Pacific McGeorge School of Law Launches Master of Law for Professionals

Sacramento, Calif. — University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law will launch a distinctive Master of Science in Law Program in its 2013-14 academic year.

The Master of Science in Law (M.S.L.) will be a 26–unit program that can be completed full or part-time in one-to-two years, that builds upon Pacific McGeorge’s strength in part-time legal education and in the fields of trial advocacy, health law, water resources law, and government law and public policy. The M.S.L. program will be the first in a series of graduate programs arriving on the University of the Pacific's Sacramento campus, the next of which is the business school in fall 2014.

The accelerated Pacific McGeorge M.S.L. program is designed for professionals who seek the benefits of advanced training in legal reasoning and analysis but do not need a J.D. degree. Many highly regulated industries, state and federal agencies, and other professional fields are impacted by law and a variety of professionals deal with law-related issues every day. Pacific McGeorge faculty will work with each student to develop a customized curriculum with a rigorous legal grounding that is infused with real-world examples, skills-based learning, and experiential opportunities.

“Our M.S.L. program reflects the wave of the future in legal education,” said Francis J. Mootz III, Dean of Pacific McGeorge. “The law industry is changing and many professionals need a broad legal background, and our new accelerated program will provide that foundation.”

Professor J. Clark Kelso, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, is the Director of the M.S.L. program. Professor Kelso has distinguished himself over the past three decades as California government’s “Mr. Fix-It,” most recently as the court-appointed Receiver in charge of California’s $1.6 billion prison medical system. Professor Kelso is a recognized expert in transformational organizational change and in developing high-energy, high-performance executive teams. Pacific
McGeorge M.S.L. students will work with Director Clark Kelso to design customized curriculum and co-curricular activities.

“Our M.S.L. curriculum will help executives do their jobs better, and it will pave the way to the executive suite for supervisors and managers. The skills of legal analysis and negotiation are invaluable to today’s organizational leaders,” said Professor Kelso.

The M.S.L. curriculum can be customized around specific concentrations, such as Health Law, Human Resources and Conflict Management, Criminal Justice, Government and Public Policy, U.S. Law for Foreign Professionals, and Water and Environmental Sciences.

Admission to the M.S.L. program is open to individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree at an accredited institution. Strong preference is given to individuals who have significant work experience. More information is at http://go.mcgeorge.edu/MSL.

Pacific McGeorge School of Law is the only ABA approved law school campus located in Sacramento. The school was founded in 1924 and joined University of the Pacific in 1966. Pacific McGeorge has 55 full-time and 69 part-time faculty who have attained national and international renown in their fields. It has more than 13,000 alumni practicing in all 50 states and 58 countries. Pacific McGeorge is nationally recognized for its trial advocacy, international law and legal writing programs.

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