

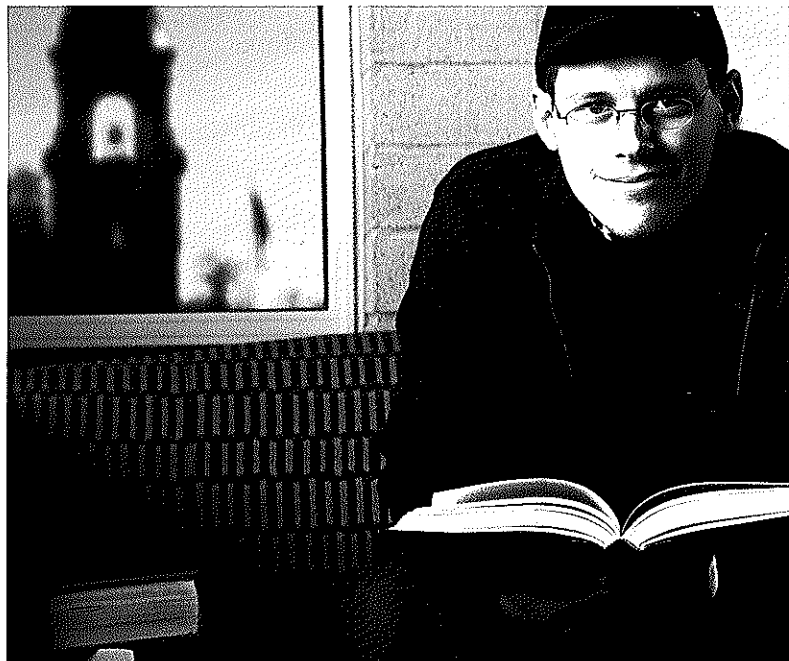
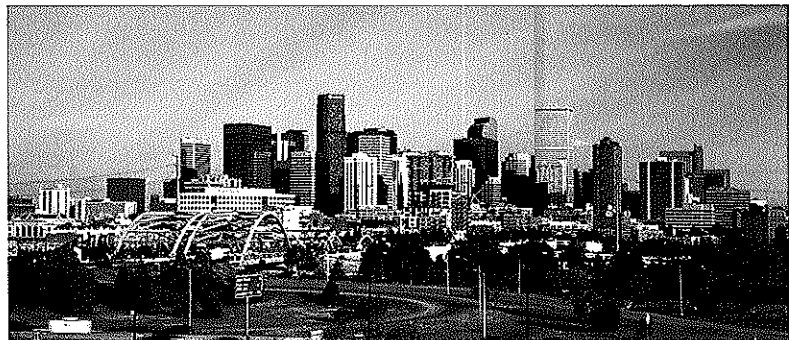


TRAINING

Master of Science in
Legal Administration

msla

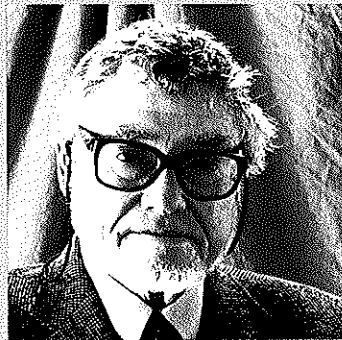
LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS SINCE 1972



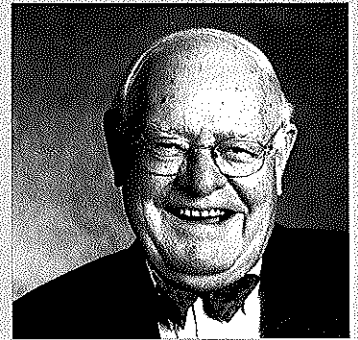
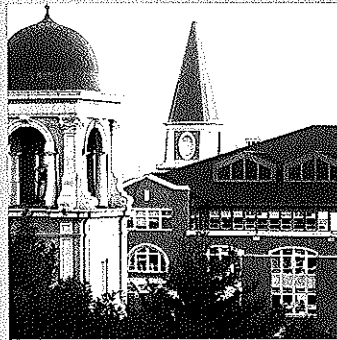
In late 2004, the U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification to the University of Denver's Frank H. Ricketson Jr. Law Building, **the nation's first law school building** to be certified "green."

The Frank H. Ricketson Jr. Law Building consists of 181,000 square feet spanning four stories. The \$63 million structure was built with DU's signature blend of red brick, limestone trim and copper, and was outfitted with the latest in-class and courtroom technology, including building-wide wireless access, "hot seats" in every classroom, a fully equipped training/mock trial courtroom, and in-class digital document cameras, which provide the ability to display crisp images of materials that are not in digital format.

Students in the MSLA program benefit greatly from the Sturm College of Law's state-of-the-art technology. The program utilizes educational platforms for the self-starter (Blackboard) as well as the more structured learner (Horizon Wimba). **Students may choose between online and/or in-class courses.**



Prof. Harry O. Lawson



Dean Emeritus Robert B. Yegge, JD '59

MSLA: HISTORY

In 1971, responding to Chief Justice Warren Burger's call for a program to train court administrators, **Professor Harry Lawson** spearheaded a program at the University of Denver College of Law which trained professional court administrators in its Master of Science in Judicial Administration (MSJA) program. To meet the demands of this emerging field, the MSJA program coupled the study of law with economics, political science, business and sociology.

As the MSJA program gained momentum and received national attention, many large law firms and corporate and governmental legal departments accepted that courts required professional legal administrators. The unique training that DU Law graduates received in the MSJA program

prompted private law firms to hire our graduates for management positions. As a result, in 1980, **Dean Emeritus and Professor Robert Yegge** joined the MSJA program and created what is now the concentration in Law Firm Administration. By 1990, the College of Law had combined the two – Court Administration and Law Firm Administration – into a single program with a slightly altered name: the Master of Science in Legal Administration (MSLA). Professor Lawson retired from teaching in 1997, and the directorship of the MSLA program was passed to Dean Yegge. Soon thereafter, the online education market exploded; consequently, the MSLA program explored the possibility of an online curriculum. **Beginning in 2003, all MSLA courses were offered both in-class and online.**

3 MSLA Concentrations:

- Law Firm Administration
- Court Administration
- International Court Administration

Law Firm Administration and Court Administration

True to its roots, the MSLA program continues to advance the development, education and training of the profession that manages, develops, and operates courts, law firms, and legal organizations. The program prepares students to be an administrator of a law firm, a court, or other organizations across the spectrum of legal institutions. Oriented toward a legal environment, the MSLA program is similar to a masters in business administration or a masters in public administration. Blending studies of business management with exposure to legal culture in the context of judicial and legal administration, students in the MSLA program explore all aspects of legal administration in its myriad contexts.

TRAINING LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS SINCE 1972

The MSLA program provides:

- A thorough understanding of the development and process of the legal system
- Knowledge of management principles and techniques required by complex systems
- The ability to plan and interpret empirical research in social legal systems
- An awareness of the changing trends in the law, courts, and legal organizations, and the relationships among law, society and court systems

The masters program is open to applicants who have completed a bachelor's or foreign equivalent degree as well as the LSAT, GRE or GMAT. Requiring 36 semester credit hours, students usually earn the degree in two semesters plus a summer term during which they complete a ten-week full-time externship. Students can go full-time and complete the program in one year or opt for the Executive Option and go part-time, while working, and finish in approximately 2-4 years. For your convenience, the MSLA degree is available **entirely online or in-class**. The online component does not have a residential requirement.



"As the first student to be admitted to and complete the MSLA program on-line, I have a unique perspective. I found the program to be rigorous, but participating on-line offered needed flexibility. One of my initial concerns was that the on-line program would be impersonal, with little contact between students and professors. I did not need to fear; several professors indicated that they actually felt that they got to know the on-line students better than those in their traditional classroom classes. I value the program's involvement of professors who are current legal administration practitioners – from courts, government and private legal offices. The insight of each, gained from their real world experiences, was invaluable."

Cathy Bagot, MSLA'05



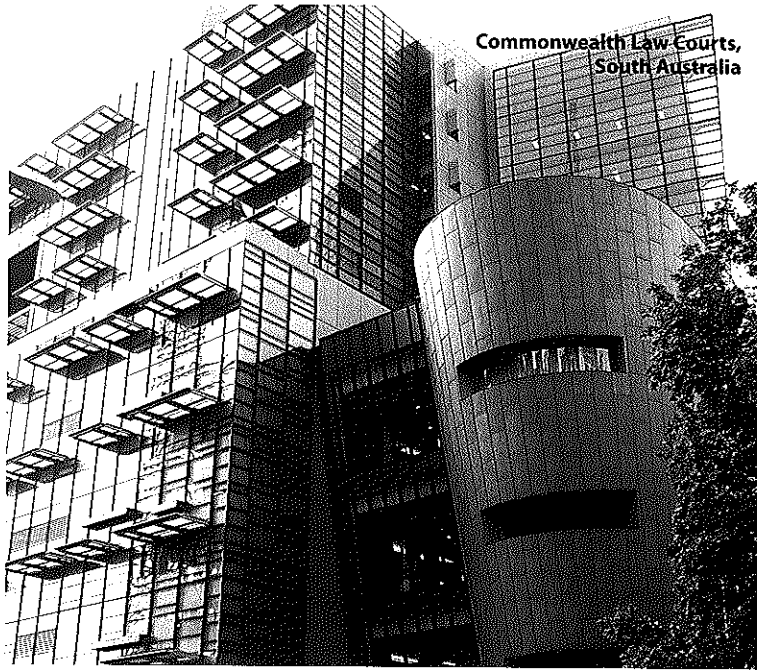
"The MSLA program gave me the tools that I needed to make a successful career change that has proved to be both enriching and rewarding. I have had the opportunity to learn new skills and to share my many years of management experience with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado by being involved in a variety of projects within the court."

Christine Eckhardt, MSLA'03

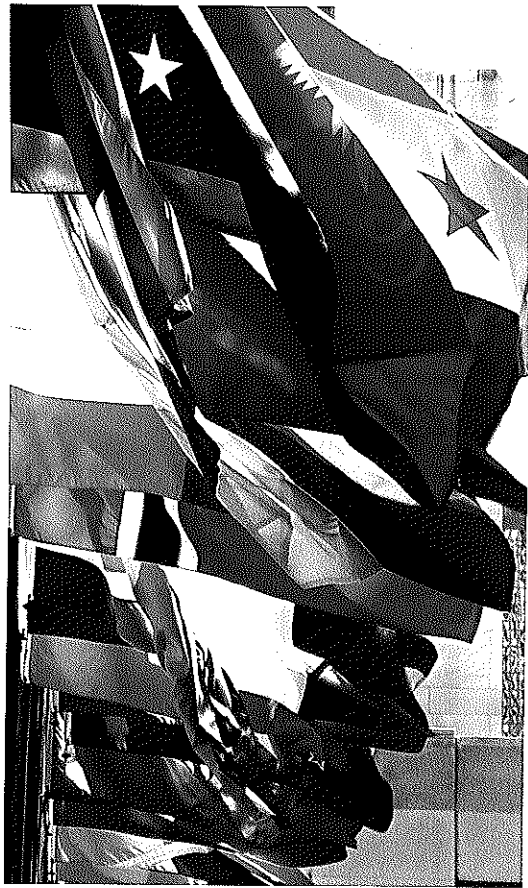


"I once listened to an attorney speak about the pitfalls of starting his own law firm. He lamented losing hundreds of thousands of dollars due to inefficiencies in his management practices. He then gave examples of things he would have done differently. Everything he listed is taught in the MSLA program. Had he spent a little extra time and money by enrolling in the MSLA program he could have saved himself a lot of time and money."

Selvoy Fillerup, MSLA'04 / JD '08



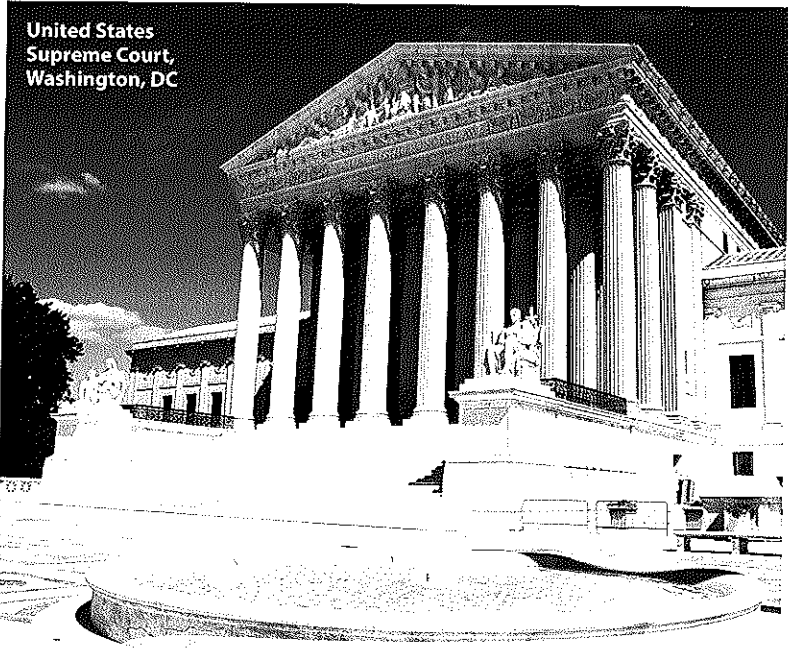
Commonwealth Law Courts,
South Australia



Court Clerk in
Afghanistan



International Court of Justice Peace Palace,
The Hague, Netherlands



United States
Supreme Court,
Washington, DC



Family Court of Australia

International Court Administration

The dynamic field of legal administration has experienced rapid worldwide growth. Throughout the international community, legal administrators strive to ensure that legal systems operate effectively and interact constructively with their respective societies. Effective training for this dynamic profession combines business management strategies with approaches tailored to meet the unique needs of legal institutions.

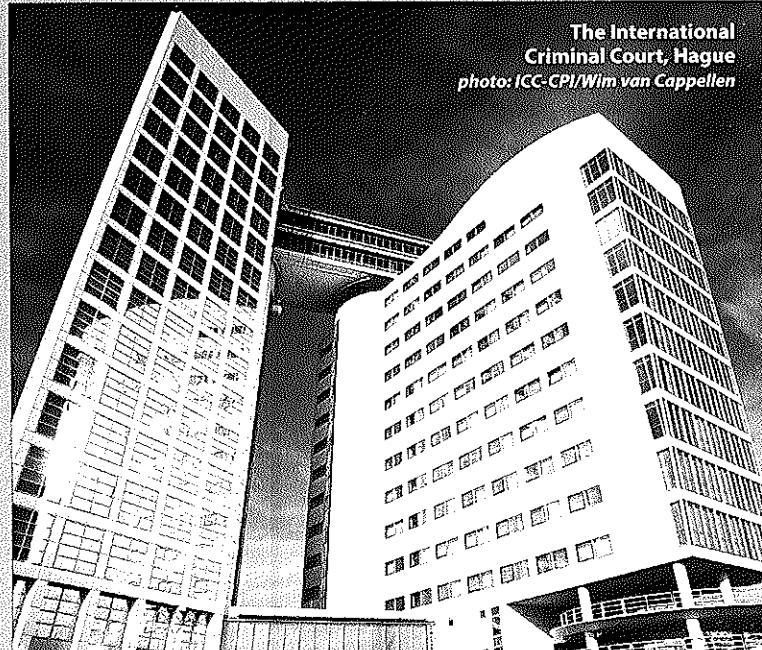
The University of Denver Sturm College of Law has trained hundreds of legal administrative professionals for more than thirty-five years in our Master of Science in Legal Administration (MSLA) program. More and more professionals from other countries have sought access to our program to enhance their court administration capabilities. Today our graduates increasingly provide services to legal institutions throughout the world in the design and improvement of their court systems.

The MSLA program quickly responded to the increased international demand for access to the inner workings of the program and for international court administration services. We encourage professionals from throughout the world to take advantage of our long history of excellence in the education of legal administrators. To accommodate international participants, in addition to the traditional MSLA degree, the program now offers an expanded curriculum. The expanded curriculum exposes participants to court systems throughout the world, highlighting strategies for implementation of effective legal administration in a variety of contexts, as well as strategic and fiscal planning unique to the participant's country. To increase international access, the program also has developed a variety of certificates in legal administration that participants can acquire entirely through online or in-class courses.

Supreme Court of Columbia
courtesy: Barry Walsh



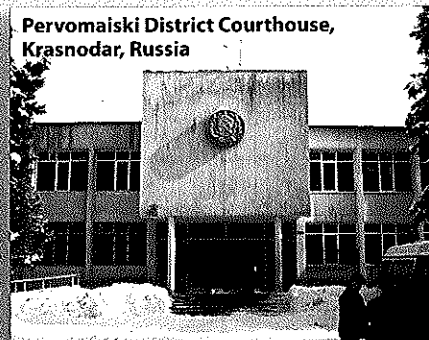
The International Criminal Court, Hague
photo: ICC-CPI/Wim van Cappellen



Abu Dhabi Courthouse



Pervomaiski District Courthouse,
Krasnodar, Russia

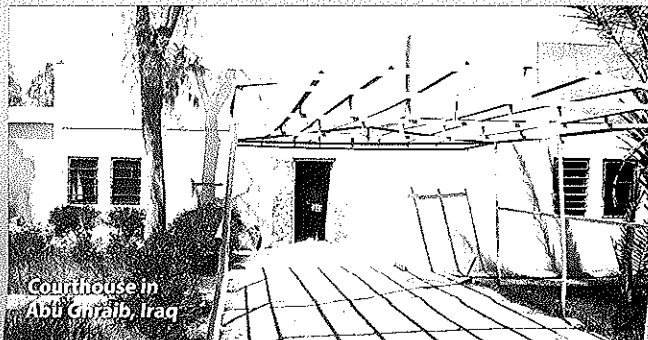




Fostering a Global Perspective

Milica Ruzickcheva came to the United States and the MSLA program from Bulgaria, where she is a justice of the supreme court of cassation in Bulgaria. Her mid-level experience and legal background in the current International Court Administration concentration. Ruzickcheva, a 2006 graduate of the MSLA program, was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program, whose goal is to educate former Communist countries in the fields of justice, healthcare, business and environmental issues. Ruzickcheva's ultimate goal in coming to the program was to encourage the Bulgarian court system to meet the standards set by courts in the European Union. In addition to her judgeship, which was obtained from the National Institute of Justice in Bulgaria, which is responsible for the initial and continue training of judges and court personnel, the Administration of Justice, according to the Judicial System Act in Bulgaria, is divided between the presiding judges and court administrators, because the field of court administration is still in its initial stages in Bulgaria, there are few available court administrator positions in the entire country. In an effort to remedy this, the National Institute of Justice is trying to create new educational programs for court administrators and presiding judges.

Milica Ruzickcheva, MSLA '07



Courthouse in Abil, Ghaib, Iraq

MSLA Certificate Program

The Certificate Program is designed to provide an academic credential, conferred at Sturm College of Law graduation, for persons who are not candidates for the Master of Science in Legal Administration degree (MSLA).

Students take courses to strengthen their knowledge and skills in the following areas: law firm administration; court administration; or international court administration. The certificate is awarded upon successful completion of a wide variety of MSLA courses. The program is flexible, allowing enrolled students to design the certificate curriculum to suit their individual needs. Practicing administrators are encouraged to apply for candidacy. A bachelor's degree is required for this certificate.

The Certificate in Law Office Administration, Court Administration or International Court Administration requires completion of 18 semester hours and may be completed in-class or online.

JD / MSLA Dual Degree

The MSLA program blends well with the JD degree. In the dual degree program, the law student must take the first year of JD classes in their entirety. Required MSLA classes may be interspersed with second and third year JD coursework. The dual degree program can be completed in three and a half years. As a dual degree program within the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, students receive a cross-credit allowance of 10 credits toward the JD degree.

Job Opportunities

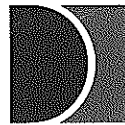
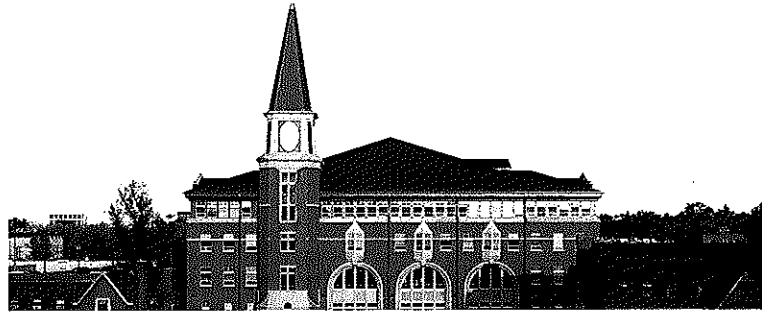
MSLA graduates have a range of job options. Alumni work as state, district, circuit, and federal court administrators; law office administrators; public sector office administrators, planning directors, clerks of the court, budget analysts and directors; private sector financial analysts, management analysts, professors and consultants.

Application Process

The Master of Science in Legal Administration degree is designed for individuals interested in a career in management and administration of courts, law firms, corporate legal departments, public law offices and other organizations within the legal field. MSLA students learn the fundamentals of business management as applied in the legal environment.

For application materials, or to view this brochure online, please go to www.law.du.edu/msla. We admit students on a rolling basis, so please feel free to submit your application at any time.

Prospective students should submit a completed application, official transcripts, official LSAT, GRE, or GMAT scores (unless the applicant already holds an advanced degree), a personal essay and a \$45 non-refundable application fee. Prospective international students are required to complete the TOEFL, with exceptions granted on a per-case basis. For questions regarding admission requirements, please contact the MSLA office at 303-871-6308 or msla@law.du.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

Sturm College of Law

Master of Science in Legal Administration

M.S. in Legal Administration Program (MSLA)
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