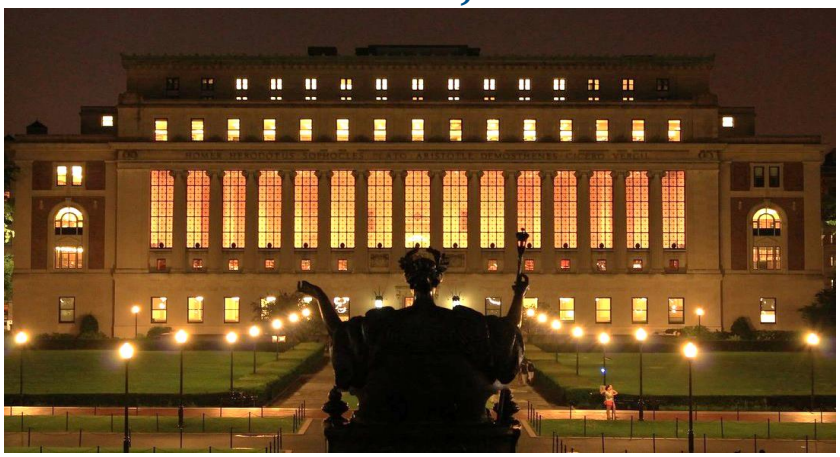
Columbia Law School

National Security Law Seminar

June 8-12, 2026



Columbia Law School invites applications to its National Security Law Seminar, a one-week program taught on the iconic Columbia University campus in the City of New York.

The program offers a comparative understanding of U.S. legal institutions, policies, and practices related to the national security field. It is designed for professionals trained outside the United States, including lawyers, policy makers, military personnel, police officers, cybersecurity experts and others.

The National Security Law Seminar offers 16 hours of non-credit classroom instruction presented by Prof. Bobby Chesney, Dean of the University of Texas School of Law, with participation by others including staff from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Academic Program

Monday, June 8: Organization and Processes of U.S. National Security
Key U.S. government agencies, their legal sources of authority, and the legal tools they employ.

Tuesday, June 9: Surveillance and Cybersecurity Law
Issues arising under both U.S. law and international law.

Wednesday, June 10: Use of Military Force – Session I
Issues arising under international law, including international humanitarian law.

Thursday, June 11: Use of Military Force – Session II
Current and possible future issues, including counterterrorism, arising under domestic U.S. law.

Friday, June 12: Reception
Closing reception hosted by Columbia Law School's National Security Law Program.

Key Points

Dates: June 8-12, 2026. Group and individual applications now accepted on a rolling basis.

Structure: 16 hours of classroom instruction, with a Keynote and Closing Reception hosted by Columbia Law School's National Security Law Program.

Fees: The program fee is $2,500 with on-campus housing, and $2,000 without housing. Affiliates of Columbia Law School partner institutions qualify for special discounts.

Credential: Official Statement of Participation from Columbia Law School.

Information: For additional information, please write to IntlPrograms@law.columbia.edu. Those wishing to attend from a partner institution should first contact their group organizer.

Robert (Bobby) Chesney

Bobby Chesney is Dean of the University of Texas School of Law, where he holds the James A. Baker III Chair in the Rule of Law and World Affairs. He is a frequent contributor to many policy-oriented publications and cofounder of lawfareblog.com. His scholarship focuses on U.S. national security and cybersecurity, and his extensive government service includes positions with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Justice Department.

Matthew C. Waxman

Matthew C. Waxman is Chair of Columbia Law School's National Security Law Program, and a nationally known authority on national security law, cybersecurity, terrorism, intelligence, and armed conflict. His scholarship focuses on constitutional war powers, international law, and data privacy. He served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense, and in other senior positions at the State Department and National Security Council.

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