

Department of Law, SDU

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Shaping the Future of Law

Strategy 2026-2030

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STRATEGY 2026–2030: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LAW

VISION

We want to be a leading, internationally recognised law department and an attractive, inclusive workplace that delivers innovative, high-quality legal education, and impactful research for the benefit of the surrounding society. We want to build on our regional position in Southern Denmark and take an active role in shaping the regional development by offering attractive educational opportunities and cooperating with local businesses and other stakeholders.

CORE FOUNDATION: OUR VALUES

Our strategy is built on our core values: Quality, Cooperation, Presence, Openness, Respect, and Shared responsibility. We are committed to being an inclusive and supportive workplace where mutual respect and responsibility for both the Department's success and individual well-being are paramount.

STRATEGIC PILLARS 2026–2030

The strategy is focused on achieving synergy between four pillars: Research, External funding, Research-based education, and Dissemination.

1. RESEARCH (HIGH INTERNATIONAL QUALITY)

Goal: We want to achieve and maintain high international quality of research with strong societal and practical relevance.

Focus areas:

- Presence:* Strengthen our national, Nordic and international presence through high-quality research in national, Nordic, and international outlets. Cement our position as leading in our region.
- *CLAIR:* Make the Center for Law, AI and Robotics (CLAIR) a leading Nordic and internationally recognised hub for research in AI.
- *Interdisciplinarity:* Actively strengthen collaborations with non-legal academic fields, in particular other social sciences and technology, to address complex societal challenges and generate novel legal insights.
- *Talent development:* Systematically support the research potential of all staff and implement targeted recruitment strategies to develop, retain and attract leading researchers.

2. EXTERNAL FUNDING (FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY)

Goal: We want to increase the acquisition of competitive external funding in order to secure research freedom and support innovation, building on a strong support system for applications and external funding.

Focus areas:

- *Professionalisation of applications:* A dedicated, high-level funding support function, established through cooperation between the Faculty and the Department to assist researchers in identifying opportunities and professionalising proposals for national, European (EU) and private foundations.
- *Funding culture:* Integrate external funding as a shared goal into the Department's culture through mentoring, peer review and the recognition of successful fundraising efforts as a core departmental contribution, while safeguarding research freedom.
- *Strategic prioritisation:* Prioritise the development of research projects that demonstrate strong societal impact and clear potential for competitive external funding.

3. RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION (ATTRACTIVE LAWYERS)

Goal: We want to educate highly sought-after, reflective legal professionals equipped with the skills and academic formation required to contribute to an evolving society. Furthermore, we want to promote a shared responsibility across our education programmes and courses offered across campuses.

Focus areas:

- *Research-based teaching:* Ensure that our courses are research-based with researchers serving as course responsables, and that our courses are taught by both researchers and practitioners.
- *Academic formation:* Strengthen our students' academic formation and critical thinking, moving beyond a sole focus on exam results to enable them to think independently and act responsibly.
- *Flexibility and relevance:* Expand and quality-assure flexible and relevant research-based course offerings, including part-time education and specialised courses, supporting the principle of lifelong learning and adapting to the needs of society.
- *Contemporary skills:* Integrate digital, interdisciplinary and practical skills into the curriculum to ensure that graduates are prepared for future legal challenges.
- *Student well-being:* Focus on student well-being through improvements to academic formation and contemporary skills.
- *Student involvement:* Integrate students into activities to enhance their practical communication skills and foster shared responsibility for societal engagement.

4. KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION (SOCIETAL IMPACT)

Goal: We want to ensure that our research creates visible, measurable impact and actively shapes professional and public legal debate.

Focus areas:

- *Stakeholder engagement*: Systematically engage with alumni, practitioners, authorities and external partners through relevant forums (e.g. conferences, expert groups, public boards and committees, public events and media).
- *Strategic communication*: Develop a proactive communication plan to translate research results into accessible formats (e.g. op-eds, podcasts and policy briefs) for public and professional impact.