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Loyola to launch online global degree

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Americans know it as "antitrust law." Much of the rest of the world calls it "competition law."

Loyola University Chicago School of Law is bridging the two.

The school has announced the launch of an online-only master's program in global competition law open to anyone but designed for working professionals outside of the United States.

The program offers an LL.M. for lawyers and a Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.) for non-lawyers. The school is calling the program the first of its kind.

"There's nothing we've been able to find that is comparable," said Loyola professor and program founder Spencer Weber Waller. "We are the first."

The two-year, part-time program — which launches in August — is asynchronous, meaning it has recorded content that students can access on their own schedule.

Faculty will maintain digital office hours via e-mail and Skype.

Waller, who earned his J.D. at Northwestern University School of Law in 1982, said he is launching the program as a response to the evolving field of competition law.

"When I started studying antitrust, the U.S. was pretty close to alone in the field," he said. "Over the last 30-some years, over 130 countries have developed some form of what we would call antitrust, and what they would call competition.

"And particularly since the fall of the Soviet Union, dozens and dozens of countries have adopted these laws."

The program's focus differs from the law school's on-campus antitrust curriculum because it is aimed at professionals in the field as opposed to law students.

"There are only a handful of people who can take the time off and incur the cost of coming to the United States or another law school setting and do a campus-based graduate degree," Waller said.

"Our program gives people the opportunity of staying where they are, continuing to work in the public or private sector, earn their salary and..."
get access to the education online when it's convenient for them.”

The 20-credit hour program will cost students about $28,000 in total tuition. However, the school will scale tuition to the level of economic development of the country or jurisdiction where the student is located.

Required first-year courses include Law and Economics, International and Comparative Competition Law, Principles of Competition Law and Intellectual Property. There are no required second-year courses.

The school plans to get the word out via a social media campaign while working closely with competition and consumer enforcement agencies to make group rates available to their staffs. The school will also send direct mail campaigns to lawyers in government, corporate law and private practice.

Applicants should have two years working experience in the antitrust field along with a proficiency in English. Waller, who will teach one of the program’s roughly dozen courses, hopes to enroll 15 students. He will cap the program at 20.

To apply for August enrollment or to learn more, go to luc.edu/law/centers/antitrust/degreesandcertificates.

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