School of Law launches three year evening JD program to accommodate work and life balance

By CHLOE GRANT
Associate News Editor

The Quinnipiac School of Law recently announced a new three-year evening juris doctor program launching in fall 2027, with applications for the program opening Sept. 1. The program aims to support the wants and needs of Connecticut residents seeking a higher education in law.

After years of considering the needs of current evening law students, the new program looks to accommodate the busy lives of professionals, caretakers, parents and those who simply aren't able to fit a full-time traditional graduate program into their lives.

"It provides a structured academic roadmap, enhanced advising, dedicated program leadership and integrated bar preparation," Dean of the School of Law Brian Gallini said in a Quinnipiac Today press release. "The result is a program designed not simply to deliver legal education, but to help students navigate the entire journey from law school admission through bar licensure and professional success."

A distinctive thing to note about the new program is its integrated bar exam prep.

"During the spring and summer of their third year, students complete a comprehensive 20-week part-time bar preparation program while earning 11 academic credits," Director of the Evening JD program and Co-Director of the Tax Certificate Program Jennifer Levine said. "That structure gives students the opportunity to prepare for the bar exam as part of their degree program, while still allowing them to maintain their professional and daytime commitments. So it's helping them to stay on track towards graduation and licensure without having to put their careers and their other responsibilities on hold."

Levine explained how they made the decision to make this a three-year program because most students wanted to be able to complete it in under four years. She feels this is one of the things making the three-year evening JD program so distinctive. That, and its use of online coursework, which, according to Levine, takes a cutting-edge approach to remote pedagogy and is invested in learning all of the best approaches and integrating them into the online coursework.

The idea for a new evening program was sparked by a couple of things. With an overwhelming amount of student feedback in recent years, many felt the old program lacked a structured curriculum and often required students to piece the program together themselves.

"I think there was really a well-founded sentiment that students would go to school part time, and then when it was time to study for the bar exam, they were getting the advice of, 'Well, drop everything that you're doing and devote full time study to the bar,'" Gallini said. "I think third is really around the collateral services of things like career services, advising, experiential learning, really making sure that those sorts of services are just as available and robust in this new program as they are to our full-time students."

Another point to consider implementing a new program was that adult learners may learn differently and don't always have the same luxuries that full-time college students may have. This program is designed to work around busy lives, not the other way around.

The program is also made predominantly for Connecticut residents, given that the full-time program attracts students from all over the world.

"The part-time program really attracts those who are already established here and working here, and identify the JD as a degree that will help them advance in their careers," Gallini said. "So we really wanted to capitalize on what we were seeing in that data for the benefit, not just of that student demographic, but really as a broader illustration of the university's commitment to our home state."

The goal for this program is to bring a positive student culture to the School of Law at Quinnipiac. Administrators want students to feel excited about meeting their cohorts and faculty members to be leaning in and truly enjoying teaching the students.

"We're already doing that in the current part-time program, and I think in that sense, there's success… I would argue that even in the first year of the current program, we found opportunities that we believe this new program will address," Gallini said. "We just needed to strengthen the experience overall. So maybe the better way of answering that is saying a consistently enjoyable student experience across their three years."



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Quinnipiac's School of Law takes into account student feedback and introduces new three year evening JD program to accommodate the busy lives of Connecticut residents.

"It's helping them to stay on track towards graduation and licensure without having to put their careers and their responsilbities on hold."

– Jennifer Levine
DIRECTOR OF EVENING JD PROGRAM

Students frustrated with growing lantern fly populations across campus

LANTERN FLIES from cover

ing months, lantern flies will begin to lay their eggs. The adult population will drop over winter.

"So I would imagine in about a month and a half we won't see any lantern fly adults running around," Lawson said.

In addition to this, Lawson believes that more invasive plant species are a bigger concern to the ecosystem.

"These guys spread really quickly; they outcompete our native species and are the background of our trophic system and food web," Lawson said.

Japanese Notweed and Mugweed are some big invasive plant species that have been spotted in Connecticut and are currently the two biggest factors. The school and community are actively seeking ways to support students who wish to be involved in positive change.

Quinnipiac is currently receiving a special grant from PepsiCo that applies to any student-led and sustainable initiative on campus. Whether it includes basic species removal or planting native plants, both of those fall under that. Lawson is currently helping students get involved with this.

"I'm happy to point students in the right direction if they want to reach out to me if there's something on campus they would like to make more sustainable," Lawson said. "I would love to help support them in those goals."

Some students find themselves too often upset when the brightly colored bugs fly into their faces. Many students have the same thought when they see this species.

"To stomp on them, I've found that they normally have this duration where they jump where they can't jump again, so you kind of have the moment to get them," first-year Film, Television and Media major Emma Perrault said.

In addition to this, students have found themselves doing research to help themselves and others profoundly understand the species and how they can help make a change.

"They are an invasive species that suck the sap out of trees as well as destroy crop fields," Perrault said. "By their definition, they don't have a natural predator, so they are dangerous to our ecosystem."



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While they're not dangerous to humans, lantern flies are dangerous native plant life.