WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL NAMED 6TH MOST INNOVATIVE LAW SCHOOL

1. The University of Denver Sturm College of Law is taking the lead in experiential training. In June, it launched its Experiential Advantage Curriculum, which allows students to spend the equivalent of a year in real or simulated practice settings. It combines live client clinics, externships and legal simulation courses. Among the externship options is the new Semester in Practice, which allows students to work full time with supervision and mentoring.

Students who opt into the program take 24 credit hours of experiential learning courses in their second and third years in addition to their 6-credit, first-year Lawyering Process course.

2. Whittier Law School launched a new curriculum called “Experience the Law,” which teaches practical skills starting on the first day of law school. Students can learn the legal concepts, after which they go through exercises that help them apply the concepts to concrete material. This curriculum supplements the practical training the law school offers in externships and four clinics.

3. Villanova University School of Law is requiring all students to take business modules aimed at building basic business literacy. The school has also launched clinics to support its efforts.

It has a new interdisciplinary health law clinic that gives students the chance to work on a range of advocacy matters on behalf of people with mental and physical health issues. Last year it launched the Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law, which offers students the opportunity to learn from and work alongside industry leaders.

4. Last January, the University of Nebraska College of Law opened its doors to the Entrepreneurship Clinic, serving entrepreneurs and small startup businesses. Eight students spent the spring semester advising and representing startup business clients in a variety of early-stage legal matters, including contract drafting, intellectual property protection, real estate, financing and other transactional matters.

5. University of California, Hastings College of the Law, is also using new innovation clinics to give students direct transactional and intellectual property experience in a real-world context.

“Our students are working with very young, early-stage entrepreneurs,” said Robin Feldman, professor and director of the Institute for Innovation Law. “Imagine grad students with a dream for a new computer or a new drug delivery system. They each believe they have the next great idea.”

In the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors Clinic, UC - Hastings students develop key lawyering skills through representation of low-income elderly patients at a University of California San Francisco medical clinic.

6. The University of Montana School of Law’s first-year Law Firm Program consists of first-year law students belonging to a pretend law firm consisting of six classmates and a junior partner teaching assistant. The firms are learning laboratories that meet weekly to practice professional skills.

Last year, faculty introduced the students in the firms to live client interviewing and problem solving under supervision of lawyer faculty, said Gregory Munro.

Faculty members have integrated professional skills, such as interviewing, counseling, negotiating, drafting, legal research and written and oral advocacy into the required core curriculum in the form of extensive simulated professional legal situations and required clinical education.

8. The University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law offers the Entrepreneurship and New