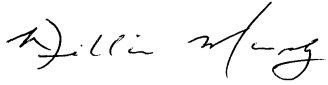





**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William Murphy 

**SUBJECT:** Permission to Operate in New York State: George Washington University Law School

**DATE:** January 2, 2025

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents renew George Washington University Law School's permission to operate its George Washington in New York program for another five-year term?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its January 2025 meeting.

**Procedural History**

Pursuant to Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, George Washington University Law School submitted an application seeking renewal of its permission to offer in-person courses applicable to its Juris Doctorate (J.D.) in New York City. The institution was previously granted permission to operate at the January 2020 Board of Regents meetings.

**Background Information**

George Washington University (GWU) is a private institution located in Washington, DC, and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. George Washington Law School (GW Law) is accredited by the American Bar Association and currently operates the George Washington in New York (GWN Y) program. GWN Y is a semester-long immersion program in New York City for second- and third-year law students who are completing coursework towards their Juris Doctor (JD) degree.

GWNY provides participating students with the opportunity to work in a government or non-profit externship while also completing up to four seminar courses taught by GW Law alumni. Each seminar meets once weekly at the law firm of the respective professor. Participating students are also provided with networking opportunities during the semester through bi-weekly workshops and events facilitated to promote professional development. GWNY students complete a total of fifteen credits that apply toward the 84 credits required for degree completion.

The GWNY program accepts twelve to eighteen students each semester. Selected students work with the GW Law Field Placement Program and Career Services Center to identify and apply to government and not-for-profit externships. Through the externships, students experience working in a legal setting and receive regular communication and feedback from their externship supervisor.

Since the initial approval in 2020, GWNY leadership has utilized feedback from GW Law faculty and students to assess the program. The results of the feedback and assessment indicated that GW Law students were seeking increased flexibility regarding which semester they could participate in GWNY. Therefore, in the 2023-2024 academic year, GWNY began offering the program in both Fall and Spring semesters. GW Law states that this change will allow up to 34 students to participate in GWNY each academic year in the new approval term.

GWNY is staffed by a Faculty Director and a Professor of Practice in Business and Finance Law. The Professor of Practice serves as the main point of contact for GWNY students and teaches Business Lawyering, which is required of all program participants. The other seminars are taught by experienced New York lawyers at prominent law firms and financial institutions.

GWNY reports that the program continues to meet its goals of providing a practical and immersive experience in Business and Finance Law. Over the initial five-year term of permission to operate, 94 students have participated in the program, and 74 of those participants have completed their Juris Doctorate (J.D.) program requirements. The institution indicates that students who participate in their second or third year of law school have successfully utilized the GWNY program to secure summer internships and/or permanent employment post-graduation, with alumni reporting favorable employment outcomes.

### **Related Regents Items**

[January 2020: Permission to Operate – George Washington University Law School](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/120brca2.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/120brca2.pdf>)

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents renew George Washington University Law School's permission to offer courses applicable to its Juris Doctorate (J.D.) program in New York City. This approval will be effective for a five-year period beginning on January 31, 2025, and ending on January 31, 2030.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If George Washington University Law School seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than January 31, 2029.