

# **Trends in International Legal Education**

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- 1/3 of the world has a common law legal system (ex: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Philippines)
- 1/3 of the world has a civil law legal system (Turkey, France, Germany)
- 1/3 of the world has something else (shar'ia, mixed system, authoritarian government)

# **The Backdrop: Different Systems of Law**

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Different systems of law impact corporations ...

- Dramatically different roles for lawyers and judges when disputes come before the court
- Diverse ways of creating contracts, enforcing contracts, and resolving disputes
- Different ways of interpreting regulation and code
- Differing attitudes toward legal authority

# **The Backdrop: Different Systems of Law**

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- The U.S. has a common law legal system with *juries*
- Since the U.S. has different state and local laws in each of our 50 states, there are fifty different bar associations which admit and regulate lawyers – and fifty sets of laws that can impact your business
- The U.S. has a federal system of government:
  - 3 interconnected levels of government in the U.S. with shared, separate and concurrent (parallel) powers: local government, federal government, and shared government
- Judges are NOT inquisitors

# The American Legal System

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- Turkey is a civil, or code, law country
- Turkey's legal system does not have juries
- Judges have very different roles than in the U.S. – they serve as inquisitors, or fact finders

# **The Turkish Legal System**

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- As businesses seek to expand worldwide, understanding the legal systems of other countries is essential.
- Lawyers must be globally-minded and educated about other systems of law
- In the U.S., law students are increasingly fluent in foreign languages and are participating more in study abroad and international career development
- Foreign lawyers are increasingly undertaking graduate level degrees in other countries to perfect their knowledge of international law
- Lawyers need to know more about intercultural communication and dispute resolution

# **Educating Lawyers for International Practice**

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Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees (for lawyers)

Master of Jurisprudence degrees (M.J.) degrees (for non-lawyers)

Summer/short-term programs (for foreign students)

Online degrees

Career development experiences in foreign countries

Study abroad programs

# **Trends in International Legal Education in the U.S.**

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Alternative dispute resolution refers to any process that resolves a legal matter outside of the courtroom, and is an excellent choice for foreign lawyers who work in commerce and industry because the skills are so useful.

- Negotiation
  - Mediation
  - Arbitration
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- Focus of these fields is bringing parties to resolution through focus on interests and shared goals rather than positions (interest-based bargaining) and maintaining and supporting relationships

# Alternative Dispute Resolution

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- Patent law
- Trademark and unfair competition law
- Copyright law
- Cyberlaw
- E-discovery

# **Intellectual Property, Information and Communications Law**

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The traditional law degree in the U.S. is the *Juris Doctor* (J.D.):

- 3-year degree using Socratic Method of teaching
- Focus of education is common law, legal reasoning, legal writing, and preparation for bar examination
- Considered a “professional” degree rather than graduate degree.
- Study federal common law almost exclusively

# **The U.S. Legal Education System...**

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Graduation from law school just the first step to practicing. A law graduate is NOT yet a lawyer.

Graduates apply to take a bar exam (or more than one) in the state(s) in which they wish to practice.

- Subject to criminal, financial, and character background checks
- Multi-subject, multi-day test focusing on specific state laws and common/federal law, as well as legal reasoning and writing (skills-based)

# **Becoming an Attorney in the U.S.**

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In some jurisdictions, foreign lawyers can take a bar exam.

- Most foreign attorneys try to take the Bar in New York, which is generally more accepting of foreign law graduates.
- In other states, like Michigan, foreign lawyers must petition to take the Bar exam, and permission is granted dependent upon experience and education.
- Many foreign lawyers do an LL.M. program to better prepare to take the Bar, or boost their chances of being accepted to take the test.
- You may go to law school for an LL.M. in any state, and take the Bar in that state or a different state.
- You must check with the state bar association in the state you wish to practice to know if you are eligible to take the test, since different states have different rules

# Foreign Applicants and The Bar

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- Employment (internships, employment of alumni, etc)
- Consulting
- Pipeline programs
- Special programs
- Legal English

# Partnerships

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Specialties ranging from Indigenous to Corporate, Alternative Dispute Resolution, International, Intellectual Property Law, and many more.

Ranked in the top 100 American law schools. MSU is ranked in the top 100 universities in the world.

Known nationally and internationally for student access to faculty, personalized study programs, and excellence in teaching.

# **Michigan State College of Law**

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## LL.M. for Foreign-Educated Lawyers

- Personalized program through which students can specialize OR prepare for a bar examination in the U.S.
- 24-credit, 1-year program (can be extended)
- Option of adding one year of OPT (Optional Practical Training)

## LL.M. in Intellectual Property and Communications Law

- Intended for students already practicing IP law or hoping to do so
- 24-credit, 1-year program (can be extended)
- Option of adding one year of OPT



# On-Campus LL.M. Programs

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## Master of Jurisprudence in Intellectual Property and Communications Law

- Intended for those without legal education, but who wish to specialize in IP
- 24-credit, 1-year program
- Can add one year of OPT

*At right:*

*Kubra Kalsin from Istanbul acts as judge in the LL.M.  
moot court program, July 2010*



# On-Campus Graduate Degrees for Non-Lawyers

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- LL.M. and M.J. in Global Food Law
  - 24 credits (LL.M.)
  - 27 credits (M.J.)
  - Intended for students with special interests in food law, patent law for food products, and other related interests

# Online programs

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- LL.M. in the American Legal System in Dubai
  - One-two weeks, four times a year – 3 credits/visit
  - LL.M. from MSU Law after two years in the program (24 credits)
  - Same professors as on campus
  - Convenient option for attorneys and students who cannot dedicate an entire year abroad to study

# Off-Campus Programs

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- Summer Law and English Institute – July 2012
  - International Negotiation
  - Introduction to the American Legal System
  - Introduction to Comparative Law: Shari'a, Common Law and Civil Law
  - Legal English

# Summer Programs

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- Program run jointly by MSU English Language Center and MSU College of Law
- Prepares students for LL.M. program with English (ESL) training at English Language Center and then an additional semester of Legal English at the Law College
- Special courses tailored to the needs of law students

# **Legal English for Academic Preparation (LEAP) Program**

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70 students from 34 countries, ranging from Cameroon to Costa Rica, South Korea, Nepal, Mongolia, Germany, Spain, Nicaragua, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan

Students from ages 21 to 43, from a range of professional backgrounds.

# **The LL.M. Class of 2012**

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