

LEGAL/PRIVACY

Fordham, CFDA launch first fashion law degrees

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Fordham University professor Susan Scafidi with CFDA president Diane von Furstenberg

By STAFF REPORTS

Fordham Law School is launching master's degree programs in fashion law, which the college claims are the first of their kind in the world.

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The Fashion Law Institute at the school, developed in 2010 with the support of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, will allow both attorneys and non-lawyers to gain an education centered on law as it affects the industry. Giving those in the industry an opportunity to specialize and be certified in law pertaining to fashion will help them navigate all aspects of a design-focused business.

Fashion education

Fordham's programs will begin in the fall, with prospective students being able to select from two tracks.

A Masters of Laws in fashion law will be available to those with legal degrees, with classes taught by industry insiders on fashion financing, fashion modeling law, fashion licensing and sustainability.

For those who did not go to law school, a Masters of Studies in Law will be offering a

specialization in fashion law. This builds upon the previous Fashion Law Bootcamp summer program developed five years ago.

CFDA president Diane von Furstenberg said, “I am proud to support this groundbreaking degree program in fashion law. I firmly believe this program will become a powerful tool in the fashion world and beyond, and help us all as an industry – lawyers or not – better understand, grow and protect our businesses.”

Law plays a large part in the fashion industry, making the client relationship paramount.

Luxury brands tap law firms for many reasons, but relations tend to be limited to litigation and specific legal concerns.

While Sedhom & Mayhew offers the standard protocol, the law firm aims to expand how luxury brands interact with their lawyers. In doing so, the firm comes to better understand the holistic vision of a brand, which can lead to more appropriate decisions on the legal front ([see story](#)).

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