

University Senate

Proposed: April 28, 2017

Adopted: April 28, 2017
by voice vote with no abstentions

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM LEADING TO
AN LL.M. IN GLOBAL BUSINESS LAW (LAW SCHOOL)**

WHEREAS, the LL.M. in Global Business Law is designed for talented practicing international lawyers who cannot take time away from work to matriculate into the ten-month full-time program offered by the Law School, and

WHEREAS, the Executive LL.M. program seeks to provide a strong foundation in U.S. business law and how it fits into the international legal framework, and

WHEREAS, while the traditional LL.M. program is designed for lawyers with one year's work experience, the Executive LL.M. is targeted to lawyers with approximately five years' professional experience, and

WHEREAS, the LL.M. degree is a helpful credential to lawyers wishing to pursue careers in large international firms or become partners, and

WHEREAS, no other school in the Northeast offers a comparable degree,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Senate approve the establishment of a program leading to an LL.M. in Global Business Law offered in executive format at Columbia Law School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Education Committee review the program five years after its inauguration.

Proponent:

Education Committee

Purpose of the proposed program, its target audience, its content, and its format/pedagogical approaches.

The Executive LL.M. in Global Business Law is designed for students who are talented practicing international lawyers with approximately five years of professional experience, for whom it would not be feasible to matriculate into Columbia Law School's (the "Law School" or "CLS") traditional ten-month LL.M. because of the time required away from their firms or businesses. The degree will be comprised of twenty-four credits, as is our traditional LL.M. Four three-credit courses and one four-credit colloquium are required. Students then choose three electives from a prescribed list. Four of these courses, as well as the colloquium, will be taken during a twelve-week on campus Summer Session. Three classes will be offered online, two of which are to be taken before the Summer Session and one after.

Three classes will be offered online, two of which are to be taken before the Summer Session and one after. The educational goal of the program is to provide students with a strong foundation in U.S. business law, while also providing an advanced understanding of how those concepts compare to and fit into the international legal framework. The courses offered will therefore focus on business law topics, such as Corporations and International Trade, and also include electives like Administrative Law and International Environmental Law. The colloquium will be an integrative experience during which practitioners discuss current controversies related to the laws and institutions that students are studying in their courses.

Why is the proposed program needed locally, statewide or nationally?

An LL.M. degree provides students with the opportunity to enhance their legal knowledge and capabilities and to advance their careers. The time required to obtain the degree in a traditional program, however, is prohibitive for many practicing attorneys. The format of the Executive LL.M. in Global Business Law provides greater access to the degree, benefitting a greater number of students and the legal industry as a whole. This fits squarely within the Law School's mission to provide top quality legal education to students in the U.S. and across the globe.

Have students at the University or elsewhere requested this program? How many?

Each year, the Law School receives approximately 2,000 applications for our traditional LL.M. program. The large number of applicants is not isolated to Columbia, but is reflective of a nationwide trend. The American Bar Association annually collects enrollment information from accredited law schools. In 2016, there was a slight year-over-year increase in incoming first-year law students, but a decrease in total JD students. Non-JD enrollments, which include LL.M. programs, have increased. An analysis of the enrollment trends over the past decade puts this contrast in greater relief.