



DUKE LAW

Program in Law and Entrepreneurship

Duke LLMLE graduates pursue a broad range of professional goals. We asked some of them to talk about their experiences in the Program and beyond.

LLMLE GRADUATE PROFILES



PADOWITZ ALCE '11

Patent Attorney at Schox Patent Group
formerly Moore & Van Allen

“The LLMLE program at Duke was the single best investment in my education and has propelled my

career and extracurricular prospects in countless ways. The program was rigorous and encouraged a different style of thinking about start-ups and the intersection of innovation and business — an evolving field of law.”



CAROLYN COTTINGHAM '11

Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Long Island University
formerly General Counsel at Mercy College

“The Duke LLMLE program was a hybrid of cutting edge coursework

taught by world class experts with real world hands on experience in innovative start-ups. This combination gave me the perspective and tools needed to become a problem solver and effective counselor. Attorneys are often seen as staying in one lane. Gaining practical knowledge in entrepreneurship, an area much prized in higher education today, gave me a broader appeal to the institutions that ultimately hired me.”



ODED CEDAR '13

Associate at Kirkland & Ellis
formerly Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft and Seward & Kissel

“The Duke LLMLE program equipped me with the practical

knowledge, skills and intuition to approach complex transactions with confidence. Thanks to the LLMLE program I am able to counsel my clients in ways that meld legal and business-oriented solutions to better achieve their goals.”



BEAU EPPERLY '13

Partner, Epperly Elam

“Pursuing the LLMLE degree was the single most impactful undertaking of my legal career.

Duke’s rigorous academic standards prepared me for thought leadership in startup law. But my classmates and faculty inspired something even more meaningful to my professional growth: true grit. At the program’s end, I founded my own law practice with only a single client... whom I met at Fuqua. Three years later, the firm has grown into a 4-attorney law practice with clients in multiple disciplines both domestically and internationally. I attribute my success directly to skills learned and connections made at the LLMLE program.”

“[The Duke LLMLE student’s] practicum work at Hatteras was extremely valuable to us, so much so that we were excited to recommend him for an associate position at one of the major entrepreneurial law firms in the Triangle region.”

— **CHRISTY SCHAFFER, PHD,**
General Partner, Hatteras Venture Partners



ANDREW WALTON '14
Senior Director of Market Expansion and Corporate Operations at Vivint Solar
formerly Haynes & Boone and Halliburton

“In my first week at Duke University, a mentor of mine, Professor Erika Buell said, ‘Treat this program like your own entrepreneurial experience, and then treat your life in the same way.’ I did. It worked. The LLMLE has led directly to opportunities I could not have imagined prior to enrolling.”



SUZANNE GAINNEY '13
Associate at Moore & Van Allen

“I cannot put into words the value I received from the LLMLE program. Not only did I learn more in one year than I ever had in the past, I also gained practical experience that has been priceless in my practice of law. I still refer to my notes from my Advising the Entrepreneurial Client class, and use strategies learned in Analytical Methods. Most importantly, the LLMLE program introduced me to some of the most intelligent, creative, and interesting people that I will ever meet, and gave me the opportunity to make lifelong friends.”



MEGAN GEMUNDER '15
Associate at Morningstar Law Group

“After practicing law for many years at the Department of Homeland Security and the National Association for Biomedical Research, I decided to change my career trajectory and the LLMLE program provided a perfect transition. It gave me a base of knowledge that I did not have before and opened my eyes to opportunities that I had never considered. By taking advantage of these opportunities, I am now representing early-stage companies in legal areas I find fascinating.”



COLIN KIRBY '11
Associate at Lowenstein Sandler

“The Entrepreneurship LLM experience gave me a substantial and noticeable leg up on other first-year associates practicing corporate law in general and particularly those working in my firm’s tech group. I had a primer on corporate finance, IP protection, M&A transactions, term sheet negotiation, deal documents, preferred securities, anti-dilution measures, and numerous other subfields that enabled me to do much higher-level work right off the bat.”



JASON LAMB '14
Licensing Associate, Office of Technology Transfer at North Carolina State University

“The LLMLE at Duke was crucial to my development of skills needed to excel in technology transfer, which requires expertise in business strategy and deal making, legal drafting and interpretation, and science and engineering. My Practicum at NC State University, Office of Technology Transfer allowed me to directly apply some of the lessons I was learning the classroom and launched my career there after graduation.”



KARL GOODMAN '11
 Vice President – Legal at Prospect
 Capital Management
formerly Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

“The LLMLE program, with its focus on imparting both practical skills and substantive knowledge of corporate law, provided me with an excellent foundation for my practice. The breadth of possible career opportunities that the LLMLE offers is incredible.”



MATTHEW LENORA '11
 Associate at Smith Anderson

“The LLMLE program helped me develop and refine my skill set to communicate with, think like, and relate to entrepreneurs and management teams of start-ups and emerging growth companies. The professors, who are often entrepreneurs or have caught the entrepreneurial bug in some way themselves, challenged my traditional legal evaluative thought process and expanded my ability to think like my clients and consider their short-term and long-term goals. When I graduated with my LLMLE from Duke, I had the confidence and the skill set to start my career as a start-up attorney and grow into a trusted legal advisor to my clients.”



BRYAN MCGANN '15
 Executive Director, Blackstone
 Entrepreneurs Network

“The Duke program in Law and Entrepreneurship is the perfect choice to immerse yourself in a thriving entrepreneurial community, no matter what your career plans are and no matter what your age. Whether you want to advise entrepreneurial clients, open a solo practice, work in venture finance, or start your own business, the skills learned in the program will set you apart from your peers.”



ILYSE FISHMAN LERNER '11
 Soon to open On Rye restaurant
formerly Proskauer Rose

“Without question, the LLMLE program has both shaped the course of my career and better prepared me for the work that I currently do. Starting a company is both exhilarating and terrifying, and many lawyers tend to be risk adverse. Had I never closely studied entrepreneurship at Duke Law, I doubt that I would have caught the bug myself. Now, as I prepare to open the doors to On Rye, I see new business opportunities and tackle new challenges every single day. The LLMLE has definitely helped me to better navigate those waters.”



JEAN MICHEL '14
 General Counsel at ReverbNation (early-stage music technology/services company)
formerly Associate General Counsel, Cree, Inc.

“Attending Duke Law’s LLMLE program enabled me to propel my legal career forward in a relatively brief period of time. I received an immersive experience which not only offered exceptional legal and business courses, but which developed other valuable professional skills. The program stands out because it offers both a substantial legal and a “real world” education. The LLMLE Program has been an exceptionally rewarding experience for me both professionally and personally, and I recommend it wholeheartedly.”

“We value tremendously LLMLE students’ contributions to our investment activities.”

— **JOHN GLUSHIK,**
 Managing Director, Duke Angel Network



J. MARTIN MORGADO III '12
General Counsel, Soccer.com/
Sports Endeavors, Inc.

“Having been a lawyer, who became an entrepreneur, who went back to into law, I debated the merits of attending the LLMLE program mid-career. It turned out to be the perfect decision for me. Through the LLMLE, I’ve developed a number of professional and personal opportunities and built an immense network of legal and nonlegal contacts. Leveraging the vast resources in Duke’s entrepreneurial community, including taking advantage of business-focused cross-listed coursework, I honed my entrepreneurial skills during and after the program.”



CRAIG FITCH '15
Associate at Latham & Watkins

“The LLMLE program at Duke was a phenomenal opportunity for me in so many ways. From the classroom instruction and hands-on practicum, to the networking opportunities with Duke alumni, the LLMLE program literally changed the course of my life and career. I would do it all again in a heartbeat.”



DANIEL PRATL '14
Chief of Staff, Office of Technology
(CTO) at Red Hat

“The Duke LLMLE program affords law students considering both traditional and non-traditional legal careers the opportunity to reexamine their goals and objectives in an environment that is both academically rigorous and professionally stimulating. Though the academic coursework is primarily legal in nature, there are no expectations to stay on a predetermined path; questioning established presumptions and experimenting via new professional experiences is not only allowed, but expected.”



ANDREW ROTH '12
Director of Business Development at
RocketBolt Inc. (customer retention
software start-up)

“In addition to giving me a wealth of useful, practical skills, the LLMLE was instrumental in introducing me to the amazing startup community in the Triangle. This has provided me with multiple career opportunities, including my current position. I wouldn’t be where I am today if I hadn’t made the decision to pursue the LLMLE. Best decision I’ve ever made.”



ELIZABETH YOUNGKIN '12
Senior Manager / Attorney at Clinipace
Worldwide (RTP-based contract
research organization)

The program has helped me understand the needs of entrepreneurs and small companies. This knowledge is of immense value to me because, as a result of earning the LLMLE degree, I now work for a young, but growing company; that relationship grew out of my Practicum there. I can say that I have directly used and applied the skills I learned in the program in my current job on a daily basis.”



YAO ZHU '16
Associate at Alston & Bird

“The LLMLE program has fundamentally changed the way I practice law. The modern strategic framework I learned through the LLMLE coursework enables me to help entrepreneurial clients make strategic decisions in protecting their innovative ideas. The Practicum allowed me to practice my lawyering skills inside a global technology company. The LLMLE program offers many networking opportunities with local entrepreneurs, and now I have developed a growing professional network in my area of expertise.”