Asian Law Center

The Asian Law Center is a globally-recognized center of excellence for teaching, research and scholarship on Asian legal systems in Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2012-13, the center manages a number of important projects to improve the rule of law and legal education internationally.

Objectives

• Provide world class legal education for professional engagement in Asia
• Support U.S. legal professionals and government agencies with expert research and analysis relating to Asian legal systems and institutions
• Lead innovative research on change in Asian legal systems and legal development in Asia
• Produce the next generation of legal educators and policy makers and train international lawyers and policy makers in U.S. law and legal institutions from an informed comparative perspective
• Develop and deliver projects to strengthen the laws and legal institutions of countries in transition and post-conflict countries
• Build the law school’s collaborative research, teaching and policy networks with leading universities in Asia and Europe

Programs

The Asian Law Center is a leader in the development of Asian and comparative law in North America. Students have the opportunity to participate in world class J.D., LL.M. and Ph.D. programs. They publish articles in the law school’s journals, including the Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal. In addition, graduates work in leading law firms and corporations within the United States and Asia, or for international NGOs and government agencies. Over 1,000 alumni work as legal academics, lawyers and judges in the U.S., Asia, Europe and South America.

The center also regularly provides expert policy and project advice for global government agencies, including the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Development Law Organization.

Funding Priorities

• Scholarships to recruit talented U.S. and international graduate students, particularly from developing countries
• A permanently funded annual conference that brings key thinkers and policy makers in the U.S. and Asia to the UW to connect with the center's intellectual output
• Underwriting to develop research collaborations with key partner universities in Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Thailand, India and Ethiopia
• Mobility grants to allow faculty and students to travel to Asia for research and conference opportunities
• Expanded course offerings in the fields of Asian law, global business law and sustainable international development law