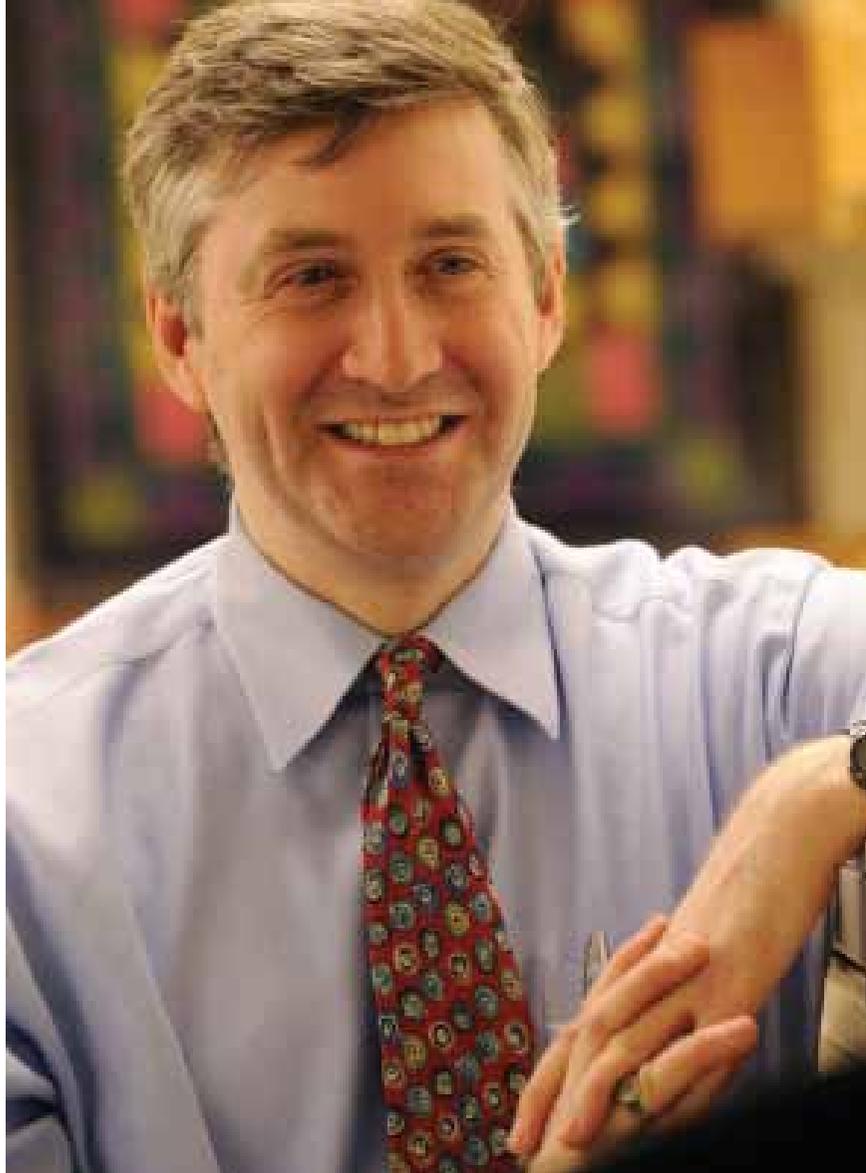


NEW EXECUTIVE LL.M. DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW RESPONDS TO GLOBAL DEMAND



IAN PILARCZYK

Director of the Executive LL.M. in International Business Law Program

In March 2011, BU Law expanded its leadership in global legal education with the launching of a new Executive LL.M. in International Business Law. This innovative program is designed for practitioners whose professional demands make it difficult to attend a traditional, two-semester residential LL.M. program.

“Our program is a direct response to the globalization of law, especially in the corporate sector, and the heightened demand for advanced training in cross-border matters.”

The program offers classroom instruction through a series of intensive two-week on-campus sessions, which are expanded upon through online instruction before and after the residency sessions. A flexible schedule offers residency sessions four times a year, and students can complete the program in less than a year, or take up to five years to earn their degree.

“Over the past 20 years, the practice of international law has changed drastically,” observes Dr. Ian C. Pilarczyk ('95), the program's inaugural director. “Our program is a direct response to the globalization of law, especially in the corporate sector, and the heightened demand for advanced training in cross-border matters.”

The program has quickly drawn interest from lawyers working in a wide array of legal settings, here and abroad. Its first 15 students come from 10 countries, including the United States.

“As legal practice has become more complex, many mid-career professionals are increasingly aware of the challenges of working in a global market,” remarks Dr. Pilarczyk. “They now seek new tools and skills to remain competitive, and the value of a BU Law LL.M. degree is also a highly marketable credential.”

The 20-credit program consists of six three-credit classes and two colloquia. These courses are taught by some of BU Law's top faculty in a highly interactive teaching environment. According to Professor Stephen Marks, director of academic affairs for the program, “The teaching format allows faculty and students to develop personal relationships. Both online and in person, our sessions together are intellectually exciting and personally satisfying. It has been a tremendous experience.”

“The new Executive LL.M. is an important addition to our portfolio of graduate programs,” says Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs John Riccardi ('91), who conceived of the new program. “Delivering the excellence of BU's teaching in non-traditional formats presents a huge opportunity for the School.”

Dr. Pilarczyk lost no time in launching new initiatives after arriving at BU Law. Last May, his office welcomed 36 Thai judges for a three-day workshop on U.S. bankruptcy law, featuring BU Law Professor Frederick Tung and several alumni. Mitchel Appelbaum ('91) hosted the program and organized a panel discussion on representing corporate clients in reorganization cases. Scott J. Greenberg (CAS '99), partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP in New York City, also contributed to the workshop, as did Cadwalader associates Zachary H. Smith ('03) and Joseph V. Zujkowski ('07).

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW LL.M. COURSES

- ▶ U.S. and International Intellectual Property
- ▶ U.S. and Trans-Border Mergers and Acquisitions
- ▶ International Business Transactions and Agreements
- ▶ Corporate Finance with U.S. and International Reporting
- ▶ U.S. Contract Law for the International Lawyer
- ▶ U.S. Corporate Law for the International Lawyer
- ▶ International Arbitration
- ▶ U.S. and Trans-Border Securities Regulation
- ▶ Workshops on Current Issues in U.S. Business Law

Watchara Neitivanich (LL.M. Banking and Financial Law '00), secretary to the delegation and judge of the Office of the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand, was enthusiastic about the results. “Our delegation obtained legal knowledge from both academics and practitioners, which we found very informative and useful,” he said. “We look forward to participating in great training programs like that again.”

Over the summer, Dr. Pilarczyk arranged for BU Law to host more than 30 visiting Chinese law students for a seven-day intensive workshop on American Law, organized in partnership with the U.S.–China Legal Exchange Foundation. The initiative was highly successful, and there are plans to make an expanded version of this workshop an annual event at BU. Additional workshops for visiting lawyers from China and Korea are planned for January and July of 2012.

BU Law is fortunate to have drawn Dr. Pilarczyk back to his alma mater to serve as the LL.M. program's inaugural director. After graduating from BU Law, Pilarczyk earned LL.M. and Doctor of Civil Law degrees in comparative legal history at McGill University, taught for several years, was a self-employed stock trader of closed-end funds, and then launched an LL.M. in International Law at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, an invaluable experience for his current role at BU Law.

Pilarczyk is now considering a number of new initiatives—including workshops, additional courses and new executive programs—with many taking advantage of non-traditional formats to limit the barriers to attendance presented by time and distance. “There will be continuing growth and initiatives emerging from this office in the near future,” he says, “so stay tuned!” ■

For more information on the Executive LL.M. program and short-term programming at BU Law, contact execllm@bu.edu.