

THE ASSOCIATION OF KOREAN LAW SCHOOLS 2026



Chairperson's Message

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Greetings,

I am Dae Sik Hong, Chairperson of the AKLS, an association composed of the deans of the 25 law schools nationwide.

Since its introduction in 2009, Korea's law school system has opened a new horizon for fostering legal professionals through education. Over the past 17 years, we have educated 20,000 legal professionals with diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Law schools prioritize fairness and transparency in the admissions, evaluating lived experiences alongside academic achievements. In particular, we provide equal opportunities through the Regional Talent Admissions and Special Admissions for the Socially Disadvantaged. Furthermore, by returning more than 30% of total tuition income as scholarships, we support capable talents in realizing their dreams without financial difficulties.

In this transition period where the legal environment is rapidly changing with AI technology, law schools are focusing on fostering legal professionals who possess not only professional capabilities but also a sense of justice, human rights, and ethical judgment.

The AKLS also strives for stable operation of the law school system and enhancing quality of legal education through activities such as organizing the Legal Education Eligibility Test (LEET), academic research, and domestic and international exchanges. Additionally, we cooperate closely with the government and other stakeholders for legislative and policy advocacy and system reform.

We will continue to support 25 law schools and the law school system as the cradle of legal professional training. We ask for your continued interest and support.

Thank you.



Dae Sik Hong, Chairperson of the AKLS

PART I. AKLS

1. Connecting 25 Law Schools. Building the Growth of Legal Education Together.

The AKLS is a non-profit corporation established under the *Act on the Establishment and Operation of Public Interest Corporations*. It acts as the focal point for law schools' autonomous discussions and coordination of major issues, establishing a mutual cooperative system in order to contribute to the development of the legal professional training system.

Major Areas of Work

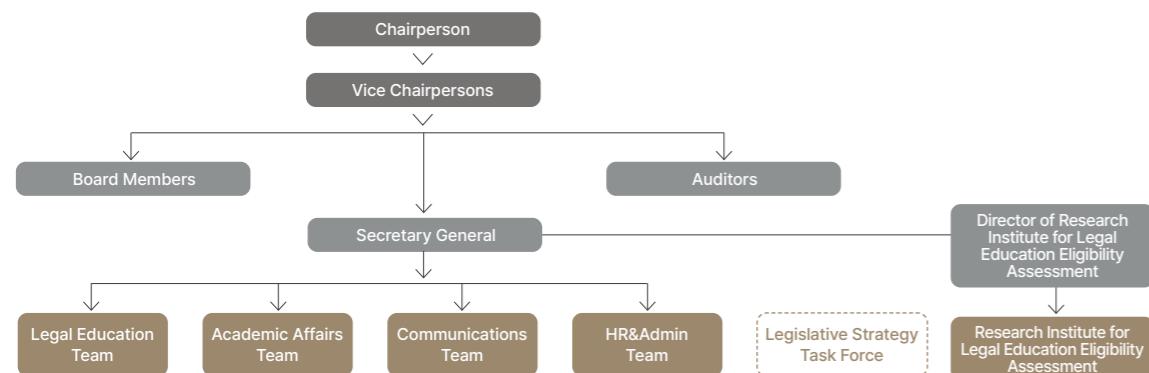
1. Administration of the LEET - Exam construction, administration, and scoring
2. Information Sharing and Support for Law School Admissions
3. Operation of Bar Examination Mock Tests
4. Research and Academic Activities

The Association of Korean Law Schools



The Association
of Korean
Law Schools

Organization Chart



Seoul National Univ.



Past Chairpersons

- 1st Munhyeok Ho (2008.02.22. ~ 2008.07.06.)
- 2nd Geonsik Kim (2008.07.07. ~ 2010.05.26.)
- 3rd Jongseop Jung (2010.05.27. ~ 2012.05.26.)
- 4th Hyeonyun Shin (2012.05.27. ~ 2014.05.26.)
- 5th Yeongho Shin (2014.05.27. ~ 2015.07.07.)
- 6th Sugeun Oh (2015.07.23. ~ 2016.05.26.)
- 7th Hyeonggyu Lee (2016.05.27. ~ 2018.05.26.)
- 8th Hyeonggyu Lee (2018.05.27. ~ 2018.12.31.)
- 9th Sunseok Kim (2019.01.01. ~ 2020.12.31.)
- 10th Gijeong Han (2021.01.01. ~ 2022.09.05.)
- 11th Sangkyung Lee (2022.10.11. ~ 2024.10.10.)
- 12th Dae Sik Hong (2024.10.11. ~)

General Assembly (25 members):

- Highest decision-making body, deliberates and decides on major issues.
- Composed of the Deans of the 25 Law Schools.

Board of Directors (11 members):

- Deliberates on major issues and executes decisions.
- 1 Chairperson, 3 Vice Chairpersons, 5 Board Members, 2 Auditors.

Secretariat:

- Implementation of major AKLS projects, including administration of LEET

Research Institute for Legal Education

Eligibility Assessment:

- Development of and research on LEET questions

Sungkyunkwan Univ.





Jeju National University

2. Evolving and Growing with the Law School System. History of Cooperation

2008 - Establishment of the AKLS
- Conducted the preliminary LEET
- Held the Inaugural General Assembly, Inauguration of the 1st Chairperson Munhyeok Ho
- Designated as the administering agency for the LEET
- Administered the 1st LEET

2009 - Opening of 25 law schools

2010 - Launch of the LEET Research Team

2011 - Administered the 1st Bar Exam Mock Test
- First AKLS administration of the LEET

2012 - MoJ(Ministry of Justice) holds the 1st National Bar Examination

2013 - Held the Law School Job Fair
- Held the Korea-Japan Law School Joint Symposium

2014 - Launched the periodical *Window into Law School* ('Law School Chang')
- Began LEET fee exemption for applicants from low-income households
- MoJ launches Village Lawyer System



Chung Ang Univ.



2018 - Held the 10th Anniversary Ceremony of the AKLS

2019 - Held the Symposium on Improvement of the Bar Exam System for Normalization of Law School Education
- Total cumulative LEET applicants surpassed 100,000
- Number of lawyers admitted in the jurisdiction surpassed 30,000

2020 - Held the Symposium on Reforming the Bar Exam into a Complete Qualification Exam

2021 - Total Law School scholarships surpassed 400 billion KRW

2023 - Reorganized LEET Research Team into the Research Institute for Legal Education Eligibility Assessment
- Founded the web-based newspaper *Law School Times*
- Held the 15th Anniversary Ceremony of the Introduction of Law Schools & Founding of the AKLS
- Designated as a Public Interest Corporation

2024 - Introduction of Computer Based Test (CBT) system for the National Bar Examination
- Introduction of Internet Based Test (IBT) system for the Bar Exam Mock Test
- Government-supported scholarships surpassed 50 billion KRW
- Entered into MOU with Shinhan Scholarship Foundation for Scholarship Program to Foster Legal Professionals
- Entered into MOU with LBOX on leveraging AI technology for legal education

2025 - Entered into MOU with Law & Company on leveraging AI technology for legal education
- Designated as an agency engaging in legal affairs
- LEET fee exemptions surpassed 5,000 applicants
- Entered into MOU with Korean In-house Counsel Association for Fostering Legal Professionals
- Entered into MOU with Legal Assistance and the Law Times for Supporting Career Growth of Legal Professionals
- Entered into MOU with Korean Association of Clinical Legal Education for supporting legal clinics

3. Major Area of Work

Administration of the LEET

- Exam construction, administration, and scoring

The AKLS manages the construction, administration, and scoring of the LEET to ensure fair and reliable evaluation of the candidates. The LEET comprehensively measures the thinking skills and basic literacy required for law school education, as well as the potential capacity as a legal professional.

Information Sharing and Support for Law School Admissions

In March of each year, the AKLS establishes and announces the basic plan for admissions to the 25 law schools. Each law school conducts individual admissions from October according to the basic plan. In addition, the AKLS holds a Joint Admissions Expo every August to provide reliable information to applicants.

Operation of Bar Examination Mock Tests

The AKLS develops and administers the Bar Exam Mock Tests. The Bar Exam Mock Test is administered three times a year so that third-year law school students can check their skills in an environment similar to the actual exam. In tandem with the implementation of CBT (Computer Based Test) system for bar exams, the mock tests have transitioned to IBTs (Internet Based Test).

Jeju National University



Research and Academic Activities

The AKLS organizes and operates Working Committees and Advisory Committees to promote research for the improvement of law school and bar exam system. The AKLS holds regular symposiums and forums to share research results and discuss policy reform on training of legal professionals.

<Working Committees>

Bar Exam System Improvement Working Committee:

- Review improvements for the Bar Exam, including the determination of pass rate.
- Prepare amendments to the National Bar Examination Act and its Enforcement Decree.

Law School System Improvement Working Committee:

- Review improvements for the Law School system, including law school evaluations.
- Prepare amendments to the Law School Act and its Enforcement Decree.

Law School Operation Support Working Committee:

- Review common issues among member law schools, including coordination of each school's academic management.
- Prepare support measures at the AKLS level.

AKLS Governance Improvement Working Committee:

- Review the organization and operation of the AKLS.
- Review AKLS articles of incorporation and regulations, and prepare amendments.

Clinical Legal Education Working Committee:

- Resource mobilization and institutional support for law schools' clinical programs.

<Advisory Committees>

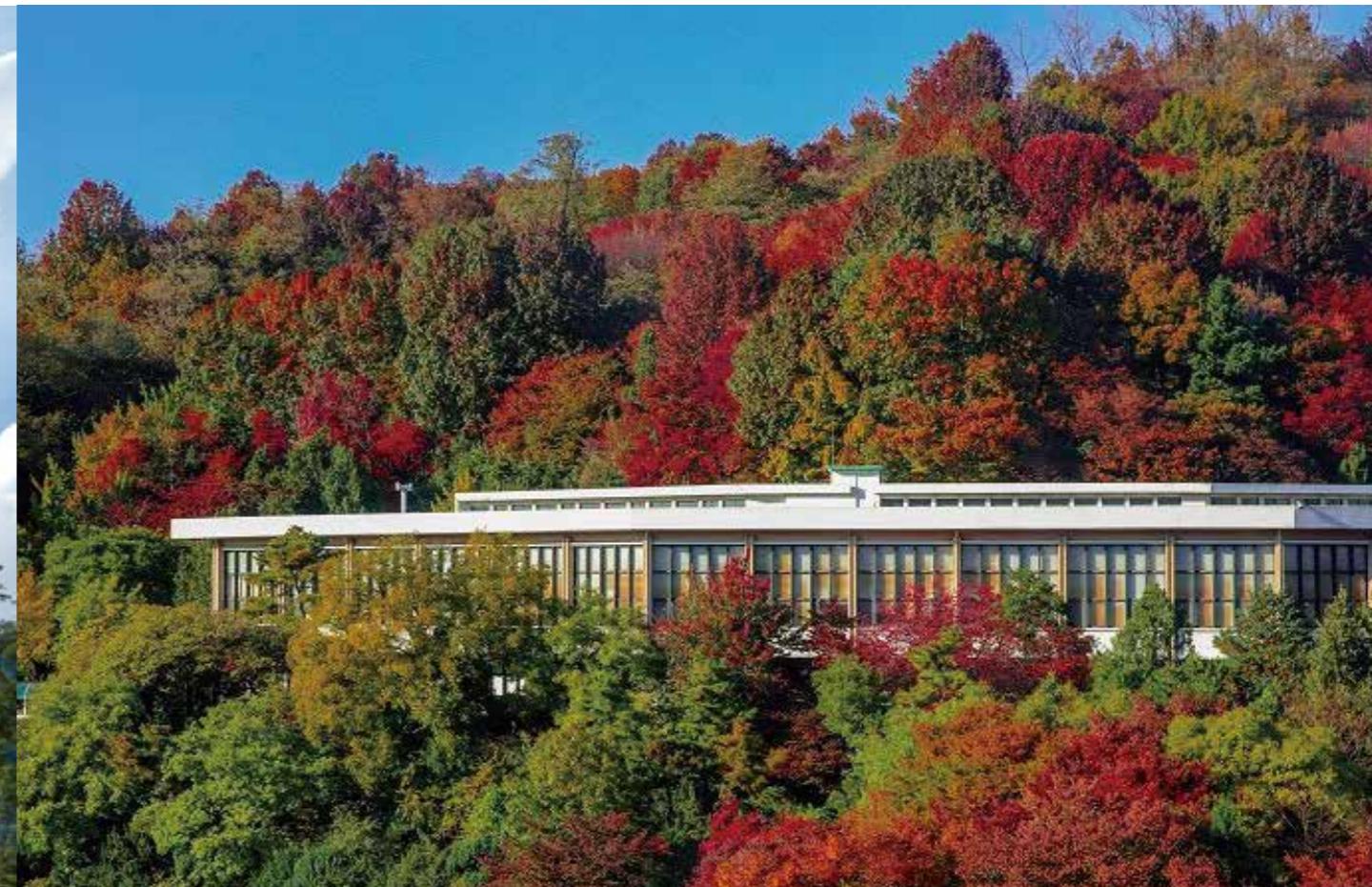
Legal Professional Advisory Committee:

- Conduct research for fostering public-interest legal professionals.
- Promote system improvements to expand the entry of legal professionals into public interest sectors.

LEET Advisory Committee:

- Review matters concerning the LEET planning and results analysis.
- Discuss other key issues concerning the LEET.

Sogang Univ.



Cooperation and Exchanges

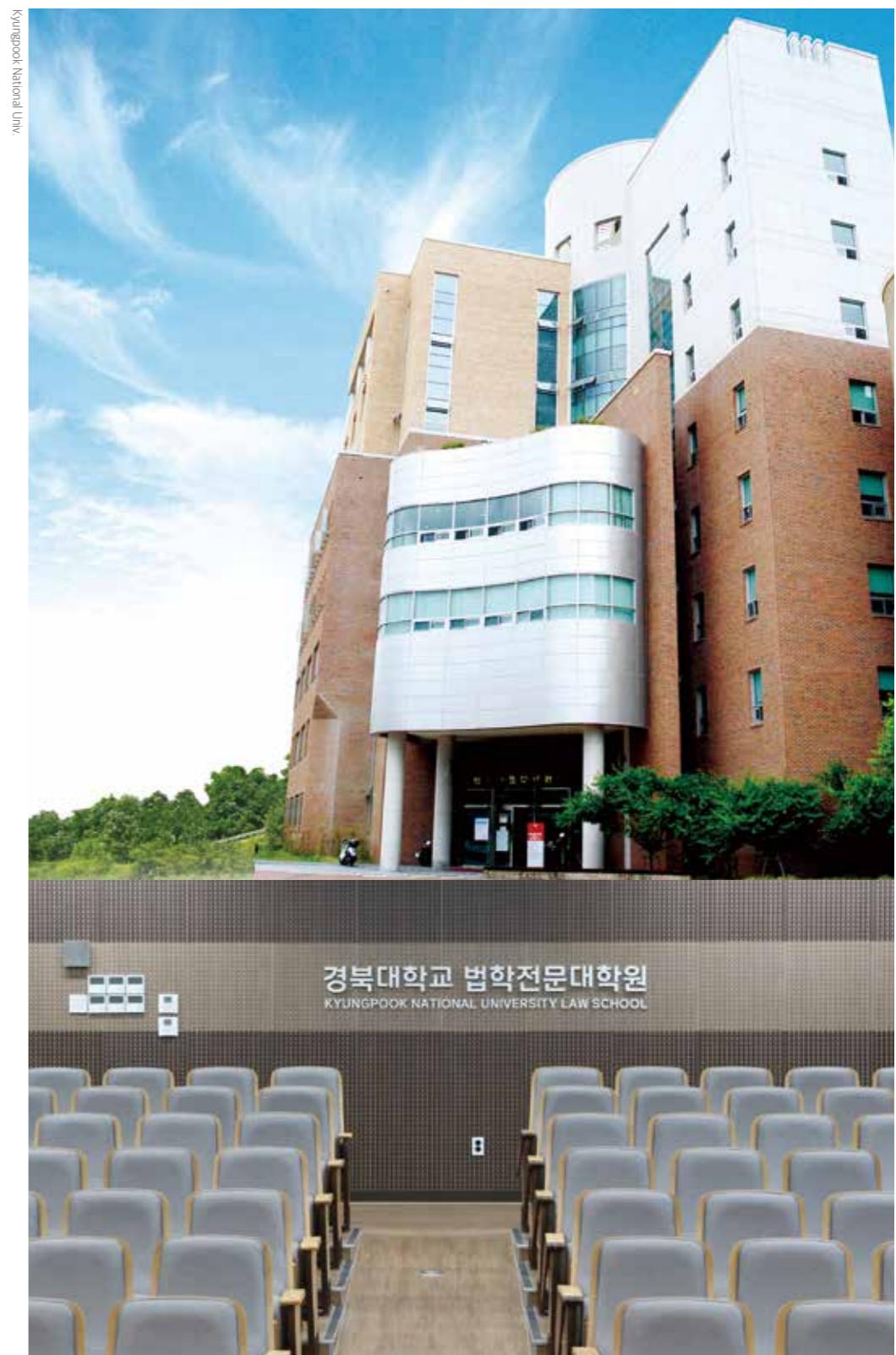
The AKLS has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with major public institutions, including the National Court Administration, the Ministry of Justice, the National Assembly Secretariat, and the National Tax Service, to support practical training and field education for law school students. The AKLS also actively collaborates with various stakeholders to nurture legal professionals who meet today's challenges and societal needs. This includes partnerships with legal clinics, career growth platforms, AI technology firms, and other key organizations.

Konkuk Univ.



16

Kyungpook National Univ



17



Kangwon National Univ.



Pusan National Univ.

The Association of Korean Law Schools



Sungkyunkwan Univ.

PART II.

Law Schools and Bar Exams

1. Law Schools

Act on the Establishment and Management of Professional Law Schools

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Article 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Act is to provide for matters concerning the establishment and management of professional law schools and the education at such professional law schools, and to train quality legal professionals.

Article 2 (Educational Ideology)

The educational ideology of professional law schools is to train legal professionals who have sound professional ethics based on rich education, a deep understanding of people and society, and morals valuing freedom, equality and justice, and who have knowledge and abilities that will allow professional and efficient resolution of diverse legal disputes in order to provide quality legal service responding to the people's diverse expectations and requests.

”

Dong-A Univ.



1-1. Current Status of Law Schools

In 2009, the government authorized the establishment of law schools at 25 universities, leading to the establishment of 25 law schools nationwide. Strict accreditation standards remain in place, regarding faculty, educational facilities, student support, and other relevant criteria. Having replaced the previous judicial exam system, law schools are now the sole pathway for becoming legal professionals.

* Major Accreditation Standards

Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 or more full-time faculty members• Student-to-faculty ratio of 12:1 or less• 20% or more faculty with practical experience (Lawyer qualification and 5 years or more experience)
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent building, moot court room, IT facilities, research rooms, seminar rooms, and research institute• Dedicated library and dedicated dormitory• Dedicated study room (capable of accommodating 70% or more of the students at once) (1 seat per person)
Student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuition dependency ratio below 55% of total operating revenue• Annual investment of over 20 million KRW per student• Scholarships of 30% or more of total tuition fees• Operation of legal clinic and research institute



Pusan National Univ.



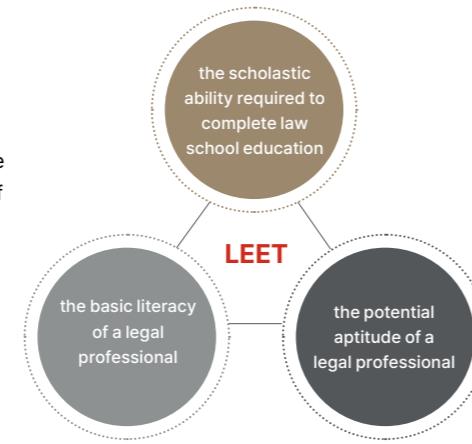
Kangwon National Univ.



Hankuk Univ. of Foreign Studies

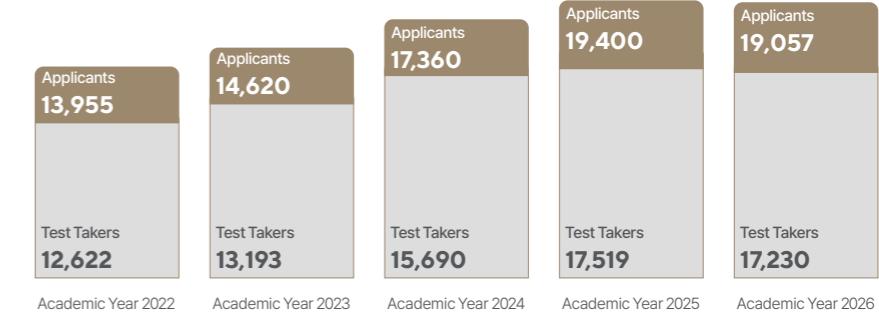
1-2. Legal Education Eligibility Test (LEET)

LEET is a test that measures whether a candidate possesses the scholastic ability required to complete law school education and the basic literacy and potential aptitude of a legal professional. It measures the ability to solve problems through high-level thinking such as analytical skills, reasoning skills, comprehensive critical skills, and creative application skills, and is used as one of the essential elements for law school admissions.



The number of applicants for the LEET is steadily increasing. In the 2025 academic year LEET, a record high of 19,400 people applied.

(Unit: Persons)



Chungbuk National Univ.

Ajou Univ.





1-3. Law School Curriculum

Law school is a 3-year professional master's degree educational institution, operating a curriculum of legal theory and practice-oriented subjects, and specialized fields. Law schools, through legal clinics and social service opportunities, foster legal professionals who possess knowledge and skills in both theory and practice.

Theoretical Education

- Basic Law (Public Law, Civil Law, Criminal Law)
- Fundamental Law (Legal Philosophy, Legal History, Sociology of Law, etc.) and related subjects (Economics, Anthropology, Politics, etc.)
- Specialized Law

Practical Education

- Legal Ethics, Legal Information Research, Legal Document Writing, Moot Court, Practical Training Courses



Specialization program

School	Quota	Specialization Program
Ajou University	50	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Law
Chonnam National University	120	Public Interest and Human Rights Law
Chung Ang University	50	Cultural Law
Chungbuk National University	70	Science and Technology Law
Chungnam National University	100	Intellectual Property Law
Dong-A University	80	International Business Transactions Law
Ewha Womans University	100	Biomedical Law, Gender Law
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	50	International Regional Law
Hanyang University	100	Public Interest and Human Rights & Governance, Knowledge and Culture & Science and Technology
Inha University	50	Logistics Law, Intellectual Property Law
Jeju National University	40	International Law
Jeonbuk National University	80	Northeast Asian Law
Kangwon National University	40	Environmental Law
Konkuk University	40	Real Estate Law
Korea University	120	Global Legal Practice
Kyung Hee University	60	Global Corporate Law
Kyungpook National University	120	IT and Law
Pusan National University	120	Finance, Shipping and Trade Law
Seoul National University	150	International Law, Public Interest and Human Rights Law, Corporate Finance Law
Sogang University	40	Corporate Law(Finance Law)
Sungkyunkwan University	120	Corporate Law
University of Seoul	50	Tax Law
Wonkwang University	60	Medical and Life Science
Yeungnam University	70	Public Interest, Human rights
Yonsei University	120	Public Governance and Law/ Global Business and Law/ Medicine, Science, Technology and Law



Univ. of Seoul

1-4. Admissions

Anyone with a 4-year bachelor's degree in various majors or equivalent qualifications can apply to law school. Undergraduate GPA, LEET scores, authorized language test scores, social/volunteer activities, and career experience are comprehensively evaluated in the admissions process.

Jeju National Univ.



Seoul National Univ.



The Law School System in Numbers

Special Admissions Program

Law schools operate special admissions program under the *Act on the Establishment and Management of Professional Law Schools* so that people with diverse backgrounds can have access to fair opportunities. More than 7% of the total admitted students are selected annually through this program, and a total of 2,463 students have been admitted between 2009 to 2025 academic years.

2,463

Regional Talent Admissions System

Law schools operate a admissions system under the *Act on the Development of Local Universities and Regional Human Resources* for balanced development of regions and the diversification of legal talent. Since the 2015 academic year, local law schools have been selecting a certain percentage of graduates from universities in their respective regions. Through this, 1,790 regional talents have become legal professionals by the 2025 academic year.

1,790

Scholarships

Law schools provide more than 30% of their tuition income as scholarships. As of the 2024 academic year, 49.03%, or nearly half of all enrolled students, received scholarship support. Law schools provide full tuition support to students in income decile 3 or lower and to special admissions entrants. 17.8% of students received full tuition scholarships.

49.03



Ewha Womans Univ.



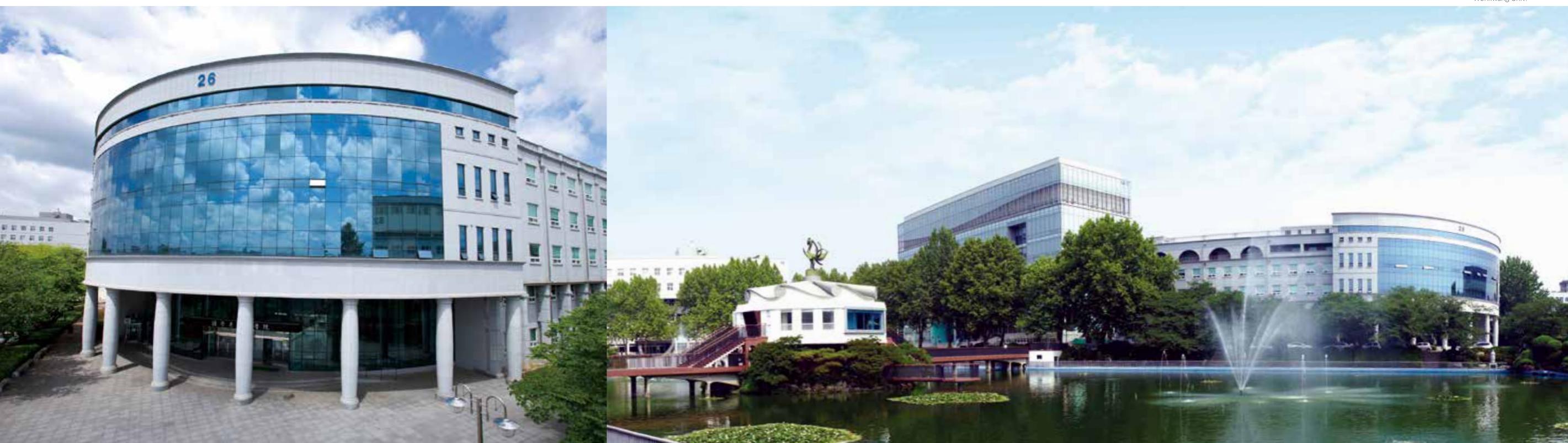
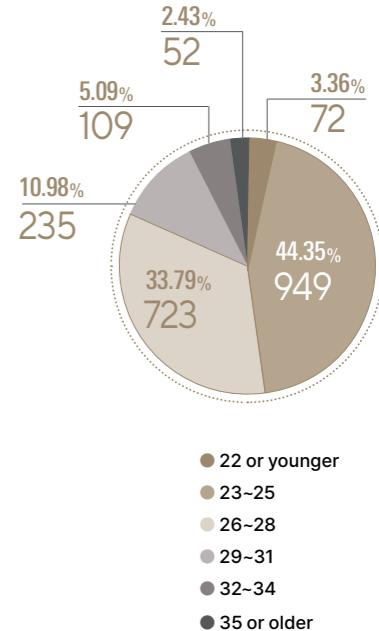
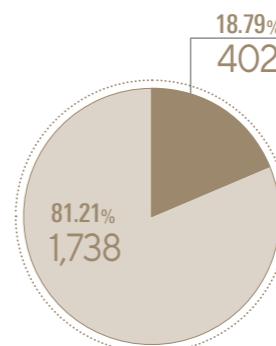
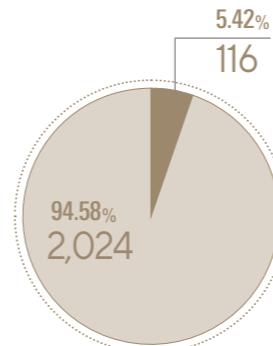
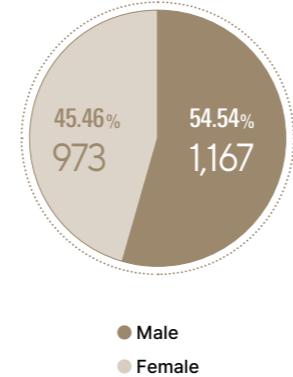
Jeonbuk National Univ.



Soomin Hong [17th Class, Chonnam National University Law School]

“ Through the public educational institution of the law school system, I was able to begin my path toward becoming a legal professional. Through my time in law school, I hope to develop the capacity to contribute to the lives of others and to become a voice for rights that have too often gone unheard. Rather than seeking distinguished achievements, I aspire to be a legal professional who makes choices I can stand by without shame at every moment. ”

2025 Law School Admission Statistics





Hanyang Univ.

Wonkwang Univ.

The Association of Korean Law Schools

Jeju National Univ.

Sungkyunkwan Univ.



2. National Bar Exam

Korea Univ.

National Bar Examination Act

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Article 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Act is to provide for matters concerning the National Bar Examination which tests abilities to practice law, such as professional ethics and legal knowledge, necessary to legal professionals.

Article 2 (Basic Principles in Administration of National Bar Examination)

The National Bar Examination (hereinafter referred to as the "Examination") shall be administered in close connection with the curricula of professional law schools (hereinafter referred to as "professional law schools") under the Act on the Establishment and Management of Professional Law Schools.

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Inha Univ.



Inha Univ.

One can obtain a lawyer qualification only after graduating from a law school and passing the National Bar Examination administered by the Ministry of Justice every January. The Bar Exam consists of required subjects in Public Law, Criminal Law, and Civil Law, and one elective subject chosen from 7 specialized legal fields. The Legal Ethics Examination is administered separately.

Eligibility:

A person who has obtained a master's degree from a law school (or is expected to graduate in February of the current year).

Note: Only 5 attempts allowed within 5 years.

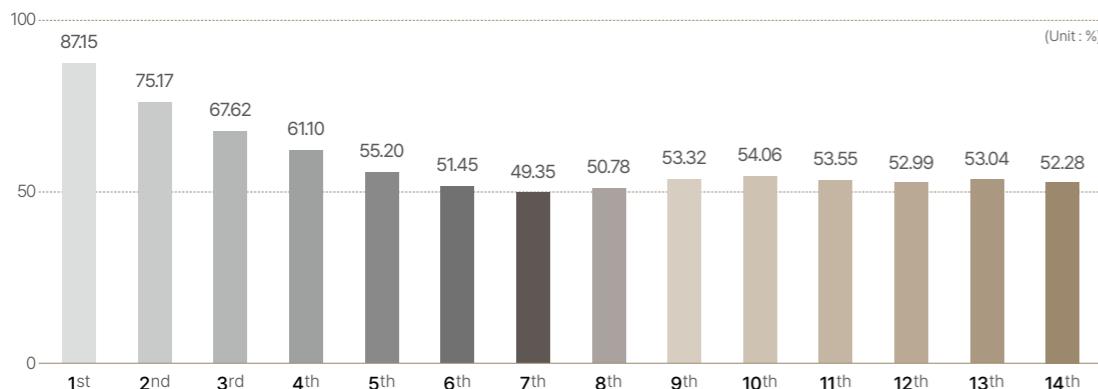
Exam Schedule:

Conducted over 5 days including one rest day every January.

Required Subjects

Required Subjects	Multiple Choice / Essay / Record-based test - Public Law (Constitution, Administrative Law) - Criminal Law (Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law) - Civil Law (Civil Law, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure Law)
Specialized Legal Fields	Essay Test (1 selected) - International Law, International Transaction Law, Labor Law, Tax Law, Intellectual Property Law, Economic Law, Environmental Law
Legal Ethics	Multiple Choice - Administered separately

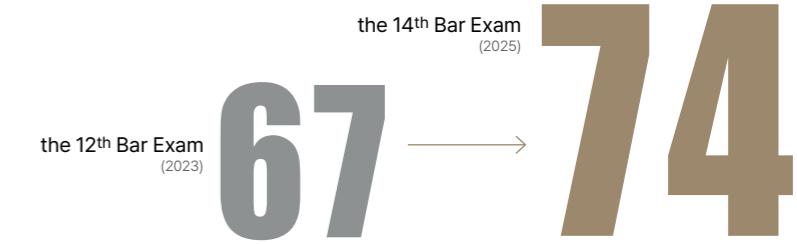
Bar Exam pass rate



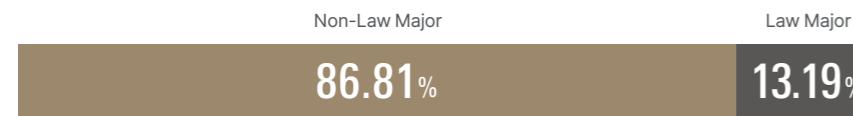
3. Legal Professionals after Graduation from Law Schools

Law schools have brought new diversity to the legal profession, transcending the boundaries of major, age, and university of origin. Among the successful candidates of the 14th Bar Examination(2025), 86.81% were non-law majors, hailing from diverse fields such as science and engineering, humanities, social sciences, and arts and physical education. The diversity of universities has also expanded, with successful candidates graduating from 74 different universities nationwide.

Number of Universities Represented by the Bar Examination Passers



Major of the 14th Bar Examination Passers



Jeonbuk National Univ.



Yeungnam Univ.



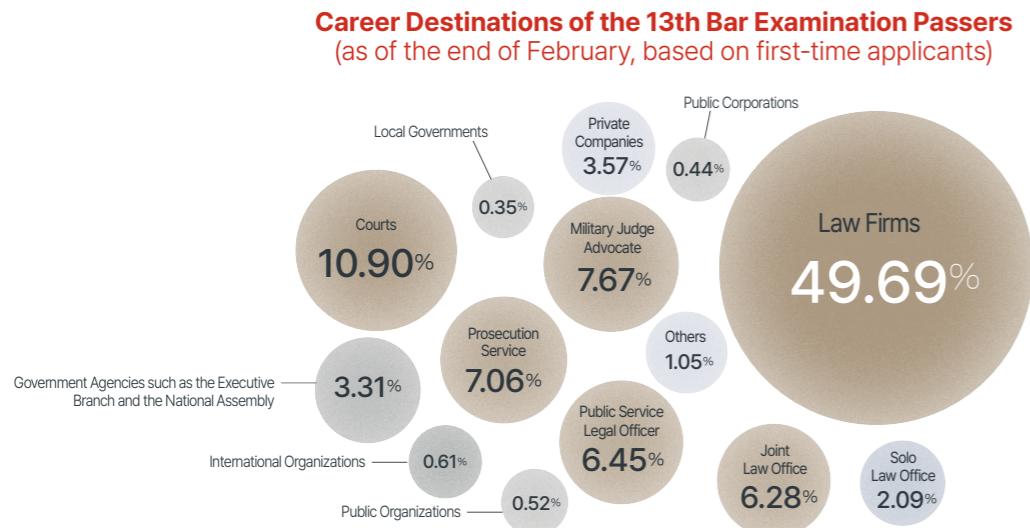


Korea Univ.

Legal professionals graduate from law schools with both expertise and sense of public duty. They are expanding their reach beyond the traditional legal spheres—such as law firms, the judiciary, and the prosecution—into government agencies, legislature, local governments, public and private enterprises, and civil society organizations.



Yujung Shin [Attorney at Law, Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC)]



“ I believe that the role of legal professionals can expand beyond its traditional scope to serve the public interest more fully. I see law school as a vital starting point where individuals with diverse life experiences come together and grow into the wide range of legal professionals that society needs. Through my career across the National Assembly, the government, and civil-society organizations in the fields of human rights and environmental protection, I have contributed to shaping the evolving role of law in practice. Going forward, I aspire to become a legal professional who stands with those vulnerable to climate change, at the intersection of the climate crisis and human rights.”

