

SOUTHWESTERN LAW

for students, alumni and friends of
Southwestern Law School

CAN A TWO-YEAR J.D. PROGRAM WORK?

Southwestern's two-year SCALE® Program has a 30-year record of success that proves it can

The path to a Juris Doctor degree has traditionally involved three years of full-time study or the equivalent curriculum completed in four years of part-time study. As legal educators around the country are reevaluating and redesigning law school curricula, some have pondered, "Is it possible to obtain all the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful lawyer in just two years?"

According to graduates of Southwestern Law School's two-year SCALE® program – that has been in existence for more than 30 years – the answer is a resounding "Yes." And this summer, the members of the 34th SCALE class commenced their studies at the Southwestern campus in Los Angeles.

Originally established as a cutting-edge J.D. program in 1974 with the aid of a major grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, SCALE (Southwestern's Conceptual Approach to

SCALE incorporates legal theory and practical skills training in a structured yet flexible 2-year curriculum.

Legal Education) has produced more than 1,000 alumni who completed their legal education in two years and have been highly successful in the full spectrum of law and business – from elected office to private practice, from the bench to entertainment. Among them are more than a dozen judicial officers; partners in major firms around the country such as Baker & McKenzie, Loeb & Loeb and Musick, Peeler & Garrett; executives at 20th Century Fox, Yahoo and the Walt Disney Co.; federal, state and local prosecutors and public defenders; and CEOs and general counsels of major investment, biotechnology and multimedia companies. A former Treasurer of California, and even a recent winner of "The Apprentice" are SCALE alumni.

"The small class sizes and personalized learning in SCALE enabled me to obtain caseload experience from participating in mock trials to preparing briefs and memos to developing compelling evidentiary support," says former "Apprentice" Stefanie Schaeffer '99, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Trump International Hotel and Tower, Las Vegas. "That training has really helped me in the courtroom and in the boardroom."



SCALE typically enrolls a class of 40 to 50 students and is one of Southwestern's four J.D. programs that also include traditional three-year full-time day and four-year part-time evening programs, as well as a four-year part-time day program geared to students with child or elder care responsibilities. The total enrollment of all four programs is about



Professor Harriet Rolnick (center) discusses a case with SCALE students.

975 students. A free-standing nonprofit, nonsectarian law school, Southwestern was founded in 1911 and is fully approved by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

In addition to its accelerated pace, SCALE has been innovative from its inception in that the curriculum is approached from a different perspective than traditional J.D. programs, presenting the law as an integrated whole rather than as a series of discrete courses. Beyond the unusual structure and design of the curriculum, SCALE features small classes and emphasizes practical skills training and real-world experience.

"What makes SCALE unique is that students learn how to use fundamental legal principles to solve hypothetical problems," says Dean Bryant Garth. "Students are empowered to handle a wide variety of simulated cases through creative and critical thinking and then go out

into their externships and apply those skills in a real-world setting. As a result, after just two years, our SCALE graduates are truly able to hit the ground running.”

Barry Groveman '77, now a partner in the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett, has found his SCALE education beneficial in private practice and as he blazed trails in environmental protection legislation and



enforcement as a Los Angeles city and county prosecutor. He claims that SCALE “made me a creative lawyer. Because of the way I was taught, I am able to find things that others may not readily see. My SCALE education ingrained that in me every hour of every day.”

Groveman says that although “it’s normal to be loyal to your school, my enthusiasm goes to the next level. I’m a real cheerleader for Southwestern because as a student, I saw a way of teaching that truly made a difference in the way I practice law.” And he points out that the SCALE program also gave him the opportunity to be a legal intern for a U.S. Attorney in Washington D.C. and the Hon. Shirley Hufstедler on the U.S. Court of Appeals, which “made an immeasurable contribution to my growth as a lawyer.”

According to Professor Harriet M. Rolnick who directs the program, SCALE is ideal for intellectually mature individuals who are “self-starters” and thrive under intensive work and study. Although prior work experience is not a requirement, the program attracts many second-career students seeking to combine their previous professional and educational experience with a law degree. “In this new entering class for example, we have students with extraordinary backgrounds,” she said, “including a former research scientist with the Mayo Clinic, a registered patent agent for an international bionic technology company, a refugee coordinator for the U.N., a newspaper reporter and a political campaign manager, just to name a few.”

A prime example of a “self-starter,” Jonathan Rosenthal '80, used what he learned in SCALE when he founded NetAir International, a publicly held aviation and aerospace firm, at the age of 27. Having sold his stock for more than 100 times his investment, Rosenthal next turned to investing in and advising distressed companies. For more than 20 years, he has served as the managing partner of Saybrook Capital, a \$1.8 billion investment manager that has had leading roles in dozens of high profile restructurings, including some of the largest bankruptcy workouts in history such as Pacific Gas & Electric, United Airlines and K-mart. As a law student, Rosenthal “really thought the structure of the SCALE program was great, and the professors were enormously passionate. Without SCALE, I would not be doing what I am doing today.”



For Barbara Mulvaney '80, it was the rigorous pace of Southwestern’s SCALE program that attracted her to the law school in the first place. She praised “the mix of conceptual learning and skills-oriented instruction” she received in SCALE. And she singled out Evidence as particularly crucial to her career – a career that recently

took the New Mexico attorney to The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal when she was assigned to prosecute Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the accused mastermind of the Rwandan genocide, and became a key player in what is considered the most ambitious war crimes tribunal ever convened.

In SCALE, from the outset, students develop essential lawyering skills such as oral and written communication, fact gathering, case planning, interviewing, counseling, negotiating, litigating and interpersonal relations. Unlike traditional law courses that depend primarily on a single final exam, SCALE involves frequent deadlines, extensive writing assignments, and a demanding workload that help prepare students for the rigors of law practice. Each applicant is carefully evaluated and individually interviewed to determine if they can be successful in the fast-paced program.

A new SCALE summer session that begins with this year’s entering class enables SCALE students to take part in additional externships or summer abroad programs, focus on a particular area of law, or work as an associate in a law firm or agency. Professor Rolnick points out that through these types of enhancements, “SCALE creates the best of both worlds by incorporating legal theory and practical skills training in a structured – yet flexible – curriculum.” ♦♦

SCALE CURRICULUM

SCALE I

Period I

LAWS
Constitutional Perspectives
Legal Ethics
Legal History
Legal Reasoning
Evidence I

Period II

Non-Contractual Intent, Consent
and Capacity
Entity Concepts
Civil Practice
Criminal Procedure
Contractual Intent
Criminal Intent
Evidence II
Possession and Ownership
Court Observation

Period III

Appellate Advocacy
Copyright
Risk/Mistake (Contract)
Risk/Mistake (Non-Contract)
Jurisdiction
Fiduciary Duty

Summer Session (options)

Summer Externship
Summer Abroad Program
(+ paper)
Summer Electives

SCALE II

Period IV

Administrative Law
Property Transactions
Survey of International and
Comparative Intellectual Property
Employment Law
Torts Transactions
Wills and Trusts

Period V

Crimes Transactions
Remedies
Evidence/Trial Advocacy
Constitutional Law Transactions
Federal Income Taxation
Business Transactions
Community Property Transactions
UCC Transactions

Period VI

Eight-week Externship