

# CASE STUDY

## University of Denver Sturm College of Law Implements CORE ELMS

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



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW



**Alexi Freeman, JD**

Director of Externships,  
Associate Dean of Diversity,  
Equity, & Inclusion

### THE CHALLENGE

*One of the largest and most successful externship programs in the country*

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.

### THE SOLUTION

*A flexible tool with the right level of customer support*

After researching potential solutions, Denver Law decided to implement CORE's Experiential Learning Management System (ELMS). According to the Denver Law team, "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 do more than the five resources they used previously combined.

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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," said the Denver Law externship team.

Reporting was also a primary factor in deciding to implement 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 a comprehensive manner to identify patterns and make necessary adjustments.

**"We anticipate preparing for our accreditation visits in the future to be less intensive now that we have a more robust reporting capacity."** The administration and staff value the ability to access their ELMS accounts anywhere – from the office, at home, and on the go.

## THE RESULTS

### *Significant process improvements*

"We could not run our program the way we want to without CORE ELMS," said the Denver Law team. 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 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 encompasses everything into one central solution."

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. Denver Law's experience with the CORE team has affirmed their decision in choosing the right product and partner.