

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

55 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10003

Phone: 212.790.0274; Fax: 212.790.0482

E-mail: lawinfo@yu.edu; Website: www.cardozo.yu.edu/

■ Introduction

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law offers students a stimulating and challenging educational experience. Its curriculum combines the scholarly explanation of the philosophical and theoretical elements of the law with the professional and ethical emphasis necessary for successful practice. Courses provide depth and breadth in many specialized areas of legal study, including intellectual property law, criminal law, corporate law, and alternative dispute resolution, as well as areas like law and literature, jurisprudence, and legal theory. Extensive clinical and externship opportunities allow students to gain practical lawyering experience while performing important community service. A Cardozo education emphasizes ethics and the pursuit of intellectual excellence.

■ Faculty

Professors at Cardozo are vibrant, intellectually curious, accessible to students, and committed to the twin goals of teaching and scholarship. They are an interdisciplinary faculty, curious and serious about how the law relates to other expressions of the human spirit such as philosophy, literature, economics, politics, and history. More than half hold advanced degrees in addition to a law degree; about a dozen hold PhDs as well. The faculty is prolific, writing on both visionary and practical subjects; many of their publications are required reading in law schools across the nation.

■ A Campus in New York City

Cardozo is located in an elegant residential neighborhood in the heart of Greenwich Village. It is easily accessible to all points in New York City, including the courts, Wall Street, Midtown, and the art and music centers on the East and West Sides of Manhattan. The law school recently completed a \$50 million top-to-bottom renovation and expansion, including a new moot courtroom, additional library space, a center for student life, a new lobby, student offices, faculty offices, and state-of-the-art classrooms and seminar rooms.

The Cardozo residence hall is located on a residential, tree-lined street just one block south of the main building. Studio, one-bedroom apartments, and two-bedroom apartments—all of which are air-conditioned, fully furnished, and equipped with kitchens—are available for incoming students.

■ Career Services

Cardozo students benefit from a large network of working alumni and a career services office staffed by six professional counselors, all of whom have JD degrees. Students are offered individual assistance with interviewing techniques, résumé writing, and job-search strategies, as well as workshops and opportunities for learning about a variety of legal careers from attorneys in the field.

Nearly 97 percent of those reporting from the class of 2007 were employed within several months of graduation. Approximately 60 percent of these graduates went into private practice at a median starting salary of \$150,000. More than a quarter of the class entered the public sector in a broad range

of positions including judges' chambers, governmental agencies, and public interest organizations.

■ Students/Student Activities

The student body at Cardozo is a diverse and impressive group. A typical entering class includes graduates from more than 130 colleges, and from over 35 states and several foreign countries. Roughly 23 percent of the class are members of minority groups and 45 percent have been out of college between 1 and 4 years. Roughly 9 percent hold at least one graduate degree.

More than half of the second- and third-year students participate on one of six student-edited journals or in the Moot Court Honor Society. Scholarly journals include the *Cardozo Law Review*, *Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal*, *Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law*, *Cardozo Journal of Law and Gender*, *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *Cardozo Public Law, Policy, and Ethics Journal*.

■ Clinical Opportunities/Special Programs

Cardozo has a commitment to a particular style of education that seeks to blend theory and practice; to expose students to the abstractions, intellectual and ethical conundrums, and overarching theories of the American legal system, and to the concrete skills and values they need to be first-rate attorneys. A wealth of clinical programs combine professional work experience with academic supervision, yielding students uniquely qualified to apply what they have studied. Nearly 400 students each year take advantage of one of these opportunities to represent real clients, under the supervision of expert attorneys, gaining invaluable skills while performing important community service representing the poor, the elderly, and the indigent.

In the Innocence Project, students represent prisoners whose innocence may be proved through DNA testing; in the Prosecutor Practicum, students work in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office; the Bet Tzedek Legal Services Clinic provides legal assistance to the elderly and disabled; the Mediation Clinic provides training and certification in alternative dispute resolution; the Human Rights and Genocide Clinic provides students with the opportunity to design and implement creative solutions to improve the lives of victims of human rights abuses throughout the world; Cardozo's simulation-based Intensive Trial Advocacy Program sharpens students' trial skills; in the Holocaust Claims Restitution Practicum students pursue claims made by Holocaust survivors and their heirs; and students in the Criminal Defense Clinic represent defendants in Manhattan Criminal Court. Other clinics include the Family Court Clinic, Tax Clinic, Criminal Appeals Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Labor and Employment Law Clinic, and Securities Arbitration Clinic.

Externships offer students the opportunity to work in a legal position, thereby developing important skills and gaining significant real-world experience. Through externships and internships, students can obtain credit for substantive legal work under the direct supervision of an attorney or judge at the work site. The Intellectual Property Law Program combines a specialized curriculum with related externships in this burgeoning area of practice; the Alexander Judicial

Fellows Program places outstanding third-year students in clerkships with prominent federal judges; the Entertainment Law Experience enables students to complete legal internships during the school year or the summer with entertainment law employers; the Heyman/ACCA In-house Counsel Internship introduces second- and third-year students to the practice of law in a corporate law department; the Labor and Employment Law Externship places students in law firms, government agencies, and unions; and the Corporation Counsel's Appellate Externship places students in the Appeals Division of the New York City Law Department (Corporation Counsel).

Cardozo's Center for Public Service emphasizes the law school's commitment to serving the greater public good and helping students find meaningful ways to engage in public service. In 2008, through the Public Service Summer Stipend Program, 138 students received \$4,000 stipends while working in government agencies, judicial chambers, and with such underrepresented groups as the elderly, the homeless, recent immigrants, and juveniles. A Public Service Scholars Program awards scholarships to students who demonstrate a personal commitment to public service through their application for admission. The Post-graduate Public Service Fellowship provides new graduates with funding to work in the public sector prior to entering full-time employment. The Laurie M. Tisch Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) benefits graduates who choose to pursue careers in public interest/public service law by assisting with some of the burden of large educational debts.

Intellectual life at Cardozo extends beyond the classroom. The school sponsors numerous conferences, panels, and symposia that provoke dialogue and critical thought on wide-ranging topics in constitutional law, communications law and policy, human rights, corporate governance, and legal ethics.

■ Curriculum

Cardozo offers a rich curriculum that has been especially recognized for its offerings in intellectual property law (students may receive both the JD and master of laws (LLM) degrees in seven semesters), alternative dispute resolution, criminal law, corporate law, and international law. Upper-level courses are elective except for a course in professional responsibility, completion of advanced legal research, an upper-level writing requirement, and fulfillment of minimal distribution requirements.

Cardozo offers LLM degrees in intellectual property law, comparative legal thought, and in general studies. A joint-degree program between Cardozo and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work allows students to earn the JD and MSW in four years of study.

■ Admission/Alternative Entry/Financial Aid

Students may enter Cardozo in September, January, or May. Those entering in January complete six semesters of law school in two-and-a-half years. Those entering in May complete the first-year curriculum in three semesters while the second and third years are completed on a full-time basis; students will graduate in three years. These alternative entry programs can be particularly appealing to midyear graduates and returning students.

Both need- and merit-based scholarships are available. Approximately 86 percent of the students receive some financial aid. Instructions on applying for aid can be found at www.cardozo.yu.edu/FinancialAid.

Applicant Profile

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																	
	3.75 +		3.50–3.74		3.25–3.49		3.00–3.24		2.75–2.99		2.50–2.74		Below 2.50		No GPA		Total	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm
170–180	28	20	34	18	30	16	18	11	12	7	5	2	4	1	4	2	135	77
165–169	140	116	163	125	136	95	82	49	38	14	18	5	9	1	21	14	607	419
160–164	271	166	371	178	258	78	167	37	70	7	30	2	18	2	39	16	1224	486
155–159	123	22	217	48	210	30	166	11	72	4	28	0	22	0	34	2	872	117
150–154	67	6	107	5	140	9	104	3	48	1	30	0	14	0	18	1	528	25
Below 150	35	0	91	0	105	1	120	0	94	0	66	0	61	0	34	0	606	1
Total	664	330	983	374	879	229	657	111	334	33	177	9	128	4	150	35	3972	1125

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the fall applicant pool.