, Brazil*



USD offers a great educational experience for foreign attorneys. The School of Law created an LLM program that allowed me to choose coursework that fit my personal and professional needs, while providing great staff who helped me through the whole process to achieve my goals. I chose to focus on subjects related to my practice area in Brazil (Labor and Employment law), enabling me to sharpen my skills as an attorney while continuing to develop my chosen career. Learning from a perspective based on common law enhances your critical thinking and enables you to be a better attorney. Lectures with highly qualified professors, who always make themselves available to talk to students about their

specific needs, makes USD School of Law well known not only for having the most beautiful campus in the United States, but also for treating students in a special and unique way.



## Panjung Kim, South Korea, 2016

*Mando Corp., Senior Manager and In-House Counsel (IP), Seoul*

I chose USD's LLM program because it offers a concentration in Intellectual Property law. The LLM program enriched my understanding of the U.S. IP legal system and exceeded my expectations. Classes provided well-organized curriculum and utilized the Socratic Method, which requires students to answer probing questions to get to the heart of the subject matter. I found this method very useful for developing critical thinking skills. I also met incredible people in the IP field, which enlarged my professional and personal network. The faculty and staff were very helpful in guiding me as a foreign student, and were always ready to respond when I had questions or doubts. After completing the LLM, I passed the Illinois bar exam and found a job in a multinational company handling international legal work. I have to say that my academic achievement and new career were definitely thanks to my LLM program at USD. I highly recommend USD to international attorneys who want to experience the finest U.S. law school class. Finally, you can enjoy San Diego's pleasant natural environment and beautiful campus during your LLM days.



## About the University of San Diego

Located on 180 acres overlooking the city of San Diego, Mission Bay, and the Pacific Ocean, the University of San Diego campus features Spanish Renaissance-inspired buildings and beautiful landscapes. In addition to the School of Law, the University of San Diego has highly regarded schools of business, leadership and education sciences, nursing and health sciences, and peace studies.

**Academic Excellence** — The university pursues academic excellence in its teaching, learning and research to serve the local, national and international communities.

**Knowledge** — The university advances intellectual development; promotes democratic and global citizenship; cultivates an appreciation for beauty, goodness and truth; and provides opportunities for the physical, spiritual, emotional, social and cultural development of students.

**Community** — The university is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative community accentuated by a spirit of freedom and charity, and marked by protection of the rights and dignity of the individual.

**Ethical Conduct** — The university provides a values based education that informs the development of ethical judgment and behavior.

**Compassionate Service** — The university embraces the Catholic moral and social tradition by its commitment to serve with compassion, to foster peace and to work for justice.

For more information, please contact:

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