THE LAW SCHOOL launched two innovative programs this past summer—one aimed at giving JD students practical skills development for career success, and the other designed to teach international Executive LLM students about the intricacies of U.S. law.

**Professional and Career Development**

THE NEW ASSOCIATE IN TRAINING (AIT) Program provides JD students with an opportunity to improve their knowledge about a variety of legal settings, while developing a career plan and professional skills to help launch their successful career in law. The six-week program is a direct response to what’s happening currently in the legal profession nationwide, says Janet Bolin, associate dean of admissions and student services.

“Firms need young associates who are able to hit the ground running,” says Bolin, who designed the summer program along with Tomia Mayer Mersmann, JD ’91, associate dean for strategic initiatives and lecturer in law.

The AIT Program is also a response to the fewer number of summer associate opportunities at firms due to the current economy. Designed to simulate as closely as possible a summer law work experience, the AIT Program presents an understanding of how a firm or other legal practice setting operates, including law firm economics, practice areas, client development, and professionalism.

“The AIT Program is one area in which our students are able to polish their skills, including understanding law as a business,” Bolin says. “They also receive advice on situational conflicts, such as missing a deadline or misinterpreting what a partner wanted them to do, and then handling the situation professionally. The program is an opportunity to play these things out in a safe environment where neither a paycheck nor job security is at issue.”

Many of the skills the AIT Program addresses aren’t found in textbooks, so people are invaluable resources. The program matches students with mentors, either locally or nationally. If a student wants to work in Washington, D.C., for instance, he or she is matched with a law school alumnus in that geographic area, who will communicate over the phone and/or by e-mail, as well as offer feedback to a videotape of the student doing mock trials and presentations.

Additionally, advanced skills development is offered through mini courses and other programming. The faculty who taught in the program this past summer were:

- Philip Berwick, associate dean for information resources and senior lecturer in law, Advanced Research;
- Bill Dorothy, professor of practice, Litigation Skills;
- Michael Downey, adjunct professor and St. Louis attorney, Internal Law Practices;
- Robert Kuehn, professor of law and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, Ethics;
- C.J. Larkin, senior lecturer in law and administrative director of the Dispute Resolution Program, Alternate Dispute Resolution;
- Jo Ellen Lewis, professor of practice and director of the Legal Practice Program, Advanced Legal Writing;
- Joan Newman, JD ’73, St. Louis-area law and business consultant, Social Etiquette; and
- Kyle Williams, JD ’01, New York attorney, Accounting and Business for Lawyers.

Williams, an attorney at Goldman Sachs and a member of the law school’s National Council, says he enjoyed sharing his area of practice with the rising second- and third-year law students.

“For all of my career, I’ve served as a capital markets lawyer for many of the investment banks in New York City,” Williams notes. “My perspective on finance is at one level very macro—the role of financial institutions in allocating capital and fueling efficient markets—and on another level, very micro—how businesses think of capital structure, capital-raising activities, and the legal risks associated with their options.
“I was pleased to discover that the students had equal enthusiasm for both levels, and a healthy appetite to delve into some of the issues associated with financial statement analysis and financial due diligence,” he observes. “The questions from the students reflected their interest in legal policy, as well as the legal analysis behind issues—a trait most common to Washington University law students.”

Benjamin Winoker, now a third-year law student, says the program complemented his experience after his first year of law school when he was a summer associate at a large firm. “The AIT Program allowed me to contextualize what I experienced the previous summer and has provided me with the ammunition necessary to make myself more competitive in the job market in the coming year,” he says. “The practical focus on the realities of law firms and the legal market, in general, gave me insight into how to improve my profile as a prospective associate, and the exposure to different practicing lawyers served as a great platform for my personal marketing efforts.”

Executive LLM Program

ALSO NEW THIS SUMMER, the Executive Master of Laws Program (ELLM) is the result of a partnership between Korea University and Washington University. The 12-week program is aimed at international attorneys, judges, and government officials who are interested in increasing their knowledge of U.S. law.

“We designed the ELLM Program to provide experienced legal professionals outside the United States with the opportunity to study here in a condensed timeframe—one which may make it easier for them to take time off from their current positions to hone their knowledge of U.S. law,” says Peter K. Cramer, assistant dean of graduate programs. “The program prepares participants for the global legal and business environment through specialized courses in U.S. corporate and business law. Another attractive aspect is that ELLM graduates who hold a first law degree from their home country also will be eligible to apply to sit for the New York bar.”

The new degree program is part of the law school’s expanded international outreach efforts, which build upon existing relationships such as those through the University’s McDonnell International Scholars Academy. Other recent initiatives include the Transnational Law Program (TLP), which involves partnerships with Utrecht University in the Netherlands and three other European schools, and enhanced faculty and student exchanges with Fudan University in Shanghai.

“The ELLM Program reflects a broader commitment on the part of the law school to reach diverse populations abroad,” notes Michael Peil, associate dean for international programs, TLP executive director, and lecturer in law. “In tandem with enhanced recruiting efforts around the globe, the ELLM is designed to position Washington University’s graduate programs as one of the elite international graduate legal centers in the world.”

In preparation for the ELLM, the summer participants first took two courses at Korea University, Introduction to U.S. Law and Surviving the LLM. Once at Washington University, they enrolled in intensive courses in Contracts, Corporations, Legal Research/Methods, Securities Regulation, Antitrust, Commercial Law, and Intellectual Property Law.

Program faculty were selected for their extensive knowledge and practical experience in their respective fields. They are:

- Charles Burson, senior professor of practice, Washington University;
- Youngsun Cho, professor of law, Korea University;
- David Deal, lecturer in law and director, Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Clinic, Washington University;
- Dorsey D. Ellis Jr., dean emeritus and the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, Washington University;
- Leigh Greenhaw, senior lecturer in law, Washington University;
- Michael Koby, professor of practice and director, Trial & Advocacy Program, Washington University;
- Michael Korybut, professor of law, Saint Louis University;
- Dae-Hee Lee, professor of law, Korea University;
- Hwang Lee, professor of law, Korea University; and
- Mark Lee, professor of law, Southern Illinois University.

ELLM participant Rain Shen, a practicing attorney in Shanghai, China, says she appreciates the fact that the ELLM “is intensive, but also efficient. As a person who already has several years working experience, I cannot leave my job or my customers for a long time,” she notes. “The ELLM Program is providing me with the opportunity to earn a valuable degree in three months.”

Shen says she is benefiting from the “concentration on the practice side, which helps a lot in the daily operation of a business.” She also has found valuable the insights into the U.S. legal system, including how to handle cases, as well as the opportunities to enhance her interpersonal and professional skills.

Above all, she has enjoyed the exchange of ideas with her professors. “Unlike the way we teach in China, at Washington University we have lots of interaction with the professors,” she notes. “We are encouraged to raise questions and will get answers from our professors from both sides rather than the one definite answer.”

By Tony Fitzpatrick and Ann Nicholson