

AN INTRODUCTION TO

# HARVARD LAW SCHOOL





# Fostering a spirit of community



## BARBARA "BABS" TSAO

Finding connection, no matter the circumstances, is what Barbara "Babs" Tsao '23 has always been most passionate about.

A first-generation college student, Tsao majored in biomedical science in college and was inspired to teach high school science in New Mexico and Texas because she wanted to use her background to benefit others. The systemic barriers that her students faced, including a lack of textbooks and technology, drove her to consider law as a tool to help foment change.

While applying to law school, Tsao started a YouTube channel, "Banter with Babs," about the law school application process. Her videos have garnered more than a million views, cultivating fans from around the world.

At Harvard, she was drawn to groups that create a sense of belonging and cultivate opportunities for mentorship. She served as a peer mentor with the Board of Student Advisers and was co-president of Harvard Law's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the largest APALSA organization in the U.S.

"Student organizations offer an important, additional layer of support at Harvard Law that ensure all students get access to information about how to navigate law school," Tsao says. "My hope is that I've helped make Harvard Law School as warm and welcoming as possible to generations of 1Ls, the AAPI community, and first-generation law students. That's the legacy I hope to leave."

85+

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

75%

OF STUDENTS JOIN  
A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

500+

COURSES IN  
THE HLS CURRICULUM

# 673

NUMBER OF PRO BONO  
HOURS COMPLETED BY AN  
AVERAGE HLS STUDENT  
LAST YEAR

# 90%

OF STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN  
CLINICAL WORK  
AT HLS



# Helping others achieve the American dream

## RICARDO JIMENEZ SOLIS

Navigating a new life in the U.S. was challenging in myriad ways for Ricardo Jimenez Solis '23. At 16, with no English skills, he emigrated with his family from El Salvador, settling in East Boston. To help support his family, he worked as a legal assistant at an insurance company throughout high school. Attending community college, he says, was one of the best things he did for himself.

Jimenez Solis says his experience as an immigrant informed his dedication to immigration law work. At Harvard Law, he spent countless hours at the Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Clinic working on cases, including those involving teens from Central America whose stories were like his own, and in the Cimmigration Clinic, which operates in the space between immigration and criminal law.

"I've gotten to work with a lot of wonderful clients," he says. "Each one has been different but each one is a person who wants to live in this country, wants to work, wants to be safe, and who in a lot of ways reminds me of who I was when I first came to this country, wanting to make a life here."

As a recipient of a Skadden Fellowship, Jimenez Solis will work for the next two years at Northeast Legal Aid and its affiliate, the Northeast Justice Center, assisting refugees and other immigrants from around the world. While he is set on becoming an immigration lawyer after his fellowship, he may try for a judicial clerkship first.

In any event, he says, "I feel like I'm in the process of realizing what my parents brought me to this country for."

# Learning from different perspectives

5

ASSIGNED ADVISERS FOR  
EACH 1L STUDENT

20

AFFINITY GROUPS

7:1

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

## FRANCES WILLIAMSON

Inspired by her love of animals and the natural environment of South Texas, Frances Williamson '23 originally wanted to be a veterinarian. But during undergraduate studies, her interests shifted from medicine to environmental law.

Williamson chose to attend Harvard Law for its diversity of people and ideas, a feature that has infused every part of her time as a law student. "I have been incredibly lucky to have professors that have made me feel that I can speak my mind and share my opinions, and that those opinions are valid, even if they disagree with them. And I think that really is a gift. That's something Harvard has done incredibly well."

She says being mentored by professors such as Molly Brady, with whom she conducted a research project on the intersection of water law, tribal law, and federal doctrines, was a "real blessing." She credits Richard Lazarus for sparking her passion for environmental law, and she says Jack Goldsmith taught her how to take autonomy over her learning experience.

Williamson is serving two federal clerkships after graduation and intends to practice environmental litigation in Texas. Looking back, she says she cherishes the close friends she made throughout her time at HLS.

"Making friends across ideological lines that I genuinely admire and who I think genuinely admire me, that's also something that I think is unique to Harvard."



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**FRANCES WILLIAMSON '23**



# 1L Class by the Numbers

8,393 APPLICATIONS  
798 OFFERS OF ADMISSION  
561 NEWLY ENROLLED 1LS

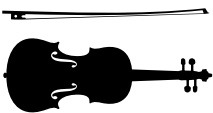
53  
LANGUAGES

14%  
FIRST-GEN AND/  
OR LOW-INCOME  
STUDENTS

8% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



49 STATES, D.C., PUERTO RICO  
22 INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS



18 INSTRUMENTS  
PLAYED

51% WOMEN

17% LGBTQ+

29 CURRENT AND  
FORMER MILITARY  
SERVICE MEMBERS

147 UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS



77 STEM MAJORS

22 DIVISION 1 VARSITY ATHLETES

18 CHESS PLAYERS

5 PILOTS

3 PROFESSIONAL FIGURE SKATERS

2 STAND-UP  
COMEDIANS

Information current as of August 22, 2023

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL | JD ADMISSIONS | 1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138  
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# ADMISSIONS PROCESS

APPLICATION OPENS: Mid-September

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Mid-February

## APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Application Form
- Written Statements
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
- LSAT and/or GRE Score(s)
- Transcript(s)
- Interview (by invitation)

For more information, or to request a need-based fee waiver, please visit this website:

