GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BANKING & FINANCIAL LAW

Not just the first of its kind in America. It’s one of a kind.

Since its inception in 1984, the Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law has trained more than 2,000 lawyers for leadership in the financial services and banking industries, in the US and abroad. Equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to handle the regulatory, transactional, and compliance needs of financial services clients in today’s global economy, our graduates hold influential positions worldwide—in banks, governments, law firms, corporations, financial institutions, and multilateral and nongovernmental organizations. Since conferring our first LLM in Banking & Financial Law in 1984, our program remains the only financial services LLM program in the country with its own faculty and a curriculum designed exclusively for graduate study.

IS IT FOR YOU?
The program is designed specifically for lawyers who seek advanced training in the rapidly evolving field of financial services law. Ideal candidates are established lawyers looking to enhance their skills in the field, as well as US- and foreign-trained attorneys seeking a more focused career direction. For either group, our mission is clear: provide a relevant and practical education that equips students with the skills to make immediate and effective contributions to their clients and employers.

THE CURRICULUM: FOCUSED AND RELEVANT
The program requires completing 24 credits on a full- or part-time basis. Working closely with program faculty and staff, you’ll develop an individualized study plan from 18 electives focusing on the essential aspects of banking, securities, insurance, and business law. You’ll choose from three principal types of courses that provide solid grounding in the structure and content of financial law regulation; familiarize you with typical transactions in such areas as lending, securities, and mergers and acquisitions; and introduce you to the economic and business principles that underlie banking and financial law practice. If you’re a foreign-trained attorney seeking to meet the eligibility requirements to take a US bar exam, you’ll be able to do so through your course selections.

Your success is paramount to us. To help prepare you for the program, before classes start you’ll have the chance to attend a 12-day program on Financial Services Fundamentals, a primer on the business of the US financial services industry designed to give you a comprehensive overview of the industry’s products, participants, and structure.

For more information on the Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law, watch a video overview of the program at www.bu.edu/law/banking.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS
To lend further focus to your studies, you’ll have an option to pursue any of five concentrations:
- The Business of Banking
- Compliance Management
- Financial Services Transactions
- Lending & Credit Transactions
- Securities Transactions

FACULTY OF PRACTITIONERS
The program’s hallmark is its faculty—an assemblage of experienced practitioners and industry leaders, masters in their fields. You’ll learn from nationally and internationally recognized experts from law firms, financial institutions, government agencies, and consulting firms who have experience teaching in the financial services area. Under their guidance, you’ll gain a broad and deep perspective on the practice of contemporary banking and financial law.

FINANCIAL SERVICES LAW INTERNSHIPS
The program offers semester-long financial internships and opportunities for some students to gain practical experience in financial services law. Upon meeting certain academic requirements, you are eligible to enroll in the Financial Services Law Internship course in your second semester. The course enables you to work at a law firm, financial services organization, not-for-profit organization, or regulatory agency.
Students have completed internships at Cambridge Savings Bank, the City of Boston, Ligris and Associates, American Consumer Credit Counseling, Computershare, and the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing.

FINANCIAL SERVICES FUNDAMENTALS
As noted previously, this three-week summer course provides fundamental background knowledge of the financial services industry—its laws, regulations, participants, and products. It is suitable for domestic and foreign-trained lawyers and non-lawyers, including candidates to BU Law’s Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law, who seek a foundational understanding of this dynamic industry. www.bu.edu/law/fsf.

BU’S CENTER FOR FINANCE, LAW & POLICY
As an LLM student, you’ll have access to BU’s Center for Finance, Law & Policy, a University research center charged with exploring the critical financial, regulatory, and policy challenges facing the national and global financial system, the larger economy, and our overall society. You can take a course on the recent financial crisis taught by Professor Cornelius Hurley, the center’s director; attend any of the center’s financial law events; and possibly even work as an administrator or researcher on the center’s projects. Learn about the center at www.bu.edu/bucflp.

REVIEW OF BANKING & FINANCIAL LAW
If you’re interested in scholarship and academic inquiry in the field of financial services law, you can apply for membership in the Review of Banking & Financial Law, one of BU Law’s student-run scholarly publications. Founded in 1982, the Review is the nation’s first student publication dedicated to banking law studies. Membership is competitive and highly selective.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS
Through a series of distinguished speaker events, you’ll stay abreast of timely issues affecting the financial services industry and hear insider perspectives. Industry experts and policy makers from the Federal Reserve Board, Citigroup, GE Capital, and a number of national and local financial institutions have delivered lectures in recent years. In addition, a limited number of LLM students are permitted to attend financial services industry training conferences on the BU campus for banking lawyers in June and for compliance officers in October. 

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
We are resolutely committed to our students’ professional success. The LLM Professional Development Office works exclusively with LLM students, offering individualized guidance on job search and networking strategies, résumé and cover letter drafting, interviewing skills, and self-marketing campaigns. From the moment you join the program, you’ll have access to Symplicity, BU Law’s internal job posting site. You’ll also attend multiple workshops and career panels featuring alumni who return to the school to share their expertise and experiences. If you’re a foreign-trained lawyer, you’ll be invited to participate in the annual International Student Interview Program in New York, which draws more than 200 global employers each year. And you’ll receive abundant advice on how to qualify and prepare for a US bar exam.

STUDENT LIFE
The Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law is a tight-knit community. Relationships born here endure well beyond graduation. Ask any of our alumni and you’ll likely hear of the bonds formed and nurtured through frequent extracurricular events, from local dinners to ski outings and trips to Maine, organized by students in the program. You’ll hear how quickly your classmates will become like family.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
Through BU Law’s LLM Scholars Program, all LLM in Banking & Financial Law candidates are eligible for scholarship awards in the form of partial tuition waivers. All applicants are automatically considered; no additional forms are required.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS
To learn more about the Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law, including detailed information on candidate qualifications, the application process, tuition, and financial matters, visit www.bu.edu/law. We also encourage you to contact us directly at:

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The events of the last eight years have reshaped financial services law and regulation more than at any time since the Great Depression. It is an exciting time to launch a career in financial services law, and I am honored to be part of a program that is unique in the country and with such a distinguished history of success.

—James E. Scott, Esq.
Director, Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law
JD, University of Michigan School of Law
BS, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service
Former chief regulatory counsel of Morgan Stanley and general counsel of Morgan Stanley Bank, N.A.