

Pre-Law



Westmont's Pre-Law Track Prepares You for Law School and a Legal Career

Legal careers are built around a deep mastery and understanding of the law, and such training equips lawyers to act as advocates for their clients, whether they are buying a home, adopting a child, creating a will, seeking redress from an injury, or starting a business. Such work requires mastery of complex information, intellectual creativity and rigor, and the ability to communicate in a clear and persuasive fashion. And because virtually all areas of human life are structured by the law, legal training can be put to work in any area of interest—criminal justice, business, the family, the environment, intellectual property, sports and entertainment, etc.

PRE-LAW TRACKS AT WESTMONT

While students from any major can pursue law school, three departments at Westmont offer special pre-law tracks or major concentrations designed to prepare students for law school. See examples of courses below.

PHILOSOPHY

- PHI 012 Critical Reasoning and Logic (4)
- PHI 015 Intellectual Virtue and Civil Discourse (4)
- PHI 104 Ethics (4)
- PHI 113 Contemporary Moral Problems (4)
- PHI 133 Political and Legal Philosophy (4)
- PHI 137 Justice and Public Policy (4)

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

- EB 105 Business Law (4)
- EB 116 Antitrust and Regulatory Environment of Business (4)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- POL 010 American Government (4)
- POL 020 International Politics (4)
- POL 030 Political Theory and Ideology (4)
- POL 040 Empirical Political Research (4)
- POL 104 Constitutional Law (4)
- POL 112 International Organizations and Law (4)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



JIM WRIGHT
PRE-LAW ADVISER

Jim was born in Devon, England, and after studying law at Cambridge University he worked for a multi-national corporate law firm in London and Dubai. He left this to study cross-cultural and Biblical theology in the UK before arriving in Egypt in 1993. He spent 18 years in Egypt, initially studying Arabic and then working as a corporate lawyer. His life in the region convinced Jim of the strategic importance of the Middle East. His interaction with students from the Middle East Studies Program of the CCCU over the years convinced him of the strategic importance of American Christian College students for everything from regime change to climate change. Jim left the law and joined Westmont in 2011 in order to align these two.

WESTMONT ALUMS HAVE GRADUATED FROM THESE LEADING LAW SCHOOLS

Boston University • Cornell University • George Washington • Georgetown University • Harvard University
Northwestern University • University of Notre Dame • Pepperdine University • University of California,
Berkeley • University of California, Davis • University of California, Los Angeles • University of Minnesota Law
School University of Southern California • University of Texas, Austin • University of Washington
Washington University, St. Louis • William and Mary • Yale University

ALUMNI

Jordan Cunnings '08 serves as an immigration attorney at Innovation Law Lab in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from the UCLA School of Law in 2014, she served as a law clerk for a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. "I could not have made it through law school without the rigorous academic training and intellectual preparation provided by my Westmont history degree," she says. "The reading, writing and critical thinking skills I developed have been invaluable."

Austin Ward '10 studied philosophy at Westmont and graduated from Pepperdine Caruso School of Law in 2014. He served as a judicial intern for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, a trial attorney at Panish Shea & Boyle LLP, and now works as a deputy district attorney for Ventura County.

Stephen Tanizaki '11, a deputy district attorney in Lake Forest, California, graduated from Chapman University School of Law in 2014. He earned a degree in economics and business at Westmont.

Ainslie Tarr '14 majored in communication studies and Spanish at Westmont and graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2017. She works as an associate attorney at Testan Law in Los Angeles after serving for two years as a staff attorney in the Survivors of Violence Unit at the Central American Resource Center.

Lexi Airey Zuidema '16 has joined Van Dermyden Maddux Law Corporation in Sacramento as an associate attorney after graduating from UC Davis School of Law in 2019. She majored in both economics and business and political science at Westmont.

Analise Nuxoll '16 was a recipient of the Faculty Scholars Fellowship at Pepperdine University where she graduated in 2020. She was a Political Science major at Westmont, and now practices law as a public defender in Los Angeles.



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westmont.edu/pre-law-program