

THE LAW SCHOOL OF FIRSTS

From its founding almost 50 years ago, Monterey College of Law has been known as “The Opportunity Law School” that provides non-traditional students the opportunity to achieve their professional goals in both legal and non-legal fields. And, in the past 15 years we have earned a reputation as the “Law School of Firsts” due to the following distinctions:

- **First California Accredited Law School (CALs) to open a Community Mediation Center (2005):** The Mandell Gisnet Center for Conflict Management provides student-assisted mediation programs for neighborhood disputes and some civil lawsuits.
- **First CALs to “Guarantee” Tuition Rates (2006):** MCL tuition policy guarantees that each student’s law school tuition will not increase throughout their degree program.
- **First CALs to offer a Master of Legal Studies Degree (2008):** The Master of Legal Studies degree provides a curriculum for the serious study of law that is not designed to prepare students to take the California Bar Examination.
- **First CALs to offer Multiple Student-Assisted Legal Clinics (2009):** The MCL community advisory clinic program expands the number of student-assisted and lawyer-supervised, free, advisory law clinics in collaboration with our local bar association and the Monterey County Superior Court.
- **MCL was the first to provide US Law School to go “100% iPad” (2010):** MCL provided all students, faculty, and staff with iPads to improve student access to academic resources and support.
- **First US Law School to include the cost of Bar Review in Tuition (2010):** MCL includes a full and comprehensive bar review program as part of the law school tuition.
- **First CALs to offer a 24-Unit Graduate L.L.M. Degree (2011):** MCL offers a graduate L.L.M. degree in addition to the traditional J.D. for those seeking an advanced law degree.
- **First US Law School to Require Mediation Certification (2011):** MCL requires all students obtaining a J.D. degree to complete a Mediation Certification Program as a prerequisite for graduation.
- **First CALs to offer Concurrent MLS/JD Degrees (2013):** MCL students can elect to enroll in the MLS/JD degree program and complete both degrees concurrently as part of their legal education.
- **First Accredited San Luis Obispo Law School (2015):** San Luis Obispo College of Law opened as an accredited branch of MCL and is the first accredited law school in that county.
- **First 3-Campus California Accredited Law School (2017):** Kern County College of Law opened as an accredited branch of MCL and is the only accredited law school in that county.
- **First “Hybrid,” online/onsite J.D. Program in CA (2018):** MCL is one of only two California law schools authorized to offer a hybrid Master of Legal Studies and JD curriculum.

We continue to “push the envelope” to stand apart from both State Bar accredited and ABA accredited law schools.

Because MCL is located in a rural and agricultural region of California, we strive to achieve a student population that reflects the diverse character of our local populations. Our outreach to underserved and non-traditional communities is critical. And, as a result of our efforts, in 2019, 65% of our students were woman and 46% of our students were ethnic minorities across all four campuses.