



The Center for Legal Studies enhances opportunities for legal support professionals' career growth with new flexible payment options for training programs and resources

<u>The Center for Legal Studies</u>, part of global learning and leading bar preparation provider <u>BARBRI</u>, today announced new flexible payment options for its legal support staff training programs, including courses and books.

Through the newly available Affirm financing option, students are able to spread the cost of their tuition and books over monthly installments, rather than paying for everything at once. This makes continuing education more financially viable and achievable for aspiring professionals.

"Our commitment is to provide our students with high quality curriculum and instructor support in a format that fits their priorities and current situation," Andrew W. Gates, CLS managing director said. "We recognized that some students do not have the financial resources to begin their professional training and advance their earning potential and were consequently locked in an impossible position limited by their current financial situation."

To apply for the financing, students need only enter a few pieces of information to check their eligibility. They learn upfront what they will owe – with no hidden costs or fees. Having access to the terms of their loan, including the annual percentage rate, enables students to make an immediate and informed decision on training and books, and select an installment payment option.

Online learning offers the benefit of educational continuity in routine times as well as times with unpredictable challenges such as those currently being faced around the globe. Whether medical concerns, professional or personal commitments, unfavorable weather, or other unavoidable barriers, the option to pursue a certificate through an alternative online learning format can provide accessibility which may not otherwise be available.

The Center for Legal Studies provides flexible legal training in conjunction with hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide, partnering with nearly 160 accredited U.S. colleges and universities to offer virtual legal career training for paralegals, legal secretaries, those in the medical profession needing a legal skillset, and classes on topics including property law, eDiscovery and much more. CLS also offers online LSAT and other exam preparation courses.

"We're excited about this new option for flexible monthly payments through Affirm," enthused Stephanie A. Elio, CLS' director of business development. "This benefit to students will enable CLS to provide training faster and to more students than ever before."

"I am very excited to offer this flexible payment option that will remove the upfront burden that has become a deterrent for many," Gates added.

Affirm financing is available to residents in the U.S. and U.S. territories, excluding lowa and West Virginia. To learn more about CLS payment options visit: https://www.legalstudies.com/affirm/

About Affirm

Affirm provides millions of shoppers an alternative to traditional credit cards at the point of sale, giving them the flexibility to buy now and make simple monthly payments for their purchases. Affirm gives shoppers the ability to pay overtime at any store and also partners with over 4,000 merchants including well-known brands across retail including home furnishings, travel, personal fitness, electronics, apparel and beauty, and more. Loans are made in partnership with Affirm's originating bank partner Cross River Bank, Member FDIC.

About Westfield State University

Founded in 1839 by Horace Mann, Westfield State University is an education leader committed to providing every generation of students with a learning experience built on its founding principle as the first public co-educational college in America to offer an

education without barrier to race, gender or economic status. This spirit of innovative thinking and social responsibility is forged in a curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies that creates a vital community of engaged learners who become confident, capable individuals prepared for leadership and service to society.

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