Q&A with an M.S.L. student: Andrea Garringer M.S.L.

Andrea Garringer is the human resources director for the John Glenn School at The Ohio State University. She earned her B.S. from Ohio State and an M.B.A. from Franklin University.

Why did you enroll in the M.S.L. program?

I enrolled to gain a better understanding of the legal framework of employment and business relationships so I can better advise my employer in its decision-making process. Too often, administrators are uncertain of their rights or potential liabilities that may exist and they take action without being fully informed, which can lead to some pretty awful legal disputes.

What are some of the most useful skills you’ve learned so far?

This program has provided me with the skills to research a problem, identify the legal rules associated with a situation, and recommend appropriate action with confidence that we’re making the best decision possible for both us and the employee. It has also provided me the opportunity to discuss issues with professors who are experts in their fields.

How has the M.S.L. program helped your career so far?

I believe this degree will help me become a trusted advisor and leader with a reputation for fair, thoughtful, and legally sound actions that address the organization’s needs while also protecting employees’ rights and interests.

The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law

Master in the Study of Law Degree (M.S.L.)

Information for M.S.L. program:
moritzlaw.osu.edu/admissions/msl
Laura Fernandez - fernandez.214@osu.edu
To receive the M.S.L. degree, a student must satisfactorily complete 30 semester hours at the Moritz College of Law. A full-time student typically will be able to complete the program in one academic year. Part-time students generally will be expected to complete the requirements for the M.S.L. degree within four academic years.

Students will join J.D. candidates in first-year and advanced courses taught by award-winning professors. The College’s faculty includes six former U.S. Supreme Court clerks and dozens more have equally remarkable careers as attorneys and educators.

To provide students with a solid foundation in legal principles and doctrine, Moritz includes three traditional first-year courses in its M.S.L. curriculum.

Beyond that, students can work with the faculty director to design their own curriculum, or complete a concentration in one of the following areas:

- Business Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Dispute Resolution
- Intellectual Property
- International Law
- Labor and Employment Law

An alternative to the traditional three-year J.D. degree, the Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.) degree is designed to help accomplished professionals in other disciplines expand their knowledge of legal principles and the U.S. legal system.

At Ohio State, students in the M.S.L. program attend self-selected classes alongside full-time law students at one of the country’s top 15 public law schools.

Admission Requirements:

Applicants should have either:

- A Ph.D. or other doctoral degree in a discipline other than law, or
- Completed a program of study amounting to 45 quarter hours (or 30 semester hours) toward the doctoral degree.

In special cases, particular admission requirements may be waived.

The deadline for admissions, for both domestic and international students, is March 15.

Applicants for admission to the M.S.L. program must complete the appropriate admission form, submit a transcript from each college or university the applicant attended, and submit letters of recommendation. Additionally, applicants must also submit a personal statement addressing how the applicant will benefit from the M.S.L. program. This statement should be no more than 1000 words.

Applicants also must have recent results from:

- Law School Admissions Test
- Graduate Record Examination
- Graduate Management Admissions Test
- Medical College Admissions Test
- or an equivalent test

International applicants also must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
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Does law cross over into your area of expertise? Would learning about certain legal practices, laws and regulations help advance your career?

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law’s Master’s in the Study of Law degree is a flexible program for those who want to learn more about the law in order to strengthen their professional skills. This program will provide you with a foundation in U.S. law, and the flexibility to design your course schedule in a way that best suits your career needs. You will attend classes alongside J.D. and LL.M. students at one of the country’s top 15 public law schools.

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