

FAQ Law School Scholarly Impact Rankings

What are the Law School Scholarly Impact Rankings?

U.S. News is considering expanding its law school rankings to evaluate each law school's scholarly impact. This will measure a school's faculty's impact in terms of scholarly productivity and impact by using citations, publications and other accepted bibliometric measures. U.S. News is working with [William S. Hein & Co., Inc.](#) to complete this effort.

What is U.S. News asking of law schools, and what role will U.S. News and Hein each play in the analysis?

U.S. News is asking each law school to provide U.S. News with the names of its fall 2018 full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty. Each law school's participation in the law school faculty survey is voluntary.

U.S. News will then share each school's faculty name and other faculty profile data with Hein, who will use this information to link each individual law school's faculty names to citations and publications that were published in the previous 5 years and which are available in [HeinOnline](#). Using this data, Hein will compile faculty scholarly impact indicators for each law school. This will include such measures as mean citations per faculty member, median citations per faculty member, and total number of publications. Those measures will then be provided to U.S. News for use in creating a comprehensive scholarly impact ranking.

Which faculty will be included in the scholarly impact rankings? US News is requesting from each law school a list of all fall 2018 full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty. US News is also requesting that each law school identify each of these faculty members as doctrinal faculty, clinicians, librarians, legal writing faculty, or externship instructors. US News is still evaluating whether and how non-doctrinal faculty will be included in the rankings. At the time the rankings are published U.S. News will publish a methodology (see below), including a description of which faculty were included in the scholarly impact analysis.

Will scholarly impact indicators factor into the next law schools rankings from U.S. News?

Scholarly impact will not be a factor in the overall law schools rankings published by U.S. News in the late winter or early spring 2019. Rather, U.S. News is considering publishing a separate law school scholarly impact ranking during the 2019 calendar year.

Will U.S News publish a methodology on its new scholarly impact ranking?

In collaboration with Hein, U.S. News would produce a detailed methodology at the time of publication on how the rankings were calculated, how the faculty scholarly impact indicators were calculated and weighted, a description of the legal periodicals and publications used in the analysis, and other pertinent details about how the rankings were developed.

Who is [William S. Hein & Co. Inc.](#) and what is [HeinOnline](#)?

William S. Hein & Co., Inc. has been serving the library community for more than 95 years as a legal publisher, periodical subscription agent, and the world's largest distributor of legal periodicals both in print and online.

HeinOnline is a premier online database containing more than 165 million pages and 200,000 titles of historical and government documents in a fully searchable, image-based format. HeinOnline bridges an important research gap by providing comprehensive coverage from inception of more than 2,600 law-related periodicals. In addition to its vast collection of academic journals, HeinOnline contains the entire Congressional Record, Federal Register, and Code of Federal Regulations, complete coverage of the U.S. Reports back to 1754, and entire databases dedicated to treaties, constitutions, case law, world trials, classic treatises, international trade, foreign relations, U.S. Presidents, and much more.

If you have further questions for U.S. News about the rankings and faculty data collection:

Please email official@usnews.com .

If you have further questions about Hein or the scholarly impact data: Please email Shane Marmion at smarmion@wshein.com .