

Board Meeting  
March 14, 2019

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF LAWS IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, UIC JOHN  
MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits, UIC John Marshall Law School

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and UIC John Marshall Law School recommends the establishment of the Master of Laws in Employee Benefits.

The Master of Laws (LLM) in Employee Benefits provides attorneys with a transactional approach to employee benefits law, ensuring they develop the skills necessary to successfully practice in this area. The LLM degree builds on the general legal education provided by the Juris Doctor (JD) degree, and gives students the opportunity to study within a specialized field in much greater depth. Applicants must have a JD from an accredited institution in the United States or an equivalent degree from an institution outside the U.S.

The degree requires 30 hours, including 15 hours of required courses in employee benefits law, retirement plan issues, executive compensation plans, welfare plan issues, and tax/employee benefits research, and 15 hours of electives. Students must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.50/4.00. The degree can be completed full-

or part-time, and is offered both as a fully online program and as an on-campus program. In Fall 2019, an estimated 20 students (new and continuing) will be enrolled.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.