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### **Charlotte to get its first law school**

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By: Shawn Flynn, News 14 Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- It will soon be possible to earn a law degree in the Queen City.

The Charlotte School of Law, a new, private institution, will start classes in August.

"We found that Charlotte was the largest city in the U.S. without a law school," said Gene Clark, the dean of the school. "And also, from a design concept, if any city is going to be a truly great international city, you need a law school to be part of that infrastructure."

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"Our three mission pillars are a law school that is student-centered, a law school where we prepare our students who are practice-ready and a law school that is serving the needs of the underserved," Clark said.

The Charlotte School of Law is part of the InfiLaw System, a group of independent and community-based law schools from across the country. About 850 people have applied, and the school plans to accept about 40-100 students.

John Hufham has already been accepted, and the 30-year-old banker from Charlotte isn't concerned about how his degree will compare with degrees from more established law schools.

"I think the reputation will come in time," he said. "Actually, I'm very honored to be a member of the charter class."



Tuition for the Charlotte School of Law will be \$13,000 a semester, or \$26,000 a year.

Clark said there shouldn't be any problem for graduates to find work.

"Charlotte and North Carolina ranks the third lowest in the number of lawyers per capita, so it's a great place to have a law career," he said.

Tuition for the school will be \$13,000 a semester, or \$26,000 a year. The school is hoping to get its provisional accreditation by early 2008.

The first thing it needs to get, however, is a campus. School leaders are still searching for the right facility.

*Web Journalist: [Kyle Almond](#)*

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