

GW

LAW

MSL IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LAW 2023-2024



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MESSAGE FROM DEAN TILLIPMAN

Jessica Tillipman
Associate Dean for
Government Procurement Law

Thank you for your interest in the GW Law Government Procurement Law Program - the academic birthplace of the study of government procurement law.

There is no better place to study government procurement law than at GW Law School. We are the world's preeminent public procurement program, educating successful government procurement professionals for over 60 years. We have internationally known faculty, myriad curricular offerings, and cutting-edge public programs, which are at the forefront of innovation in this crucial area of law.

Our expansive and diverse government procurement curriculum provides students with a richer understanding of how procurement systems operate, both in the U.S. and abroad, and exposes students to varying perspectives on emerging issues in the law.

We also have a vast and dedicated alumni base comprised of leaders in the government procurement field. The Program enjoys strong ties to policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, and scholars around the world. We provide our graduates with the knowledge, connections, and opportunities to become future leaders and policymakers in the acquisition community domestically and abroad.

A master's degree from the GW Law Government Procurement Law Program will set you apart and we are thrilled to be a part of your journey as you advance your government procurement career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Tillipman". The script is elegant and cursive.

Jessica Tillipman
Associate Dean for Government Procurement Law

MSL DEGREE OVERVIEW

The Master of Studies in Law (MSL) in Government Procurement is intended for professionals who are not interested in earning a law degree or practicing law, but who work in jobs where knowledge of the law is important. Students can complete the MSL program online or on campus and on a full-time (3 semester) or part-time (6 semester) basis.



FLEXIBLE COURSES

At GW Law, our degrees offer students maximum flexibility to design a course load that works with their schedules.



ONLINE OR ON CAMPUS

Students can take classes online and on campus. Our best-in-class online courses are taught by the same nationally-recognized experts as our on-campus courses. Our courses also offer a low student-faculty ratio and online synchronous discussion sessions designed to facilitate full engagement with the materials.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MSL students must complete 24 credits to graduate, which are divided into (1) foundational courses, (2) electives, and (3) a research paper. These three requirements are listed below and can also be found in the Law School Bulletin at law.gwu.edu/bulletin. The list of courses and requirements may be amended from time to time as offerings at the Law School change.



REQUIREMENT 1: FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Students must take the following six foundational courses in government procurement law (12 credits):

6518 - Overview of Government Contracts (1 CR)

This course is an introduction to our curriculum and faculty, the vocabulary, and key principles of government contracts, plus the functions of Congress, the executive branch, and the courts in the procurement process. (Quizzes)

6502 - Formation of Government Contracts (3 CR)

This course covers the contract formation process, including techniques for awarding contracts, and litigation and protests involving awards. (Midterm; final exam)

6503 - Performance of Government Contracts (3 CR)

This course covers the substantive problems that most frequently arise during the performance of government contracts, the interpretation of specifications, and the most generally used contract clauses. (Midterm; final exam)

6506 - Government Contracts Cost and Pricing (2 CR)

This course covers issues concerning government contract accounting principles, cost allowability, cost accounting standards, and cost allocation. This course also discusses issues concerning the negotiations of costs, profits, and prices, as well as issues concerning disclosure of cost accounting data. (Problem assignments)

6511 - Anti-corruption and Compliance (2 CR)

This course covers the implementation and enforcement of domestic and international anti-corruption laws, including the U.S. anti-bribery and ethics laws, Procurement Integrity Act, procurement fraud, contractor compliance programs, government disclosures, debarment, whistleblowing, conflicts of interest, and collusion. (Take home exam; in-class activities)

6519 - Analytical Writing for Government Contracts (1 CR)

This course teaches advanced writing to non-lawyers in the government procurement field, including effective written communication tips and tools which students will use in upper-level seminar courses. Students will write and edit a short research paper related to government contracts and complete weekly writing assignments. (Writing assignments)

REQUIREMENT 2: ELECTIVE COURSES

Students may select elective courses from the following government procurement law courses (12 credits):

- LAW 6755 - Government Contracts Claims (2 CR)
- LAW 6754 - Government Contracts Bid Protests (2 CR)
- LAW 6508 - Comparative Public Procurement (2 CR)
- LAW 6750 - Foreign Government Contracting (2 CR)
- LAW 6752 - Procurement Reform (2 CR)
- LAW 6751 - State & Local Procurement (2 CR)
- LAW 6509 - Sustainable Procurement (2 CR)
- LAW 6512 - Government Procurement of Intellectual Property (2 CR)
- LAW 6758 - Federal Appropriations Law (1 CR)
- LAW 6756 - Acquisition Policymaking (2 CR)
- LAW 6757 - Negotiations (2 CR)
- LAW 6753 - Suspension & Debarment (1 CR)
- LAW 6759 - Other Transactions (1 CR)
- LAW 6514 - Federal Grants Law (2 CR)
- LAW 6516 - Procurement in International Development (2 CR)





REQUIREMENT 3: RESEARCH PAPER

Students will complete a scholarly research paper on a government procurement topic in connection with one of the courses listed below:

- LAW 6508 - Comparative Public Procurement (2 CR)
- LAW 6750 - Foreign Government Contracting (2 CR)
- LAW 6752 - Procurement Reform (2 CR)
- LAW 6751 - State & Local Procurement (2 CR)
- LAW 6509 - Sustainable Procurement (2 CR) (*not offered in AY23-24*)
- LAW 6516 - Procurement in International Development (2 CR)
- LAW 6696 - Graduate Independent Legal Writing (2 CR)

OPTIONAL: RELATED COURSES

Students can take up to six credits in courses related to government procurement from the following non-exhaustive list and from other schools at GW University with the permission of the program director.

- LAW 6232 - Federal Courts (3 or 4 CR)
- LAW 6266 - Labor Law (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6296 - Business Planning (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6302 - Corporate Taxation (3 CR)
- LAW 6390 - Employment Discrimination Law (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6400 - Administrative Law (3 CR)*
- LAW 6402 - Antitrust Law (3 CR)
- LAW 6410 - Health Care Law (4 CR)
- LAW 6416 - Legislation (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6418 - Legislative Analysis and Drafting (2 CR)
- LAW 6422 - Local Government Law (2 CR)
- LAW 6426 - Public Law Seminar (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6430 - Environmental Law (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6471 - Patent Law (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6521 - Int'l Money Laundering, Corruption, and Terrorism (3 CR)
- LAW 6522 - International Business Transactions (3 CR)
- LAW 6568 - Human Rights Lawyering (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6602 - Law and Accounting (2 or 3 CR)
- LAW 6671 - Government Lawyering (2 CR)
- LAW 6676 - Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 CR)
- LAW 6681 - Negotiation & Conflict Management Systems Design (3 CR)
- LAW 6870 - National Security Law (3 CR)
- LAW 6879 - Cybersecurity Law and Policy (2 CR)
- LAW 6880 - Disaster Law (2 CR)
- LAW 6881 - Artificial Intelligence Law (2 CR)*
- LAW 6890 - Cybersecurity Law and Technology (3 CR)
- LAW 6891 - Foreign Access to U.S. Technology (2 CR)
- LAW 6892 - Selected Topics in Cybersecurity Law: Cybersecurity: Risk Management and Incident Response: Legal Approaches (1 CR)
- LAW 6892 - Selected Topics in Cybersecurity Law: Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Mitigating Cybersecurity and National Security Threats (1 CR)
- LAW 6893 - Disinformation, Nat'l Security, and Cybersecurity: Overview and Legal Approaches (2 CR)
- LAW 6894 - Blockchain: Law, Policy, and Cybersecurity (2 CR)
- LAW 6895 - Global Privacy Law and Conflict Seminar (2 CR)

COURSE CURRICULUM

The GW Law Government Procurement Program offers over twenty government procurement courses per academic year. Our diverse curriculum includes foundational courses, upper-level seminars, and experiential skills-based courses. The majority of our courses are now offered online. Each course is displayed below along with a course description, the semester(s) the course is offered, and the assigned professor(s). Full biographical information for our faculty members is available at www.law.gwu.edu/faculty.



FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Title	Course Description (Method of Assessing Learning)	Semester
(6518) Government Contracts Overview -Jessica Tillipman	An introduction to our curriculum and faculty, the vocabulary, and key principles of government contracts, plus the functions of Congress, the executive branch, and the courts in the procurement process. (Multiple choice questions)	Spring, Summer, Fall: online.
(6502) Formation of Government Contracts -Liza Craig/Louis Chiarella/Steven Schooner/Jessica Tillipman	The contract formation process, including techniques for awarding contracts, and litigation and protests involving awards. (Midterm; Final exam)	Fall: online & on campus. Spring: online.
(6503) Performance of Government Contracts -Alexander Canizares/Louis Chiarella/Daniel Schoeni	A discussion of the substantive problems that most frequently arise during the performance of government contracts, the interpretation of specifications, and the most generally used contract clauses. (Midterm; final exam)	Fall: online. Spring: online & on campus.
(6519) Analytical Writing for Government Contracts: MSLs only -Eve Lyon/Karen Thornton/Victoria Christoff	Presentation of effective communication techniques combined with habit-building writing assignments, with focus on the iterative writing process and implementation of feedback. Designed as a pre- or co-requisite for research paper courses. (Credit/No Credit; Writing Assignments)	Fall, Spring: online.
(6506) Cost & Pricing -Craig Barrett	Legal aspects of government contract accounting principles and allowability of costs. Cost accounting standards and cost allocation issues. Negotiation of cost, profit, and price. (Problem sets; final exam)	Fall, Spring: online.

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Title	Course Description (Method of Assessing Learning)	Semester
(6511) Anti-Corruption & Compliance -Jessica Tillipman	This course covers the implementation and enforcement of domestic and international anti-corruption laws, including the U.S. anti-bribery and ethics laws, Procurement Integrity Act, procurement fraud, contractor compliance programs, government disclosures, debarment, whistleblowing, conflicts of interest, and collusion. (Take home exam; in-class activities)	Spring: online & on campus.

MID-LEVEL COURSES

(6754) Government Contracts Bid Protests -Tara Ward/Deneen Melander (6755) Government Contracts Claims -Jayna Rust/Lis Young	An introduction to federal government contract litigation, including bid protests, contract claims, qui tam suits, and administrative suspension and debarment proceedings. Fall/Summer courses focus on pre-award disputes and the Spring course focuses on post-award disputes. (Written pleadings and briefs; simulations)	Fall (Bid Protests): on campus. Spring (Claims): on campus. Summer (Bid Protests): online.
(6758) Federal Appropriations Law -Melinda Greene	An introduction to federal appropriations law, identification of an available appropriation, its permissible uses, and any relevant restrictions or prohibitions. (Problem sets)	Spring, Summer: on campus.
(6514) Federal Grants Law -Ted Waters/ Scott Scheffler	Examination of the federal financial assistance system and specific legal issues arising with respect to management of federal grants and cooperative agreements. (Problem sets; final exam)	Spring: online.

UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

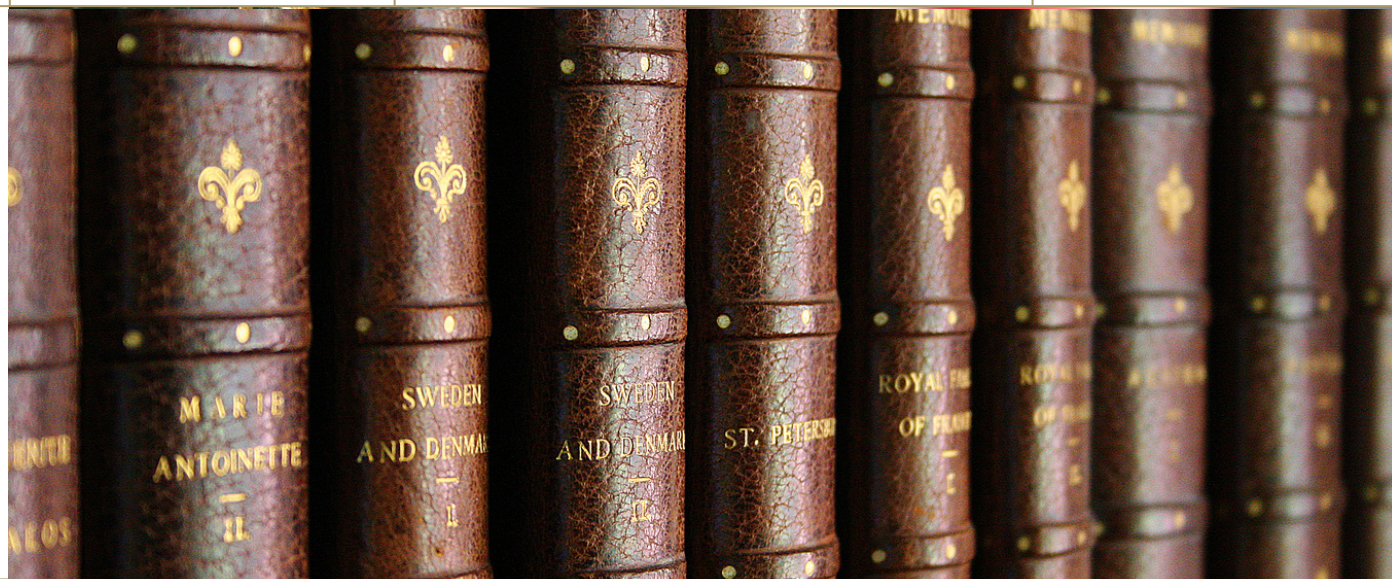
Title	Course Description (Method of Assessing Learning)	Semester
(6508) Comparative Public Procurement -Christopher Yukins	Comparative study of laws, regulations, and procedures dealing with public procurement. Differences between national and international procurement practices, and common principles that span many procurement systems across the world. (Research paper)	Fall: online.
(6752) Procurement Reform -Christopher Yukins	A review of emerging issues in U.S. procurement law, using information technology procurement and other critical market sectors as a starting point for analysis, and a look to international procurement law, as a comparative counterexample to U.S. law. (Research paper)	Spring: online.
(6750) Foreign Government Contracting -Allen Green/ Christopher Yukins	An introduction to the practical challenges of transnational public procurement, examining issues associated with international aid, foreign military sales, or direct purchases by foreign governments. (Research paper)	Fall: online.
(6751) State & Local Procurement -Christopher Yukins	This seminar covers state and local procurement in the United States, drawing on the Model Procurement Code and other leading state and local models. (Research paper)	Fall: online.
(6509) Sustainable Procurement -Steven Schooner	Introduction to, and examination of, emerging issues in sustainable public procurement, including overview of relevant policies, statutes, regulations, and evolving best practices. (Research paper)	Spring: on campus. *Not offered in AY23/24

UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

Title	Course Description (Method of Assessing Learning)	Semester
(6512) Government Procurement of Intellectual Property -Locke Bell	Intellectual property law in terms of its challenges to federal government procurement rules, competing policy demands for innovation, transparency, and sound public investment in the intersection of intellectual property law and federal procurement rules. (Written memo; negotiation simulation)	Fall, Spring: online.
(6757) Negotiations -Armani Vadiiee/Ashley Amen/Zachary Prince	Negotiation considerations and methods used during formation and administration of government contracts, while considering the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the government contract lifecycle, and the constraints and objectives of the government, prime contractors, and subcontractors. (Simulations; negotiation journals)	Fall: on campus. Spring: online.
(6753) Suspension & Debarment -John Pachter/Maria Swaby/ Christopher Yukins	An introduction to suspension and debarment in U.S. procurement, including the history and doctrinal underpinnings of U.S. debarment, and international developments in debarment. (Written essays; simulation)	Spring: online.
(6759) Other Transactions -Hallie Balkin	This experiential course focuses on agencies' other transaction authority (OTA), discusses the frequent scenarios agencies face when considering entering an "other transaction" agreement, and provides an overview of the statutory framework governing OTA. (Simulations; writing assignments)	Summer: online.
(6756) Acquisition Policymaking -Mathew Blum	This course teaches students how to draft, analyze, and implement government procurement laws and regulations. (Memo; oral presentation)	Spring: on campus.

UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

Title	Course Description (Method of Assessing Learning)	Semester
(6515) Government Contracts Moot Court JD and LLMS Only -Victoria Christoff	This experiential course helps students sharpen their oral and written appellate advocacy skills. Students will draft appellate briefs and participate in mock arguments throughout the semester, which culminates in a moot court competition in which students are paired into teams. (Credit/No Credit)	Spring: on campus.
(6516) Procurement in International Development -Benedetta Audia	Study of issues of public procurement law as applied to the field of international development, how development partners use procurement as a tool to implement development projects, and how the development stakeholder community works to support developing countries to improve their procurement systems. (Simulations; research paper)	Spring: online.
(6513) Selected Topics: Model Procurement Code Reform -Christopher Yukins	An introduction to state and local procurement law issues with a focus on ongoing reforms of the American Bar Association (ABA) Model Procurement Code (MPC). (Role play, take-home online test, and class participation)	Fall: online and on campus.



CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Our students receive the support, resources, and opportunities listed below to advance their careers and connect to the government procurement bar and community.

1. CAREER SERVICES

All government procurement students have a designated career counselor who helps them develop personalized career plans. Our Program staff and faculty also meet with and assist our students in securing government procurement related jobs, internships, and other professional experiences.



2. CONFERENCES & COLLOQUIA

Each academic year, our Program hosts numerous in-person and virtual conferences, webinars, and colloquia on emerging and timely government procurement issues. In-person events are live-streamed and recorded for our distance students, ensuring that everyone can participate and network no matter their physical location.



3. PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

We encourage and prepare our students to publish their academic papers in professional government procurement publications, including the leading legal journal in the field - GW Law's very own *Public Contract Law Journal*. Many of our students go on to win awards from leading professional organizations for their academic research.



4. FREE & DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS

Our students receive free and discounted access to various government procurement professional organizations and academic subscriptions, including membership in the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) and a subscription to PubKLaw. With such access, students keep up to date with legal and policy developments.



ALUMNI NETWORK

Our students become members of one of the largest and most enthusiastic law school alumni networks.



AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Alumni of our Program often speak at on-campus programming and conferences, guest lecture, serve as mentors, and become future employers of our students.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



"GW Law has really embraced the MSL graduates as members of the law school community. . . . The faculty is wonderfully proactive and consistently seek opportunities to make helpful connections and support alumni."

Thomas Hendrix
MSL '21
Partner, Decisive Point

FACULTY & STAFF

Full-time Faculty & Staff

Jessica Tillipman

Associate Dean for Government Procurement Law and Government Contracts Advisory Council Professorial Lecturer in Government Contracts Law, Practice & Policy

Steven L. Schooner

Nash and Cibinic Professor of Government Procurement Law

Joshua Schwartz

E.K. Gubin Professor of Government Contracts Law

Christopher Yukins

Lynn David Research Professor in Government Procurement Law

Annie Willett

Government Procurement Law Fellow and Visiting Associate Professor of Law

Stephanie Allgaier

Director, Graduate Student Services

Mary Kate Hunter

Government Procurement Law Research Librarian

Adjunct Faculty

The Government Procurement Law Program includes adjunct faculty members who are prominent legal professionals in the field. They come from leading law firms, nonprofit organizations, U.S. government agencies, and international organizations including:

- Central Intelligence Agency
- Civilian Board of Contract Appeals
- Committee on Armed Services for the U.S. House of Representatives
- Crowell & Moring
- Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell
- General Services Administration
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- McDermott Will & Emery
- Microsoft Corporation
- Morrison & Foerster
- Northrop Grumman
- Perkins Coie
- Smith Pachter McWhorter
- Thompson Coburn
- TransDigm Group Inc.
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Full biographical information for our adjunct faculty is available at www.law.gwu.edu/adjunct-faculty.



SAMPLE COURSE MAP

**Satisfies research paper requirement*

FALL 2023

- Overview of Gov't Contracts (1 CR)
- Formation of Gov't Contracts (3 CR)
- Analytical Writing (1 CR)
- Government Procurement of IP (2 CR)
- Foreign Government Contracting (2 CR)*
- State & Local Procurement (2 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL = 11**

SPRING 2024

- Performance of Gov't Contracts (3 CR)
- Federal Grants Law (2 CR)
- Cost & Pricing (2 CR)
- Anti-Corruption & Compliance (2 CR)
- Negotiations (2 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL = 22**

SUMMER 2024

- Bid Protests (2 CR)
- **TOTAL = 24**

MSL:
FULL TIME

SAMPLE COURSE MAP

**Satisfies research paper requirement*

FALL 2023

- Overview of Gov't Contracts (1 CR)
- Formation of Gov't Contracts (3 CR)
- Analytical Writing (1 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL = 5**

SPRING 2024

- Performance of Gov't Contracts (3 CR)
- Negotiations (2 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL = 10**

SUMMER 2024

- Bid Protests (2 CR)
- Appropriations (1 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL= 13**

FALL 2025

- Cost & Pricing (2 CR)
- Government Procurement of IP (2 CR)
- State & Local Procurement (2 CR)*
- **SUBTOTAL= 19**

SPRING 2025

- Anti-Corruption & Compliance (2 CR)
- Procurement Reform (2 CR)
- **SUBTOTAL = 23**

SUMMER 2025

- Other Transactions (1 CR)
- **TOTAL = 24**

MSL:
PART TIME



THE GW LAW GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LAW PROGRAM

Graduate and International Programs
2000 H Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20052

To apply:

www.law.gwu.edu/msl-admissions

For more information:

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