



# Widener Law Commonwealth

*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

# Widener Leadership Works in Harrisburg

For more than a quarter of a century, Widener University Commonwealth Law School has established a remarkable story of progress in Pennsylvania's state capital.

We offer you a legal education with flexible scheduling options and programs unmatched in career-nurturing initiatives. Our class sizes are small, enabling you to develop close working relationships with internationally-recognized faculty members.

You can benefit from a vast selection of clinical opportunities on campus and externships in Harrisburg and beyond. Many of the attorneys working for Pennsylvania state government are Widener Law Commonwealth alumni, creating a large and successful network available to you.

We invite you to learn more about Widener Law Commonwealth's personal, practical, and professional approach to legal education. Better yet, visit our campus to see firsthand the many opportunities that will launch your career as a leader in the legal profession.







Widener Leadership  
Works through  
distinguished,  
accessible faculty

*“If you’re on campus and the door is open, the professors are always more than willing to drop everything to speak with you.”*

*~Nichole Vito ’15*

*“When you walk into a Widener classroom, the teachers will know every individual’s name.”*

*~Richard Sgrignoli ’15*

*“They’re much more than just professors. They do more than teach. They’re mentors.”*

*~Rebecca Bailey ’15*



When a U.S. Senate subcommittee wanted to hear testimony from legal experts on immigration, they consulted Widener Law Commonwealth Professor Jill Family. Internationally known for her scholarly work in immigration law, Family testified on Capitol Hill. As director of the school’s Law and Government Institute, Professor Family’s priority is working closely with her students in and out of the classroom.

She is just one example of our accomplished faculty who are fully committed to teaching and mentoring students.

Other distinguished professors include:

- Dean Christian Johnson, an internationally recognized expert on global capital markets and over-the-counter derivatives. He has testified before Congress and has spoken about the financial crisis worldwide.
- Three elected members of the American Law Institute: Juliet Moringiello, Christopher Robinette, and James Diehm.
- John Dernbach, who served two years as policy director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- Anna Hemingway, a frequent presenter at national and international legal writing conferences.

All Widener Law Commonwealth faculty members take a personal interest in their students’ law school experience, including guidance for course selection, bar exam preparation, career counseling, and professional achievement.

# Widener Leadership Works through practice-oriented approaches





**Widener Law Commonwealth gives you the opportunity through our specialized programs to develop skills in law school that you can apply after you graduate.**

**The Law and Government Institute,** dedicated to the study of government law, focuses on the complex intersection of legislation, regulation, policy, and the law.

The institute helps students explore how government works and the roles that lawyers play in making and implementing law, such as writing legislation, representing clients before state agencies, and providing legal advice to elected officials.

**The institute offers two certificates:**

- **The Administrative/Constitutional Law Certificate** concentrates on the balance of power between government branches and the laws that govern administrative agencies.
- **The Legislation Certificate** offers immersion in the process of making laws, including drafting and interpreting laws.



The **Environmental Law and Sustainability Center** is known nationally and internationally for its scholarship and advocacy on sustainable development and climate change.

The center is directed by Professor John Dernbach (*pictured on the left*), an internationally recognized figure in environmental law, who has authored, coauthored, edited, or contributed chapters to more than 20 books and has written more than 40 articles for law reviews and peer-reviewed journals. He leads the center's efforts to explore the ways that the law can be used to address challenges, including climate change, environmental rights, public health, biodiversity, and the protection of the land, air, and water for future generations.

The **Environmental Law Certificate**, offered in conjunction with the Law and Government Institute and the Environmental Law and Sustainability Center, enables students to explore the impact of the legislative process on environmental law.

The **Business Advising Certificate** focuses on the many legal issues—including taxation, financing, and employment management—that affect small and midsize businesses, which employ roughly half of U.S. workers. Partnering with the local bar association’s Lawyers for the Arts Program, law students get to work with struggling artists and artist organizations, an exciting niche of business law.

The **Advocacy Certificate** prepares students for the courtroom with course work and hands-on learning opportunities in civil, criminal, and administrative litigation and dispute resolution. The program enhances placement opportunities in the region’s district attorney and public defender offices, public agencies that conduct administrative hearings, and private law firms. Experience includes our Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP), a week long “boot camp” where local practitioners coach students through trial simulations from opening to closing statements.



# Widener Leadership Works through hands-on training opportunities

**Externships:** Widener Law Commonwealth's proximity to the state Capitol Complex creates an abundance of externship opportunities, including the chance to work as a judicial or legal extern in numerous settings.

When Marissa Mowery was a second-year law student, she expressed an interest in immigration law. Through connections within the school, she landed an externship with the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center. Her assignments there included successfully handling a political asylum case for a woman from Africa.

*"One of the great things about going to school in the Harrisburg area is that the resources available to you are incredible."*

*-Marissa Mowery '15*

**Clinics:** Widener Law Commonwealth offers you the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by working in the Central Pennsylvania Civil Law Clinics. Our clinics include the **Administrative Law Clinic, Consumer Law Clinic, Elder Law Clinic, Family Justice Clinic,** and the **Veteran's Clinic.**

When Kosta Patsiopoulos was in his third-year at Widener Law Commonwealth, he handled both grandparent custody and child support cases working in the clinic.

For the custody case, he read through a file an inch thick, met with the grandmother trying to win custody of her grandson, and then presented the case successfully before a judge.

*"Handling a case in the Civil Law Clinics was an eye-opening experience. You can read so much about a case, but you see the human emotion in person."*

*-Kosta Patsiopoulos '15*

**Practical Learning Courses:** Widener Law Commonwealth's curriculum includes many simulation courses that require you to not only study and take tests but to also practice the skills necessary for a legal career.

The more than 20 practical learning courses you can choose from include Business Planning, Mediation, Negotiation, Pre-Trial Methods, Trial Methods, and Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP).

*"Widener helped me find my path to success by providing me with an environment that I could grow and learn in and by providing me with professors who believed in me and encouraged me and supported me."*

*-Dana Prince '15, Past President of the Black Law Students Association Chapter*



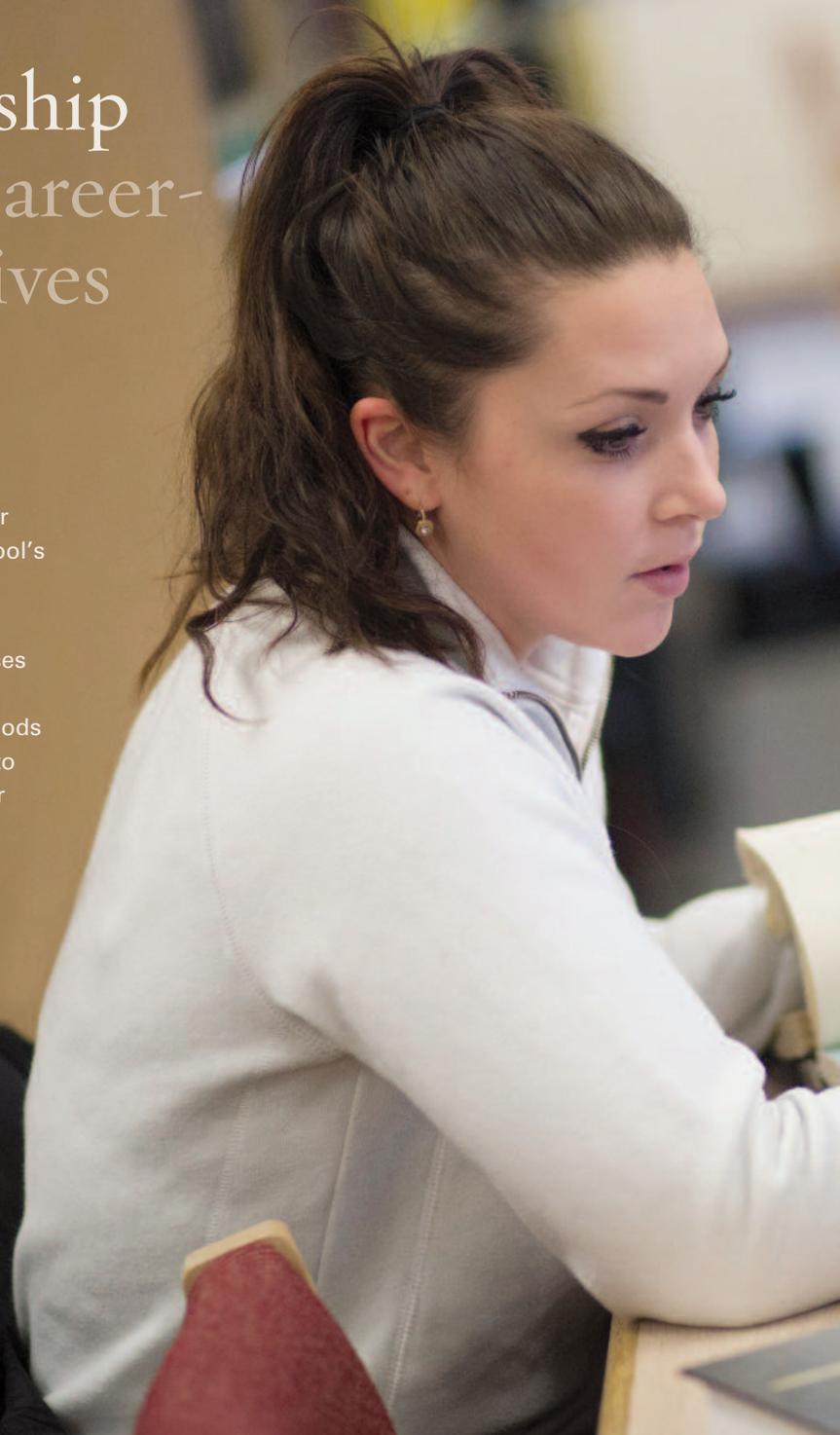
# Widener Leadership Works through career-nurturing initiatives

## Legal Writing

In addition to certificates focusing on practice specialties and real-world opportunities, all Widener Law Commonwealth students benefit from the school's emphasis on legal writing within the curriculum.

Our faculty members offer innovative writing courses in technology, domestic violence, criminal law, and others. By providing three semesters of Legal Methods courses, we provide a foundation for our students to build on as they complete their education and enter the legal profession.

"Becoming a successful attorney requires more than learning fundamental legal principles," said Professor Anna Hemingway, director of the Legal Methods program. "Learning the skills of legal reasoning, research, and writing is essential to becoming a practice-ready attorney—and teaching these skills is a top priority for our faculty."



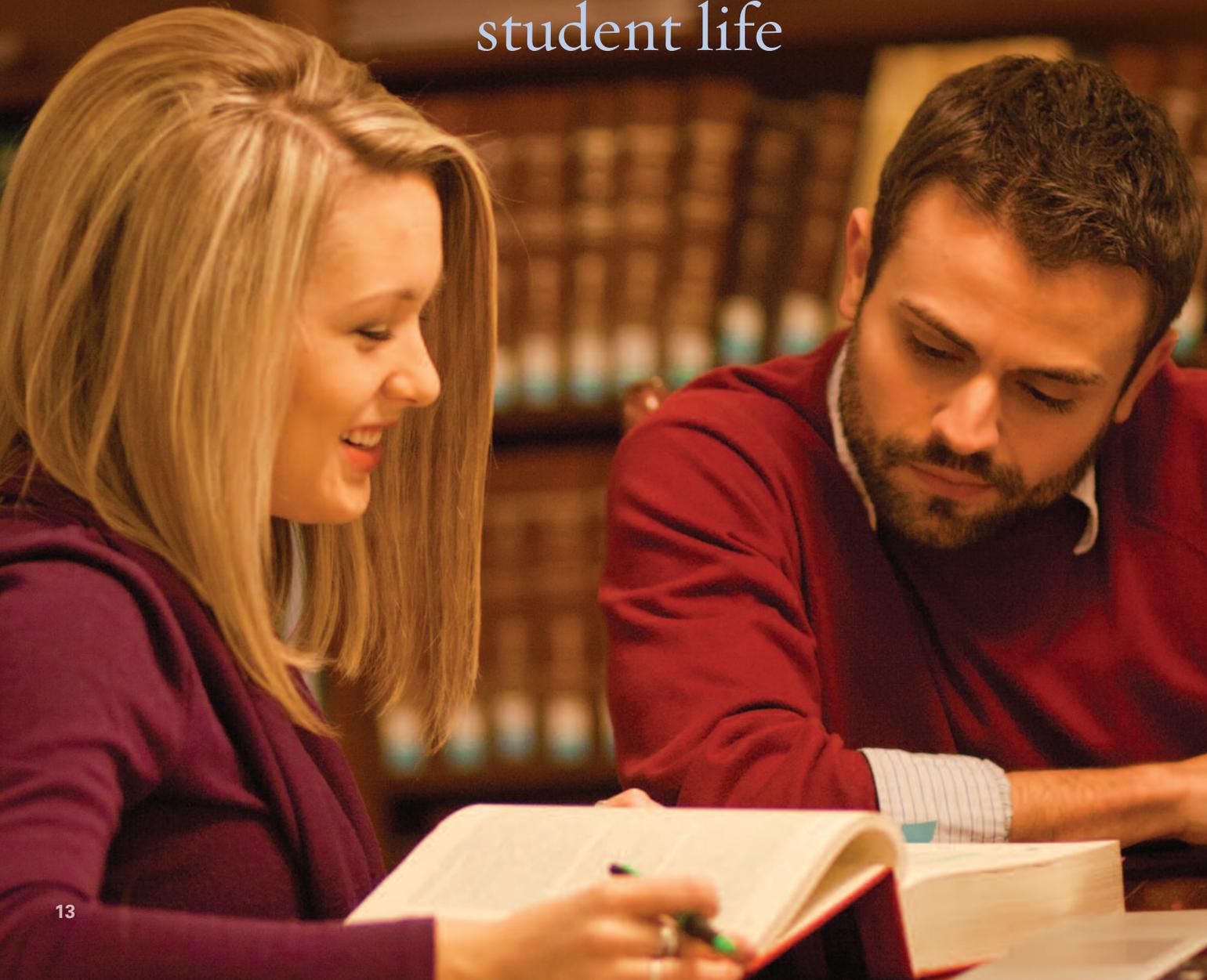


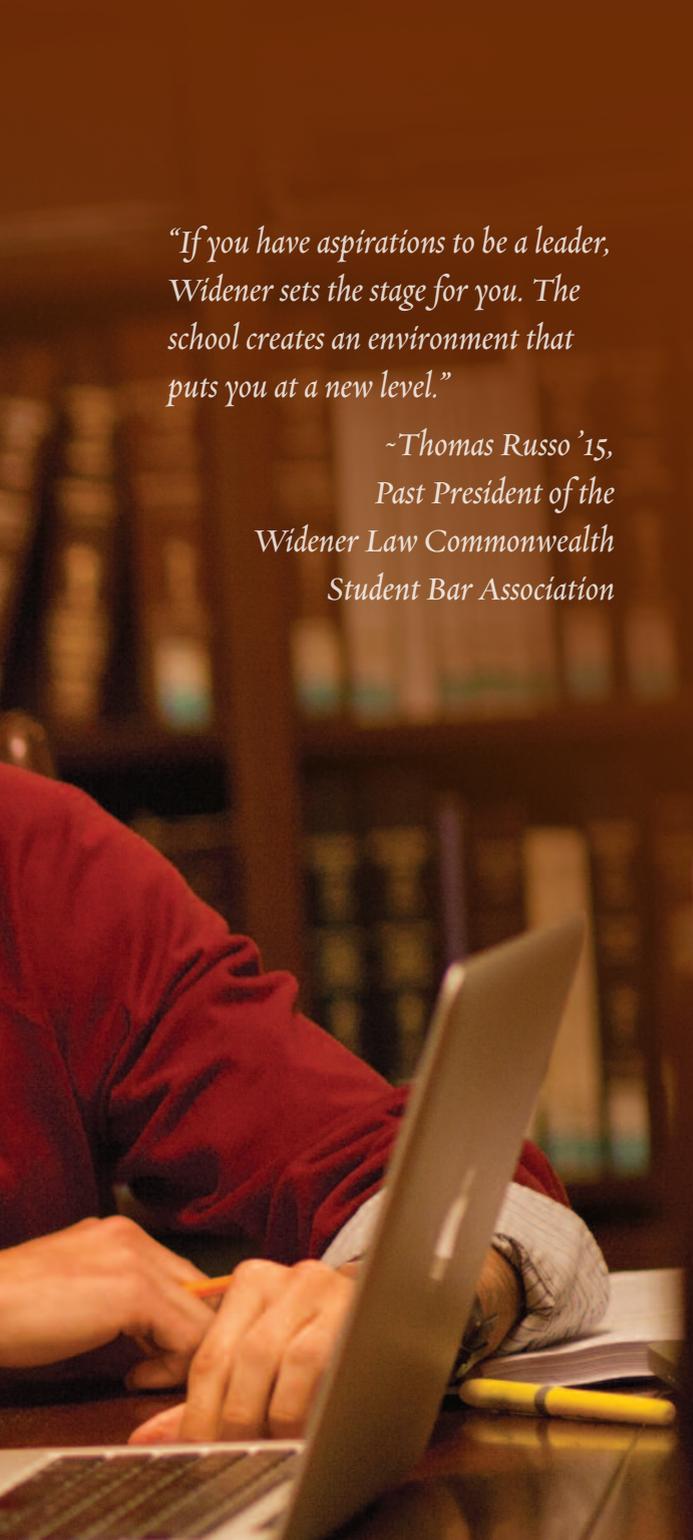
## Special Programs

From admission through the start of your professional career, Widener Law Commonwealth offers a vast selection of programs to assist you:

- **Trial Admissions Program (TAP)** provides a pathway to law school through conditional admission for those applicants who demonstrate the potential for success despite a less than stellar LSAT and/or undergraduate GPA.
- **Summer Abroad programs** open the door to a global understanding of international law. Students in good standing at Widener Law Commonwealth may participate in summer abroad programs in Rome, Italy, through an agreement with Loyola University Chicago School of Law.
- **Bar Preparation** is key for students preparing to graduate and take a bar exam. Widener Law Commonwealth offers a fundamentals course that includes basic techniques for answering bar exam questions, as well as repeated exposure to bar examination materials.
- An **Incubator Program** is a partnership between Widener Law Commonwealth and the Dauphin County Bar Association that provides assistance, including office space, mentoring, and networking opportunities for new graduates who want to solo practice or work in a small law firm in the Harrisburg area.

# Widener Leadership Works with a dynamic student life





*“If you have aspirations to be a leader, Widener sets the stage for you. The school creates an environment that puts you at a new level.”*

*~Thomas Russo '15,  
Past President of the  
Widener Law Commonwealth  
Student Bar Association*

Widener Law Commonwealth's student body is a diverse mix of full- and part-time students who come from colleges and universities nationwide.

On campus in Harrisburg, they participate in many student organizations and activities and work on law review journals.

Flexible scheduling options allow you to choose a full-time, three-year program if your schedule allows or a part-time, four-year program that lets you choose day or evening classes.

### **Who Will Be Your Peers?**

Students entering in fall 2016:

- Are graduates from 67 colleges and universities from across Pennsylvania, as well as California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia and Syria.
- Are approximately 53% male and 47% female.
- Range in age from 20 to 50.
- Consist of 19% who self-identify as persons of color.

**Honor Societies:** Students have the opportunity for membership in our four prestigious honor societies: the *Widener Law Journal*; the *Widener Journal of Law, Economics, and Race*; the Moot Court Honor Society; and the Trial Advocacy Honor Society.

**Student Associations:** The Student Bar Association (SBA) gives you the chance to extend your learning beyond the classroom, add achievements to your résumé, and forge connections with fellow students and faculty advisors. SBA manages funding for all other student organizations, which include social and academic clubs, affinity groups, volunteer organizations, and athletic societies.

# Widener Leadership Works through learning in Harrisburg ...



Widener Law Commonwealth is the only law school in Pennsylvania's capital.

As a result, our students enjoy many opportunities—to witness the law in action, to secure externships, and to build a professional network.

An added advantage lies in the broad representation of Widener Law alumni across the region. Our graduates work in every branch of state government, practice with firms and corporations of every description, and look for opportunities to open doors for fellow—and future—Widener Law alums.

*“Widener has a great relationship with the Capitol, and there are endless opportunities for students to get hands-on experience in the field.”*  
~ Nicole Danner '15



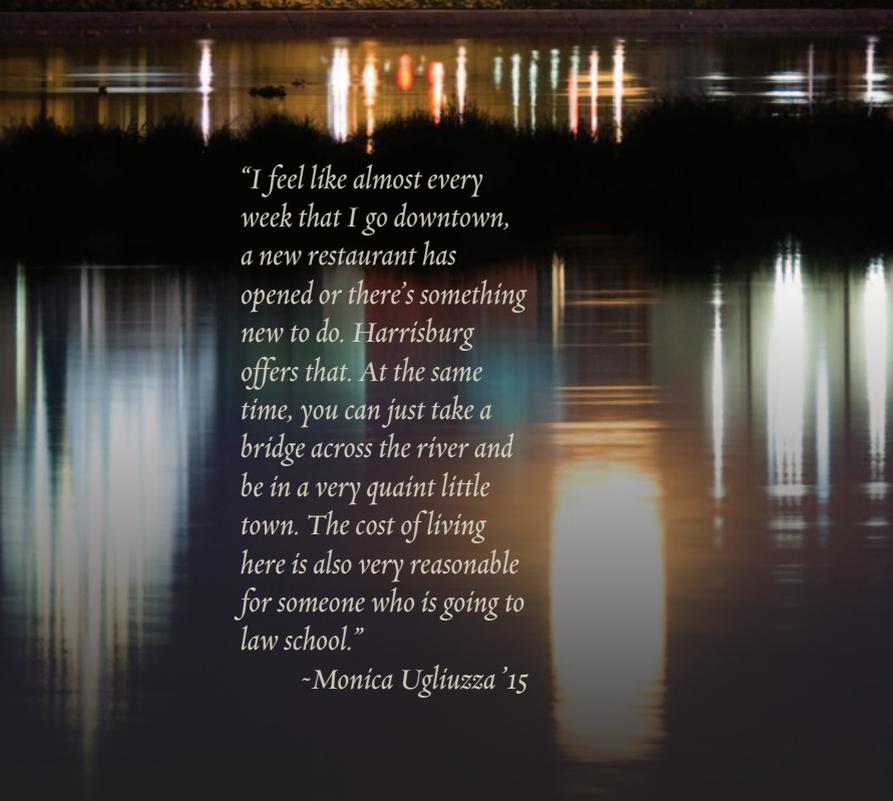
# ... through living in Harrisburg



Life in Harrisburg offers the best of two worlds—the energy and opportunities of an urban center with all the advantages of a small town.

With approximately 600,000 people, Central Pennsylvania features the attractions of a major population center—cultural institutions, plentiful shopping, and fabulous restaurants—without the excessive expense of living in New York City, Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C.

When you are ready to escape the urban environment, nature is minutes away. Take your choice of outdoor recreational activities on the Susquehanna River and nearby Appalachian Trail or explore Harrisburg's Riverfront Park, one of the most scenic inland waterfronts in the nation.



*"I feel like almost every week that I go downtown, a new restaurant has opened or there's something new to do. Harrisburg offers that. At the same time, you can just take a bridge across the river and be in a very quaint little town. The cost of living here is also very reasonable for someone who is going to law school."*

*-Monica Ugliuzza '15*



### Apply to Widener Law Commonwealth

- Apply through our website at **commonwealthlaw.widener.edu** or the Law School Admissions Council at **www.lsac.org**.
- Admissions decisions are based upon the undergraduate GPA and LSAT, work and life experiences, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and graduate study.
- A personal statement and two letters of recommendation are required. Applicants are encouraged to provide a personal résumé.
- Transfer and visiting students are accepted in any semester after completion of one full year of law school.
- Previous law school attendees must submit an official transcript and letter of standing from their prior law school.
- International applicants must submit a completed application before April 1.

Complete application instructions for all applicants can be found online at **commonwealthlaw.widener.edu**.

### Merit Scholarship Awards

- Widener Law Commonwealth offers competitive merit scholarship awards to incoming students in both the full- and part-time programs.
- These awards are made at the time of admission and do not require a separate application.
- All incoming merit scholarship awards are renewable each year provided you maintain good academic standing.

### Contact the Admissions Office

E-mail: **admitcwlaw@widener.edu**

Phone: **717-541-3903**

Website: **commonwealthlaw.widener.edu**

### Financial Aid Information

Widener Law Commonwealth's tuition and fees are competitive, and we offer a number of scholarships that reward academic achievement. We assist students with financial need so they make the most of their many financial aid opportunities. If you have any questions as you go through the process, our financial aid staff is happy to help.

To learn more about Financial Aid, visit our website or contact us:

E-mail: **finaidcwlaw@widener.edu**

Phone: **717-541-3961**

## Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status as a veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or genetic information in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, in compliance with state and federal laws, Widener University will provide the following information upon request: (a) copies of documents pertinent to the university's accreditations, approvals, or licensing by external agencies or governmental bodies; (b) reports on crime statistics and information on safety policies and procedures; and (c) information regarding gender equity relative to intercollegiate athletic programs—Contact: Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4123. Comments or requests for information regarding services and resources for disabled students should be directed to: Director of Disability Services, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1266.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Such programs include recruitment, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, athletics, course offerings and access, hiring and retention, and benefits and leave. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The university's Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX and/or those who wish to file a complaint of noncompliance may contact the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators: The university's Title IX coordinator is Assistant Director for Employee Relations Grace Karmioli, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1301; e-mail [gckarmioli@widener.edu](mailto:gckarmioli@widener.edu). The university has also appointed several deputy Title IX coordinators: For Athletics: Assistant Director of Athletics Larissa Gillespie, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4434; e-mail [lagillespie@widener.edu](mailto:lagillespie@widener.edu). For students and employees on the Wilmington, DE, campus: Associate Dean for Student Services Susan Goldberg, Widener University Delaware Law School, 4601 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803; tel. 302-477-2173; e-mail [slgoldberg@widener.edu](mailto:slgoldberg@widener.edu). For students and employees on the Harrisburg, PA, campus: Assistant Dean Keith Sealing, Widener University Commonwealth Law School, 3800 Vartan Way, Harrisburg, PA 17106; tel. 717-541-3952; e-mail [kesealing@widener.edu](mailto:kesealing@widener.edu).

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the division of the federal government charged with enforcing compliance with Title IX. Information regarding OCR can be found at: [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html). Questions about Title IX may be directed to OCR as well as to the university's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators.

This publication contains information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. In keeping with the educational mission of the university, the information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements contained herein are continually being reviewed, changed, and updated. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as an informational guide. Students are responsible for keeping informed of official policies and meeting all relevant requirements.

The university reserves the right and authority at any time to alter any or all of the statements contained herein, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation, to change or discontinue programs of study, to amend any regulation or policy affecting the student body, to increase tuition and fees, to deny admission, to revoke an offer of admission, and to dismiss from the university any student at any time, if it is deemed by the university to be in the best interest of the university, the university community, or the student to do so. The provisions of this publication are subject to change without notice, and nothing in this publication may be considered as setting forth terms of a contract between a student or a prospective student and Widener University.





# Widener University

## Commonwealth Law School

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717-541-3903 • [commonwealthlaw.widener.edu](http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu)