

# Diversity

If you are considering legal study, we encourage you to take a serious look at the University of Wisconsin Law School. We have graduated over 1,500 lawyers of color. More than twenty percent of our students are students of color. We have a top-notch faculty, an award-winning facility, and an impressive curriculum. And like other first-tier law schools, we offer superb academic and career opportunities. **But we are different from other schools in ways that may be significant for you. Let us tell you how.**



“ I chose Wisconsin because it’s a great public university in the Midwest with the friendliest staff and faculty, as well as a reputation for welcoming diverse students. Plus, UW Law offers a wide range of clinical opportunities, including an immigration clinic, an area of law that I care deeply about and that many other law schools do not offer. Student Loredana Valtierra ”



NICK WILKES (6)



### **For us, diversity is not new.**

Diversity and equal access to legal education have a long tradition at UW Law School. Our first African-American student was admitted in 1875; our first woman graduated in 1885. Our Legal Education Opportunities (LEO) Program has long been a national model for recruiting students from historically underrepresented communities and supporting them throughout their three years in law school.

For more than forty years, the Law School, through its Hastie Fellowship Program, has also been a leader in guiding and increasing opportunities for lawyers of color to become law professors. Graduates of the program have gone on to prominence as professors at law schools around the country, including our own.

We are proud of our tradition of diversity, but we're not resting on our laurels. We know there is much more to

be done, and we're looking to the future by recruiting highly qualified candidates like you.

### **Our commitment to students of color can be seen in our numbers.**

UW Law School has made a significant contribution toward diversifying the legal profession nationally. The best evidence of our commitment to diversity comes from our hundreds of graduates of color and the large number of prominent LEO alumni who are active in their service to the Law School and our students. Students of color make up more than twenty percent of our student body and come from across the country representing dozens of states.

Additionally, we have made a significant financial commitment to diversity. We assist students who show financial need, and we offer scholarships to attract students who bring academic and other strengths to the Law School. Last year, students of color received more than \$1.5 million in need-based and merit-based scholarships and tuition waivers. The LEO Enrichment Fund, an annual fundraising campaign among our alumni of color and other supporters, provides a substantial and continuing source of financial support for students of color. Our alumni and friends are dedicated to supporting diversity at UW Law, and this fund received over 100 donations last year alone.

### **Our faculty and administration provide a supportive community for our students of color.**

Students from underrepresented groups have a supportive community at UW Law School. Specific minority student organizations actively provide personal, academic, and career support for their members. In addition, the LEO Program contributes to the spirit of collegiality that benefits the law school community as a whole.

UW Law School faculty and administration are actively involved with our students of color and dedicated to their success. Most importantly, our faculty is racially diverse. Many of our professors understand what it's like to be a law



NICK WILKES



“ Being part of a LEO organization has provided me with a support system during the transition to law school. Through LEO I have had great experiences and made even better friends. Student Casaundra Lucille ”

student of color, and they, along with their colleagues, are there with support and encouragement.

### **Our LEO Program unites the interests of our students of color.**

The LEO Program, a student-run program, is designed to bring UW Law School’s students of color together as a single community. LEO provides a strong academic and social support network, promotes diversity, and helps recruit students from groups that have been historically disadvantaged.

LEO serves as a communication mechanism, influences policy decisions important to students of color, and sponsors an orientation for first-year students.

Each spring, LEO organizes an impressive banquet bringing together

LEO alumni and celebrating the successes of our students of color. The LEO Banquet is a joyous highlight of the law school year.

In addition to the LEO Program, there are five specific constituent law student associations representing Asian Pacific-American and South Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Middle Eastern law students. These organizations provide academic, social, and cultural support for their own members and assist the Law School in recruiting and retaining students.

### **Maintaining our leadership on matters of diversity is part of our vision for the future.**

We are serious about our commitment to diversity and have made it an important

part of who we are and what we want to be. We will continue to ensure that it is a key component of our future.

We are committed to continuing our tradition of recruiting talented students of color, helping them make law school a reality through financial aid and scholarships, and providing academic support to ensure their success. We have a national reputation for promoting diversity, and we are committed to maintaining it.

Learn more about the LEO program at [law.wisc.edu/leo](http://law.wisc.edu/leo).