

## A History of Teaching and Learning at Albany Law School

<b>1700 to 1800s</b>	<b>Apprentice system: aspiring lawyers paid a fee to apprentice in a law office. System had varying results.</b>
<b>1851</b>	School has three professors, all of them practicing lawyers.  Albany Law founders argue for formal legal instruction.  Classes held Monday to Friday. Written test at the end of each term.  Sample course offerings included real estate, wills, personal rights, domestic relations, evidence, property, contract law, New York code.
<b>1861</b>	Students observed court proceedings and legislative sessions.

<b>1870s</b>	<b>Case system introduced. Legal education begins to look a lot like current system.</b>  Faculty, all practicing lawyers, expands by several members.
<b>1880</b>	Two-year program instituted.
<b>1903</b>	Lecture series on legal ethics inaugurated. Only 20 of the 70 U.S. law schools taught professional ethics.
<b>1905</b>	A new focus on state law.  Still only “adjunct” professors teaching at the school.
<b>1910 to 1920</b>	National trend swings back from theoretical to Albany Law’s nuts-and-bolts approach.

<b>1911</b>	Court of Appeals requires four years of legal study, three years for college graduates.
<b>1924</b>	Emphasis on practical training and professionalism continued, with a specialization on N.Y. state law.
<b>1926</b>	Debate team competes against other schools.
<b>1943</b>	Internships begin with the Albany Legal Aid Society.
<b>1947</b>	GI Bill swells student body; hire full-time non-practicing teachers.
<b>1947 to 1948</b>	New courses appear like administrative law, labor law, legal draftsmanship.
<b>1950s</b>	Students required to participate in moot court.
<b>1952</b>	Problem method adopted by several professors, emphasizing skill over content.
<b>1953</b>	Dean Clement writes an article arguing against clinical education, warning that the school would edge too close to vocational training.
<b>1958</b>	35% bar passage rate, due to large student body of war veterans ill-prepared.
<b>1961</b>	Student body shrinks, 85% pass the bar, second only to New York University.  Professional ethics shifts from 25 hours to 12 for first-year students.

<b>1971</b>	<b>Renewed focus on practical skills, bar passage, and a move to ground the theoretical.</b>  Attica riots plant seed for law school clinics at Albany.
<b>1972</b>	After Kent State event, 100 law students ride in patrol cars to observe police work firsthand, strengthening move to establish clinical program.
<b>1975</b>	Clinic established.
<b>1981</b>	Clinical education expanded to include the Litigation Clinic.
<b>1983</b>	Civil Rights & Disabilities Law Clinic begins.
<b>1986</b>	Emphasis on faculty scholarship: grants, student assistants, sabbaticals offered to faculty.
<b>1989</b>	Academic success program established.
<b>1992</b>	The HIV/AIDS Law Project begins.
<b>1993</b>	Post Conviction Remedies Project begins.
<b>1994</b>	Family Violence Litigation Clinic begins.  Bar passage reaches 95%.
<b>1996</b>	Joint degree program begins with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, connecting law, science, technology.  Skills Enhancement Series created. Areas are drafting, fact investigation, problem-solving/ADR, and persuasion.

<b>1997</b>	Creation of concentrations.
<b>1998</b>	Semester in Government for state and federal internships.  Two new joint degrees: JD/Masters in Social Work and JD/Masters in Regional Planning.
<b>2000</b>	Semester in Practice created for second-year and third-year students to experience semester-long placement in judicial and public interest offices.
<b>2001</b>	Six new LLM programs added.
<b>2003</b>	Low Income Taxpayer Clinic begins.
<b>2004</b>	Health Law Clinic begins.  Two joint degrees added: JD/ Masters in Public Policy and JD/ Masters in Bioethics.
<b>2005</b>	One course on substantial skills required.  Excellence in Teaching Award established.
<b>2006</b>	Creation of Masters in Legal Studies with a Concentration in Technology Transfer.
<b>2008</b>	Curriculum revisions in response to Carnegie Report, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securities Arbitration Clinic begins.</li> <li>• First year curriculum revised; international administrative/regulatory law required.</li> <li>• One-credit one-week winter intersession courses blend doctrinal and skills instruction.</li> </ul>
<b>2009</b>	CELT established.