

This chapter extends our analysis of the formation of an Imāmī Shīʿī *madhhab* by attending to a key aspect of the idea of a discursive tradition: social embodiment. In this regard, scholars have argued that the establishment of endowed colleges of law was essential to the emergence of Sunnī *madhhabs*. My central claim in this chapter, however, is that the School of Ḥillah was embodied not in brick-and-mortar institutions, but in a network of learned families. Using the techniques of social network analysis to mine the bio-bibliographical sources, I reconstruct this network for the reader and demonstrate how it structured the transmission of knowledge in Ḥillah and constituted the discursive formation that we know as the Imāmī Shīʿī *madhhab*. The chapter comprises individual sections on each of the large families of Ḥillah, a section on smaller families, and a section on the Mazyadids. I conclude the chapter by arguing that the gradual integration of the Mazyadids into the juristic class illustrates how the *madhhab*, as the gravitational center of Imāmī Shīʿism, drew political elites into its ambit.