



# Center for Professional Formation

## The Challenge

Regent Law challenges students intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. To help students grow, law schools—particularly Christian ones—must embrace an inherent tension. We seek to inspire students to intellectual rigor, spiritual discipline, and emotional balance. Training in law inevitably brings stress. Without intentional guidance, that stress can override the twin goals our law school promises—to become practice ready, but even more importantly, purpose driven.

## Unique Role of the Center

The Center for Professional Formation provides the kind of guidance, encouragement, and nurturing that law students need. Its primary goal is to help students find their purpose in law. We believe that students who qualify for law school have the gifts to serve others through the law. The calling to the law requires further discernment of the role one will have in seeking justice and walking humbly with the Lord and his children.

The Center provides students with training in self-examination and discernment. Experienced Christian lawyers like our professors, alumni, judges and other professionals practicing law share their journeys. The combination of intentional discernment and the examples of these Christian men and women allow students to recognize that each of us has a unique set of gifts from God. As they become increasingly aware of their gifts, our students grow into their roles as Christian servants. That discernment leads them to fulfill their purpose—whether as a courtroom lawyer, a business attorney, a guardian for children, or any of the many ways legal training allows our graduates to help those in need.



**94%**

**Uniform Bar Exam  
Mean Pass Rate**

*2018-21*

**#21**

**In the Nation for  
Academic Experience**

*Princeton Review, 2021*

**100%**

**Bar Exam Passage in 14 states**

*Bar exam, July 2022*

**500+**

**Attorneys & Judges Participating  
in Mentoring Program**

*2017-22*

**Leader in Professional  
Development**

*preLaw Magazine, 2019*



## Our Purpose Programs

### MENTOR PROGRAM

The CPF Mentor Program promotes our students' professional formation and development through lasting relationships with lawyers and judges nationwide. Since its founding, CPF has drawn more than 1,000 law students, lawyers, and judges from across the country to participate in the program. We aim to pair each participating law student with a legal professional who (1) practices in the state where that student intends to practice; and (2) specializes in the practice area most aligned with the student's interests. Students learn from alumni what law practice is like and how their mentors integrate faith into it.

### CURRICULAR COMPONENTS

Core courses such as *Foundations of Law* introduce students to classic texts on the nature of the law and legal ethics. A required first-year course, *Foundations of Practice* discusses (1) the nature of the legal profession and the many roles of a lawyer, (2) how to cultivate one's ethical compass to guide in the thicket of moral dilemmas that arise in law practice, and (3) through visiting speakers, to hear from Christian lawyers in diverse areas of law and discuss moral and ethical issues most common to that area.

Students in *Foundations of Practice* also explore the character traits of a Christian lawyer. They meet lawyers in practice and study the methods of notable and accomplished lawyers who have displayed the kind of integrity we hope will be mirrored by our future attorneys. The coursework also provides lessons that can develop the character of our students—no matter where they are in their faith walk. Learning to exhibit these character traits in law practice offers a new experience for many.

The class also pairs students with faculty mentors to develop a written plan that helps them intentionally pursue opportunities that will help them find the type of practice in which their gifts match the client's needs. When that happens, the person finds their purpose and is far more likely to be fulfilled. Indeed, we suggest that pursuing this intentional discernment—followed by action—has had the greatest impact on helping students find their purpose.

### BAR EXAM SUPPORT

Even after graduation, the Center continues to support alumni through weekly meetings for bar exam takers each summer, to provide support and to teach students contemplative practices that not only help them rely on their faith, but also have been proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and other causes of dysfunction.

The *Synergy Bar Prep Course* is an annual course taught every summer and has helped many pass the Virginia Essay portion of the Virginia Bar Exam. In addition to the primary goal of helping students master essay-writing for the Virginia Bar, the course also has continued to fulfill the goals of the weekly meetings—i.e., helping students stay focused and manage stress before the exam.

## LEARN MORE

757.352.4586 | [professionalformation@regent.edu](mailto:professionalformation@regent.edu)  
[regent.edu/professionalformation](http://regent.edu/professionalformation)



### PRESENTATIONS & PROGRAMS

The Center sponsors presentations and panels on topics related to ethical decision-making, professional identity development, and character formation, all relevant to real-life practice settings. The Center hosts accomplished speakers each year to help Regent Law students begin to develop the tools necessary to meet the challenges of the profession in a way that will promote their growth.

The Center also provides continuing legal education (CLE) courses on ethical formation and the legal profession.



"Regent Law students are on a journey towards excellence in service. The Center helps each student to discern the area of law in which God is calling that student. It also provides connections and invaluable professional development tools of which every student should take advantage."

**Benjamin Madison III, J.D.**  
Director, Center for Professional Formation

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