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Boston College Law School

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2013 NEWS ARCHIVE

11/27/13

Newton, MA--Twenty-five years ago Boston College Law School was a leader in combining externships with study abroad in the BC Law/Kings College London Program. Today, the school continues this tradition of innovation through a new initiative, the Boston College Law School Global Practice Program (GPP).

The London Program, together with the International Human Rights Semester in Practice and Immigration Externship Program, are the cornerstone elements of the Program. BC Law is also pleased to announce a new GPP initiative: **the Sorbonne JD/LLM Program**, a collaborative effort with the Sorbonne Law School of the Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the world. Only a handful of U.S. schools have a joint degree program with the Sorbonne, putting participating students into a select group of global practitioners.

"The core elements of the GPP embody our mission and institutional priorities: it is global, it is about practice, and it is centered on justice," said Paul Tremblay, BC Law Faculty Director for Experiential Learning. "We envision this as a collaborative effort between the "global" and the "experiential" faculty and staff. Through this integrated approach, we hope to advance the formation of lawyers who are both reflective and practice-ready for a globalizing legal environment."

The aim of the new Sorbonne Program, taught in French, is to offer law students and future lawyers a large variety of elective courses in their fields of interest, in-depth acquaintance with the intricacies of French and European Law and a new perspective on current global legal issues while learning in the best of the French academic tradition and Civil Law methodological techniques. Depending on student interest and availability, an internship in the spring in a French legal placement is also a possibility.

Upon completion of all requirements at the end of their third year, Boston College J.D. students who enroll in the Sorbonne Program will receive both the Boston College Law J.D. degree and the Paris I LL.M. Students may register for an additional year in Paris and join the Master I and or in some cases the Master II degrees in Law.

The program is open to Boston College law students who are fluent in French (spoken and written) and who have completed four semesters in residence at Boston College Law School. In addition, students must complete all Boston College Law School graduation requirements by the end of their second year of J.D. studies.

"Practicing law today means transcending borders," said Frank Garcia, BC Law Associate Dean for Global Initiatives. "Law students must develop a sophisticated understanding of how globalization is shaping law, and how law is shaping globalization, as part of their professional formation. We are working toward new GPP partnerships in other areas of the world that we will announce in the coming months. We will continue to build on these elements as opportunities and students' needs and interests develop."

