University of Denver Sturm College of Law Implements CORE ELMS

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law implements the CORE ELMS application to manage the components of the Legal Externship Program.

> " *We could not run our program the way we want to without the CORE ELMS."*

Ann Vessels
Professor

Schools of Law

CHALLENGE

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law has one of the largest and most successful externship programs in the country. The Legal Externship Program was using multiple databases and tools and needed a single platform designed to manage and report on student experiences while in the field. The team needed a solution that truly fit their processes and was built for experiential learning.

The Legal Externship Program needed software that was built for experiential learning and externship management; an application that could manage everything from helping students find externship placements, to scheduling students, to managing externship sites, to tracking student hours and documenting student experiences. They needed a digital platform to store this information, as well as comprehensive reporting on all components of their program. And, with limited staff/resources, they needed an efficient solution.

Ann Vessels, Professor, and Leann Steele, Legal Externship Program Coordinator, set out in search of an application that could best suit their needs.

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> — *Ann Vessels*
> *Professor*

Denver anticipates the CORE ELMS will make preparing for accreditation visits less work intensive with its robust reporting capacity.

SOLUTION

After researching potential solutions, Denver Law decided to implement CORE's Experiential Learning Management System (ELMS).

According to Professor Vessels, "We were looking for a single platform that managed all aspects of our externship programs and also gave us more comprehensive reporting and the ability to analyze data effectively."

Prior to CORE ELMS, the Legal Externship Program was utilizing five different resources to run their program, none of which worked together. The ELMS application provides the ability to consolidate that work onto a single platform, and even do more than the five resources they used previously combined.

The Denver Law team also had a need for custom configuration of their experiential learning platform, and experienced significant challenges finding a vendor responsive to their needs. The combination of the CORE ELMS's standard product features, the flexibility of the software, and the company's willingness to work with their team and configure the application for their program made the decision easy.

"The CORE team took the time to listen to our needs, understand our challenges, and configure the ELMS software to our specifications," says Prof. Vessels.

Reporting was also a primary factor in deciding to implement CORE's ELMS. Their old system was disaggregated and didn't allow them to run the type of reports with the details they needed. By utilizing the ELMS reporting suite, they can run reports on anything from how an entire cohort is progressing to specifics on individual students and externship sites. This allows them to better analyze data in an efficient and comprehensive manner to identify patterns and make necessary adjustments.

Ann and Leann mentioned, "We anticipate preparing for our accreditation visits in the future to be less work intensive now that we have a more robust reporting capacity."

The administration and staff value the ability to access their CORE ELMS accounts anywhere, accessing it from the office, at home, and on the go.

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CASE STUDY

RESULTS

"We could not run our program the way we want to without the CORE ELMS," says Prof. Vessels.

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law's decision to implement CORE's ELMS has been a great success. The application has enabled them to continue running one of the top law school externship programs in the country. They anticipate making more informed decisions about how to refine the program, as student and site data becomes available for analysis.

The CORE ELMS application has given them the ability to work more efficiently, allowing them to manage the same workload in less time and allocate staff time to other priorities.

"[CORE ELMS] really allows for phenomenal organization, reporting, is user-friendly, and covers all sides [supervising attorneys, students, administrators]. It really is all-encompassing," says Prof. Vessels.

The Denver team now has access to robust reporting features through CORE ELMS and can better utilize this information to make data-driven decisions about the program. For example, the ability to examine student evaluations from the last semester was very helpful for the team at Denver Law in preparing for the new school year. In the past, they would not have had an easy way to pull this information, as everything was stored in paper files.

"Working with the team was fantastic; they were always there for whatever we needed," says Ms. Steele.

Denver Law's experience with the CORE team has affirmed their decision in choosing the right product and partner. The Denver team appreciates CORE's readiness in understanding "law school language," and adapting the application and the implementation process to best accommodate their requirements. Having an application configured to what is important to them, without challenges, is imperative.

According to Prof. Vessels, what stands out to the Denver team is "hands down" the CORE team's willingness to work with them to configure the CORE ELMS application. How quickly the team responds to requests is extremely important to Denver.

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The students in the Legal Externship Program are responding positively to the application as well. The students specifically appreciate that the ELMS is intuitive, web-based, accessible anywhere, and provides them with the information they need in real time.

The Denver Law team feels confident they made a good decision in partnering with CORE and implementing the ELMS application. CORE's ELMS is comprehensive and flexible, meeting their law program's unique needs. Their externship program in running smoothly and they are excited about the quality of data they are collecting, which will allow them to continually improve the program. Their team recommends that other law schools consider implementing the application to help manage their externship programs.

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