In 1986–87, 83% of UC Hastings’ funding was provided by the State. In 2000–01, state funding represented 50% of the total. In 2013–14, state support funds just 15% of the College.

UC Hastings is an independent law school that, while affiliated with the University of California, is governed by its own Board of Directors. It is a separate line-item in the state budget. UC Hastings receives no funding from the University of California.
Public interest law encompasses a vast array of opportunities to advance justice, and it is extremely valuable to our development as lawyers to be part of a community of like-minded peers that provides resources to support public interest causes. Public interest opportunities, such as student-run organizations like the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation, the Hastings Government Law Organization, and pro bono clinical opportunities on campus, have allowed me to pursue the path that brought me to law school. These organizations at UC Hastings encourage us not only to give back to our communities, but to actively work towards social justices causes.

— Jessie Casella

UC Hastings and the Lawyers for America (LFA) Fellowship gave me the opportunity to achieve my dream of working as a public defender. Now, I have a guaranteed job with the Contra Costa Public Defender Office, while still in law school. Programs like LFA are both the reason UC Hastings is a leader in public interest law and the reason I chose this law school!

— Aaron Jaques

As a first year law student pursuing a public service career, I was drawn to UC Hastings for its strong public service commitment, diverse clinical opportunities and stellar faculty. What made my decision to attend UC Hastings possible was the financial support from UC Hastings-sponsored scholarships and grants. However, my financial aid story is not the norm at UC Hastings. Far too many students are relying heavily, if not exclusively, on federal and private loans. As a unique stand alone law school, UC Hastings is in great need of increased state financial aid support to ensure that our school continues to thrive and attract the best and brightest students possible.

— Jeanette M. Acosta