



**2019-2020 CATALOG**

**Miami, Florida**

Updated on February 20, 2020

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW



## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2019-2020

### Fall 2019

Tuesday – Thursday	August 13 – 15	First Year Orientation/Registration
Monday	August 19	First Day of Classes for First-year & LL.M. Students
Wednesday - Friday	August 21 – 23	Immigration Clinic Orientation
Monday	August 26	First Day of Classes for Second & Third-year Students
Monday – Friday	August 26 – 30	Add/Drop Period
Friday	August 30	Professionalism Day – 1L Students
Monday	September 2	Holiday (Labor Day)
Friday	September 13	1L Legal Skills Course
Saturday	September 14	EMD – Emergency Make-up Day (If Necessary)
Monday – Friday	September 23 – 27	Graduation Registration
Saturday	October 5	EMD – Emergency Make-up Day (If Necessary)
Friday	October 11	1L Legal Skills Course
Friday	November 8	1L Legal Skills Course
Saturday	November 9	EMD – Emergency Make-up Day (If Necessary)
Monday	November 25	Last Day of Classes
Tuesday – Tuesday	November 26 – December 3	Reading Days
Wednesday – Friday	November 27 – 29	Founder’s Day/Thanksgiving Holidays
Wednesday – Thursday	December 4 – December 12	Final Exam Period
Friday	December 13	Degrees Posted

### Spring 2020

Thursday	January 9	1L Courses Begin
Thursday – Friday	January 9 – 10	1L Legal Skills Course
Monday	January 13	Regular Classes Begin
Monday – Friday	January 13 – 17	Add/Drop Period
Monday	January 20	Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Monday – Friday	February 3 – 7	Graduation Registration (May & August)
Friday	February 7	1L Legal Skills Course
Monday	February 17	Holiday (President's Day)
Tuesday	February 18	Monday Classes Meet
Monday – Friday	March 2 – 6	Spring Break
Friday	March 13	1L Legal Skills Course
Thursday – Friday	April 9 – 10	Easter Break
Wednesday	April 15	Friday Classes Meet
Friday	April 17	1L Legal Skills Course
Thursday	April 23	Last Day of Classes
Friday – Sunday	April 24 – 26	Reading Days
Monday – Thursday	April 27 – May 7	Final Exam Period
Friday	May 8	Commencement Ceremony/ Degrees Posted

### Summer 2020

Wednesday	May 20	First Day of Classes
Wednesday – Friday	May 20 – 22	Add/Drop Period
Monday	May 25	Holiday (Memorial Day)
Wednesday	May 27	Monday Classes Meet
Friday	July 3	Holiday (Independence Day) (observed)
Thursday	July 8	Last Day of Classes
Friday – Tuesday	July 9 – 13	Reading Days
Wednesday – Wednesday	July 14 – 21	Final Exam Period



Friday

August 14

Degrees Posted

## THE STUDY OF LAW IN SOUTH FLORIDA

St. Thomas University School of Law is located on the main campus of St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida. The South Florida area is a thriving hub of domestic and international trade, an important legal and cultural center and, of course, one of the world's most popular vacation spots. The School of Law is located within driving distance of three vibrant legal and commercial population centers.

South of the law school, in downtown Miami, stands the federal courthouse, the location of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. State trial and appellate courts are minutes away. Approximately 20 miles to the north of the law school is the city of Fort Lauderdale, another venue for state and federal trial courts. Approximately 40 miles to the north is Palm Beach County, the home of West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, and Palm Beach, centers of significant wealth and commerce, another state appellate court.

South Florida residents enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, golf, tennis, and other types of outdoor recreation year-round. Miami's professional sports teams include the Miami Dolphins football team, the Miami Heat basketball franchise, the Miami Marlins baseball team, and the Florida Panthers hockey team.

South of the campus, across a breathtaking expanse of interstate that hovers just over the ocean, lies an unspoiled series of sandy islands – the Florida Keys. Only 20 minutes or so to the west of the campus, one can experience the Everglades, a unique wildlife habitat and national treasure. Several miles to the east lies radiant Miami Beach and neighboring coastal towns, offering many miles of beautiful beaches.

The School of Law, located two minutes from a major highway exchange, is easily accessible from surrounding residential communities via a network of modern highways. On-campus housing also is available with meal plans. Among other services and activities, the cafeteria, swimming pool, six tennis courts, and fitness center on the 140-acre university campus are open to law students.



## THE ST. THOMAS STORY

St. Thomas University, a Catholic institution, was founded in 1961 as Biscayne College. Encouraged by Miami's first Archbishop, Augustinian friars established a liberal arts college on the present site of the campus. Following years of steady growth, Biscayne College was renamed St. Thomas University. St. Thomas is the only archdiocesan-sponsored university in the state of Florida.

St. Thomas University is located on a 140-acre campus in northwest Miami-Dade County. In addition to traditional undergraduate programs, the University offers a variety of post-baccalaureate degrees, including programs in accounting, business administration, elementary education, counseling, management, sports administration, and pastoral ministries. Joint degree programs with the law school exist with business administration, counseling, and sports administration, and criminal justice.

In 1984, the St. Thomas University School of Law was founded. The School of Law is located on the main campus of the university and includes a multi-level library, a moot court amphitheater, faculty and administrative offices, a computer lab, classrooms, and offices for student organizations. The architectural combination of buildings and breezeways provides a comfortable setting for the study of law.

The School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. The School of Law embraces the duties and obligations of the Judeo-Christian ethic, and endeavors to instill the values and ethics of that tradition and of the Catholic Church in its students. As a Catholic law school, St. Thomas University School of Law has a fundamental duty to impart these values and ethics through the teaching of law.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to what will be another exciting and fulfilling year at St. Thomas University School of Law. As the President of St. Thomas University and as a law school graduate, I am looking forward to meeting our students and faculty who do so much to make our Law School such a prominent institution in the field of legal education.



I believe a law school is an excellent example of how to provide a true liberal arts education. A legal education is grounded in reading comprehension, critical thinking, deep research, analytical reasoning, quality writing, and fact-based, civil debate. All these attributes of a legal education are what a true broad-based liberal arts education are founded on. But, we know that is not enough....

At St. Thomas University Law, you will receive, along with an excellent legal education, a values-based education that derives from our mission and our faith. Our “leg up” is that it is not just about the law, but it is about true justice, public service, and ethical leadership at a time when it is most needed for our society. This concept is easily exemplified by our Human Rights Institute, LEAD Program, Human Trafficking Academy, and *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*, which recently was recognized as one of the best in the world. St. Thomas Law “walks the walk” on using law and Catholic values to advance our society to be better. I look forward to seeing all of these efforts and the many more vehicles our Law faculty and students use to live our mission. In addition, if all these efforts were not enough to demonstrate the quality of education at St. Thomas Law, our Labor and Employment Law Trial Team was crowned National Champions by the American Bar Association this past January. What an honor, and Congratulations to all who demonstrated that St. Thomas Law competes and wins at the highest level.

It seems like yesterday I was a nervous first-year law student attempting to achieve my lifelong dream of attending law school and becoming a lawyer. I look forward to doing all I can to support our students and faculty as they embark on another rigorous year of education that will produce thoughtful, competent, and ethical leaders for our community, region, and country. That is the ultimate goal, and I am honored to be able to serve you as you begin this endeavor that will benefit you, your family, and our world.

God Bless, and Go Bobcats!

David A. Armstrong, J.D.  
*President*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



St. Thomas University School of Law recently welcomed our newest Dean, Tamara F. Lawson. Dean Lawson, who joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004, is the first woman of color to serve as Dean. She now leads a law school nationally ranked for the diversity of its student body and that has, for over three decades, adhered to its mission of providing opportunities for those groups who have historically been underrepresented in the legal profession.

Dean Lawson has committed both personally and professionally to the advancement in legal education. Dean Lawson is an accomplished scholar, teacher, and administrator. Furthermore, Dean Lawson is a leader in the legal academy and the national bar. As a member of the law school faculty, Dean Lawson taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a seminar on Race and the Law. She was also twice named the Professor of the Year.

“My acceptance of the appointment is inspired by our students,” stated Lawson. “As a first-generation college and law school graduate, I am particularly connected to our mission. It is my privilege and honor to lead St. Thomas Law into our next chapter.”

Under Dean Lawson’s leadership, St. Thomas Law reformed its first-year curriculum, and launched a comprehensive Academic Success Program designed to ensure that all students develop the skills necessary to excel in law school, the bar exam, and in the practice of law. Since the implementation of the program, St. Thomas Law has seen its bar passage rate steadily increase, most recently performing among the top five law schools in the state on the July 2018 bar exam.

An innovator in faculty development, her influence goes beyond St. Thomas Law. Dean Lawson created the Deans of Color Retreat, an annual event for law school Deans and Program Directors designed to promote diversity and foster the professional development of minority law school administrators. Dean Lawson’s other contributions to the advancement of legal education and the legal profession include serving in various sections of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). She currently holds the positions of Chair of the Evidence Section, Secretary of the Section on Women in Legal Education, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Section on Law and the Humanities. Dean Lawson is also active with various bar associations, and serves as the Chair of the Law Professors Division for the National Bar Association.

Dean Lawson has co-authored two casebooks, and has had her articles published in prestigious law journals such as the American Journal of Criminal Law, the Iowa Law Review, and the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law. She is a highly sought-after

speaker on issues of race, policing and the law, and was chosen by the American Bar Association to be the Reporter for its National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws.

Before entering academia, Dean Lawson served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Clark County District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a criminal prosecutor, she was assigned to the Special Victims Unit for Domestic Violence. She successfully argued multiple cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, including death penalty appeals.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Dean Lawson earned her B.A. at Claremont McKenna College in California, her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law, and her LL.M. (with distinction) at the Georgetown University Law Center.

We are beyond fortunate to have Dean Lawson leading St. Thomas University School of Law!

Tamara F. Lawson  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

## THE MISSION OF ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

St. Thomas is a Catholic university with rich cultural and international diversity committed to the academic and professional success of its students who become ethical leaders in our global community.



## THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

St. Thomas University School of Law trains and graduates lawyers capable of applying legal principles to address and solve problems of an increasingly complex and changing society. The rigorous academic program of the Law School emphasizes lifelong learning and scholarship in a personalized, caring environment under Catholic auspices with a diverse student body and faculty. To this end, the Law School remains committed in teaching, scholarship, and service to fostering a public order of human dignity, to training lawyers sensitive to the needs of the region's underrepresented communities, and to expanding access to professional opportunities, which includes active partnerships with business, government, and the South Florida Community.

# THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

	Required Courses	
Fall	Spring	
Civil Procedure	4 cr.	Legal Skills .5 cr.
Contracts	4 cr.	Criminal Law 3 cr.
Torts	4 cr.	Constitutional Law 4 cr.
Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	3 cr.	Property 4 cr.
Legal Skills	.5 cr.	Advanced Legal Research and Writing 3 cr.
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5 cr.</b>	<b>Total 14.5 cr.</b>

## SECOND-YEAR PROGRAM

Required Course	
Appellate Advocacy	2 cr.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 cr.</b>

*(If a student takes any of the required courses in the summer term, then he or she can substitute any other course in the fall term, but all students must register for a minimum of 14 credits during this semester.)*

## THIRD-YEAR PROGRAM

Required Courses	
Professional Responsibility	3 cr.
Bar Prep Skills	4 cr.
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 cr.</b>

## ADDITIONAL COURSES REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

Business Associations	4 cr.	<u>Total credits</u>	90 hrs. (Minimum)
Evidence	4 cr.	Students must take Professional Responsibility in the semester in which they plan on taking the MPRE.	
Skills Requirement	varies		
Seminar (Intensive Writing Requirement)	2 cr.		
Student must also complete four credit hours from the following:		Student must also successfully complete skills requirements. (As set out under the Skills Instruction in this book.)	
*Bar Prep Skills II (2 cr.); Legal Methods and Essay Writing (2 cr.); Advanced Legal Skills (4 cr.); Civil Procedure Focus for the Bar (1 cr.); Constitutional Law Focus for the Bar (1 cr.); Contracts Focus for the Bar (1 cr.); Evidence Focus for the Bar (1 cr.); Florida Fundamentals Focus for the Bar (1-2 cr.); Property Focus for the Bar (1-2 cr.); an any other new "Focus for the Bar" course.		Student must also meet the <i>Pro Bono</i> Requirement. (As described under the <i>Pro Bono</i> Requirement in this book)	
		Student must also have a final semester meeting and exit interview with the Career Services Office. (See the section on Career Services in this book.)	



\*At least two of the four required credits must be fulfilled by Bar Prep Skills II, Legal Methods and Essay Writing, or Advanced Legal Skills. At most, only 2 credits of the “Focus for the Bar” courses will count towards the required four credit hours. Students may take any or all “Focus for the Bar” courses, but only 2 credits will count towards this menu.

## **LEGAL WRITING EXPERIENCE/EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Embedded in the required curriculum is the opportunity for students to engage in significant legal writing projects supervised by faculty members. In the first semester of the first year, students are required to take Legal Analysis, Writing and Research where students complete a number of writing projects. In the second year, students are required to take Appellate Advocacy, where they engage in research and writing that cumulates in an Appellate Brief. These two courses, supplemented by the “Intensive Writing Requirement” (see below) provide the student the opportunity to engage in significant legal writing under the supervision of a faculty member. The Legal Writing Experience and Intensive Writing Requirement combine to create a minimum of at least seven credits of faculty supervised legal writing.

Students take Advanced Legal Research and Writing in the second semester of their first year. This course offers the students an opportunity to engage in experiential learning under the supervision of a faculty member. In Advanced Legal Research and Writing students student make use of the research tools often employed by practitioners and draft documents that are used in practice (including client letters, pleadings, motions, contracts and settlement agreements). This course is supplemented by the “Skills Requirement” (see below) to provide the student at least six credits of experiential (skills) instruction.

## **INTENSIVE WRITING COURSE REQUIREMENT**

The Intensive Writing Course requirement is satisfied by successful completion of a Seminar Course.

Seminar Courses require the completion of one or more writing assignments that involve legal research, appropriate citations, independent thought, critical thinking, and legal analysis on the part of the student writer. The professor will have the academic freedom to tailor the writing assignments to his or her seminar’s subject matter and course objectives. There will be no ability for a student to satisfy this requirement without completing a seminar course.

- a. Independent Study cannot satisfy the Intensive Writing Course Requirement
- b. Seminar Courses are only taught by full-time faculty or adjuncts approved by the faculty.

## **PRO BONO REQUIREMENT**

In furtherance of St. Thomas University School of Law’s mission to provide service to the community, both the law school faculty and students must meet mandatory *pro bono* requirements. Each student is required to perform a minimum of fifty (50) hours of *pro bono* before graduation. First-year law students are only allowed to participate in community based *pro bono*; however, second- and third-year law students are able to participate in both legal and community based *pro bono*. This requirement instills a long-term *pro bono* ethic among law students and provides them with practical legal experience. Students work under the supervision of lawyers in a variety of non-profit legal service organizations, government agencies, and law firms. The Office for Career Development coordinates the *pro bono* program, developing a variety of sites where students can fulfill their *pro bono* requirement, and maintains the records of students’ *pro bono* work. A comprehensive handbook explaining the

*pro bono* program, listing the organizations, and containing the reporting forms can be found in the Office for Career Development, or online under the Career Development tab.

## **SKILLS REQUIREMENT**

All students are required to satisfy the Professional Skills Requirement prior to graduation. The Professional Skills Requirements may be satisfied by taking at least six credits of clinics, externships, internships, and courses designated as “Skills” courses. The “Skills” designation appears in the course description as an “{S}” and in the course title on the schedules published for registration.

## **PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES:**

Certain designated courses, externships, and clinics have prerequisite and/or co-requisite requirements. A prerequisite is a course that must be successfully completed prior to the beginning of the designated course or clinic. A co-requisite is a course that either must have already been successfully completed or that will be taken simultaneously with the designated course or clinic. Prerequisites and co-requisites are deemed by the faculty as essential to provide the student in the designated course or clinic skills or knowledge necessary for that course or clinic. In *exceptional* cases a student may obtain a waiver from a prerequisite and/or co-requisite when both the professor of the designated course and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs determine that it is necessary and appropriate for such student to obtain such waiver. A determination by either the professor of the designated course or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs that a waiver will not be requested or granted is final and not subject to appeal.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*The law school cannot guarantee that each course or seminar listed below will be offered during a student's residence at the school. This list of courses and seminars is subject to change without individual notice. Some courses have variable credit hours (as indicated) depending on the coverage and class hours indicated at the time of registration. In addition to the courses listed below J.D. students may take any of the courses listed in the LL.M. Program as elective courses. An "S" designation after the course name indicates the class can be used to satisfy the skill requirement. (See Skills Instructions)*

### **Administrative Law**

LAW 800 2 or 3 Credits

The study of the powers and procedures of administrative agencies, including their investigatory, rule-making, adjudicatory, and enforcement functions, and the concomitant requirements of due process. The Administrative Procedure Act is studied. Topics covered include the doctrine of separation of powers; formal and informal rule-making and adjudication; the standard, scope, timing, and other aspects of judicial review of agency action; procedural due process; agency acquisition of information from individuals and businesses; standing, ripeness, exhaustion of remedies, and sovereign immunity.

### **Admiralty Law**

LAW 869 3 Credits

An exploration of the legal doctrine governing maritime activities, including personal injury, statutory protections for seamen and maritime workers, wrongful death, maritime liens, mortgages, limitation of liability, marine insurance, sovereign immunity, forum shopping, and, if time permits, wreck and treasure salvage and pollution.

### **Admiralty Procedure**

LAW 868 3 Credits

The course explores the issues of jurisdiction and federalism, the sources of Admiralty Law and modern trends on Maritime Conflict of Laws and on forum selection. A brief excursus on Maritime Law as applied in the rest of the world will complement this part. This course focuses on Admiralty Procedure, the special Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in particular the "Supplemental Rules" B (attachment), C (ship's arrest), E (in rem/quasi in rem general provisions) and Supplemental Rule F (Limitation of Liability). A major part of this course is marine financing, theory and practice of maritime liens and mortgages and boat sales and registration.

### **Advanced Constitutional Law**

LAW 958C 3 Credits

This elective course builds upon the required Constitutional Law course, offering a more in-depth analysis of select topics regarding the allocation of powers and individual rights, possibly including, but not limited to the reach of executive power, equal protection and substantive due process. Key cases will be analyzed in their historical context and evaluated in light of preferred policies. Hot issues of the day will be picked up, as they merit. The course will also focus in on current doctrine, placing precedent, methodologies, and frameworks of analysis in both a historic and modern perspective to best prepare students for understanding and practicing constitutional law in changing times.

### **Advanced Legal Research and Writing {S}**

LAW 705      3 Credits

This one semester course builds upon and extends legal research, writing and analytical skills acquired in the first semester. The primary focus of the course is to familiarize students with research tools not covered in the first semester research and writing course, including federal and state constitutions, complex statutory regimes and legislative history, as well as administrative regulations and rulings. The legal problems presented are designed to expose students to documents they will encounter in practice, such as pleadings, motions, discovery documents, contracts, settlement agreements, and memoranda of law. This is a required course in the spring semester of the first year.

*Prerequisite: Legal Analysis, Writing and Research.*

### **Advanced Legal Skills**

LAW 711B1    4 Credits

This course will provide a review of three-first year substantive courses: Torts, Contracts, and Criminal Law. The course will also introduce students to Criminal Procedure. The course will highlight topics from these courses that are tested on the bar exam. The course is designed to provide students with substantive review and to acclimate them early to the bar preparation process.

The course will emphasize essay writing and multiple-choice test-taking skills. The course will include periodic exercises and exams in both formats and a final exam with an essay and a multiple-choice component. The periodic essays will cover important topics in the substantive subjects covered in the course.

*Prerequisites: Torts, Contracts, and Criminal Law are prerequisites or co-requisites for this course. Students must take this course before they have completed 60 credits. This course is required for graduation.*

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

LAW 819      2 Credits

An examination of the principal methods of resolving disputes outside the judicial system. Client counseling is explored in depth. Additionally, the nature, uses, application, and legal status of arbitration, mediation, conciliation, fact-finding, and negotiation are explored. The philosophy and attributes of the methods of dispute settlement are compared with court and administrative agency litigation.

### **Appellate Advocacy**

LAW 685      2 Credits

Students participate in "Moot Court," a simulated courtroom experience involving the writing of an appellate brief followed by the presentation of an oral argument. This is a required course in the fall semester of the second year.

*Prerequisites: Legal Analysis, Writing and Research and Advanced Legal Research and Writing. This course is required for graduation.*

### **Asylum and Refugee Law**

LAW 940      2 or 3 Credits

This course will take a hands-on approach to U.S. asylum and refugee law, to give you the tools you need to represent asylum seekers at all stages of the process, from their initial entry, through the Court process, until they can become legal permanent residents.

*Prerequisites: Immigration Law.*

## **Bankruptcy**

LAW 842 3 Credits

This course is designed to provide a general overview of bankruptcy law including the various forms of relief under Chapters 7, 11 and 13. Topics to be covered include the bankruptcy estate, exemptions, claims in bankruptcy, the rights of secured and unsecured creditors, discharge, automatic stay, executory contracts and leases, preferences, avoiding powers of the trustee and fraudulent transfers. The course is offered in the fall term and is a pre-requisite to the Bankruptcy Clinic offered in the spring term.

## **Bar Prep Skills I**

LAW 968 4 Credits

The course will provide substantive review and test-taking skills based in the following courses: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Property. The course will focus on topics that are tested on the bar examination. The goals are to (1) acclimate students to the bar exam and preparation process; (2) provide substantive review; and (3) refine multiple-choice and essay exam test-taking skills. Students should generally plan to take this course in their last semester of school. The course is graded, without a mandatory curve.

*Prerequisites: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Property are prerequisites for this course. This course must be taken after a student has completed 60 credits. This course is required for graduation.*

## **Bar Prep Skills II**

LAW 968A 2 Credits

This course will provide a review and overview of four substantive areas covered on the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE). The course will review: Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. The course will highlight topics from these areas of the law and provide students a framework for organizing the doctrinal law in the way it is tested on the MBE. The course is design to provide students with substantive review and enhance their multiple-choice question-taking skills.

The course will include lectures, including an opportunity for questions and feedback from the students, that highlight key aspects of each area of the law. The course will emphasize memorization of black letter law and application of the "law" to questions in the MBE-hypothetical format. The course will include periodic exercises and exams and a final exam in a mock-MBE format covering these areas of the law. The course is an elective meant as a complement to the required Bar Prep Skills course for students who want additional practice and guidance on Bar preparation. The course is open to students in either of their last two semesters, but is suggested to be taken in the semester of graduation. The course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisites: Torts, Contracts, and Criminal Law are prerequisites for this course. Students can only take they course after they have completed at least 58 credits.*

## **Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Law**

LAW 967B 1 or 2 Credits

This is an interdisciplinary course covering the intersection of public law, economics, finance, and corporate usage shaping ongoing public policy discussions and governmental regulatory efforts concerning blockchain, distributed ledgers, cryptocurrencies and virtual currency. Technical considerations underlying the course will be presented in a mostly abstract manner;

there is no requirement of students to possess a background or expertise in computer science generally or cryptography specifically for success in this class.

### **Business Associations**

*LAW 813 4 Credits*

This course covers the law governing incorporated as well as unincorporated business associations including corporations, general partnerships, limited partnerships and other limited liability entities. The course begins with the common law of agency to explore the legal and economic relationships among principal, agent, third party and independent contractor. The course moves on to the modern law of partnerships and various forms of unincorporated limited liability entity such as the limited partnership and the LLC. The legal obligations of the firm, the partners or members inter se and to third parties are explored in the context of economic and business considerations. The course proceeds to an in depth study of the corporation including, inter alia, the nature of the corporate entity and its various constituencies, shareholder derivative actions, the duties of officers, directors and other insiders (including duty of care, duty of loyalty, duties of disclosure and fairness, duties with respect to inside information, short swing profits and rights to indemnification). The course will also explore basic concepts of corporate finance including the components of the balance sheet and the economic and legal motivations behind decisions on capital formation, dividend distribution and investment. In addition the course explores the problems of corporate control including proxy fights, control in closely held corporations, statutory dissolution upon abuse of control and transfer of shareholder voting control. The course then moves on to cover the law of mergers and acquisitions and hostile takeovers. Statutory material for the course includes the Revised Uniform Partnership Act, Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, Limited Liability Company Act (all as enacted in Florida), the Modern Business Corporation Act, the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Florida Business Corporation Act, and several federal statutes including inter alia, the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Williams Act and the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act and the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. This course is required for graduation.

### **Capital Punishment**

*LAW 945 2 Credits*

Students will become familiar with basic history, moral background, and constitutional rules governing the implementation of the death penalty in the United States, and particularly the State of Florida. Given the dramatic changes in Florida's death penalty law over the past two years, this course will provide students with an inside look at the response of the death penalty litigation community to the new law both in practice and theory.

### **Civil Procedure**

*LAW 600A 4 Credits*

This course provides an introduction to civil litigation processes, with particular attention to United States district courts. Students familiarize themselves with each major step in the litigation process, including pleadings, joinder of claims and parties, discovery, and pretrial and post-trial motions. Students also learn about the structure of American court systems, the subject matter jurisdiction of the federal courts, the power of courts to exercise personal jurisdiction over parties, and proper choice of venue. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, federal statutes, the United States Constitution, and judicial opinions provide the sources of law. This is a required course in the first year. This course is required for graduation.

### **Civil Procedure Focus for the Bar**

LAW 615A 1 Credit

This practical course prepares students for Civil Procedure questions on the Multi-State Bar Exam (MBE). It covers the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and other federal law relating to Civil Procedure, such as subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction. The course helps students develop and hone multiple-choice skills, including critical reading and analytical thinking, necessary for MBE preparation. All students are encouraged to take this course to [re]familiarize themselves with aspects of Civil Procedure. This course is only offered to students in their final year of law school and is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite:* Civil Procedure.

### **Commercial Law Amicus Initiative {S}**

LAW 802C (Up to two semesters) 3 Credits per semester

This course is designed to introduce students the skills needed by lawyers writing amicus briefs and preparing policy documents and to help students begin to acquire some of those skills. The Commercial Law Amicus Initiative (CLAI) provides students from participating law schools an opportunity to weigh in on, and attempt to influence, the development of the commercial law and public policy in the courts. CLAI assists state and federal courts in faithfully interpreting and applying the Uniform Commercial Code, other commercial statutes, and related common law, in order to achieve the laws' underlying policies and to facilitate consistent decision-making by the courts. CLAI pursues this purpose through the filing of amicus curiae briefs. CLAI also provides research and recommendations on matters of commercial law to non-profit organizations such as the American Law Institute and the Uniform Law Commission, in connection with such organizations' preparation of uniform or model legislation or restatements of the law. Students will assist CLAI in these efforts.

### **Comparative Environmental Law**

LAW 804B 3 Credits

This course offers a comparative exploration of various environmental law regimes from around the world. It first provides a basic foundation of both United States environmental law and international environmental law, as well as specific environmental legal programs of selected countries. The course then examines the similarities and differences in how other countries address environmental problems to discover how the varied regulatory approaches impact the success of the particular program in question. Topics to be discussed include global climate changes; hydraulic fracturing; water pollution; biodiversity and land preservation; and environmental human rights.

### **Comparative Public Health Law**

LAW 966A 3 Credits

The Institute of Medicine has stated that "The mission of public health is to fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy." The World Health Organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." This course will examine the international, federal, state and local laws and policies that govern activities relevant to the public's health. We will also consider the ethical implications of legal and policy decisions and explore prevalent issues facing lawyers from a legal and policy perspective. Topics covered will include the fundamentals of public health law, the AIDS pandemic and access to AIDS Pharmaceuticals, the Obesity Epidemic, the SARS Epidemic and Quarantine, the Global Tobacco Pandemic and International Law, and other country specific public health law and ethics topics.



### **Complex Litigation**

*LAW 820A 2 or 3 Credits*

This is an advanced civil procedure course focusing on some important aspects of civil procedure that are only superficially considered (or not considered at all) in the first year. It is useful for anyone interested in civil litigation or practice involving multi-party, multi-forum events, such as antitrust, securities, environmental, product liability, mass torts, consumer protection, civil rights, and other complex transactions. The topics considered include transfer of cases by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation; class actions; and discovery, case management, settlement, attorney's fees, and ethical issues in complex cases.

### **Conflicts of Laws**

*LAW 866 3 Credits*

With the expansion of communications in the world it is inevitable that there will arise in most every lawyer's practice a conflict between and among the laws of the several jurisdictions involved in even the least complex of legal transactions. This course takes the student from the classroom to the courtroom in understanding these problems. The development of the Internet has generated many new and difficult problems dealing with traditional conflict of laws. Conflicts in contractual and marital problems are considered as are conflicts in the international setting. An important aspect of the course is preparing the practitioner to detect a lack of conflicts, which saves time and expense of litigation.

### **Constitutional Law**

*LAW 680 4 Credits*

This course is an introduction to the structure of the U.S. Constitution and the rights and liberties it defines. Judicial review, federalism, congressional powers and limits, the commerce clause, and the 10th Amendment are covered, as are the equal protection and due process clauses. This course is a required for graduation.

### **Constitutional Law Focus for the Bar**

*LAW 958D 1 Credit*

This practical course prepares students for federal Constitutional Law questions on the Multi-State Bar Exam (MBE). It covers separation of powers and civil liberties. The course helps students develop and hone multiple-choice skills, including critical reading and analytical thinking, necessary for MBE preparation. All students are encouraged to take this course to [re]familiarize themselves with aspects of federal Constitutional Law. This course is only offered to students in their final year of law school and is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite: Constitutional Law*

### **Contracts**

*LAW 610A 4 Credits*

This course is an introduction to the principles that govern legally enforceable agreements and promises, including offer, acceptance, consideration and its substitutes, and to other problems that arise in the formation process. Contracts may also examine performance and breach of contract, defenses, remedies for breach, third-party rights and excuse. This course is a required for graduation.

### **Contracts Focus for the Bar**

LAW 848B 1 or 2 Credits

This course prepares students for Contract related questions on both the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) and the Florida Contract based essays. The course will primarily focus on bar-exam development while also operating to refresh students on Contract related, bar tested material. More specifically, the course will cover the most frequently tested Contract MBE test materials. It will also focus on the Florida specific Contract law distinctions tested on the essay portion of the bar exam. This course will help students develop their essay writing skills as well as hone their multiple-choice test taking skills, including critical reading and analytical thinking. This course is graded pas/no pass.

### **Consumer Law**

LAW 863 3 Credits

The study of unique aspects of the rules and regulations, and consumer credit including the Truth in Lending Act, the Consumer Leasing Act, and the Equal Credit and Opportunity Act.

### **Copyright & Content Management {S}**

LAW 965B 3 Credits

Copyright law stands at the forefront of law of the digital era, fostering and sometimes frustrating the creation and dissemination of human culture. By providing exclusive—but limited—rights to “original works of authorship,” copyright protects not just traditional media such as books, songs, and movies, but also electronic works found in YouTube videos, streaming media, and computer code. Because copyright issues are so prevalent in modern society, a modern lawyer should have a solid grounding in copyright law. This course covers major topics in domestic copyright law, such as originality, authorship, ownership, duration, the exclusive rights, infringement, fair use, and enforcement. It also pays close attention to the interplay of technology and law.

### **Corporate Finance**

LAW 867 3 Credits

Economics, finance, and law will be interrelated in the course. Emphasis will be placed on financing corporate activity, including valuation of businesses, the efficient market hypothesis, and the issuance of debt securities, common and preferred stock, and convertible securities. The course will also focus on dividends, distributions, and acquisitions.

*Prerequisite: Business Associations.*

### **Corporate Justice**

LAW 867A 2 Credits

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of the historical foundations of Corporate Justice and how it can be used as a tool for legal activism. In this course we will further explore the following issues: foundational aspects of corporate governance; how issues of gender and racial diversity affect the corporate decision making processes; the causes and effects of the financial market crisis; regulation of credit default swaps and other derivative instruments; director/officer fiduciary duties; the Dodd-Frank Act; the prison industrial complex; and finally, we will explore the impact and effect of social movements like the "Occupy Wall Street Movement" on financial reform.

## **Corporate Taxation**

LAW 903      3 Credits

Federal income tax consequences of the formation, capital structure, operation, and liquidation of corporations; treatment of distributions as dividends (taxable or non-taxable), redemptions or partial liquidations; determination of earnings and profits; and the disposition of corporate business by asset or stock sales.

*Prerequisite:* Federal Income Taxation.

## **Criminal Law**

LAW 620      3 Credits

This course is an overview of the common law and statutory elements of criminal liability. Topics include selected crimes against persons and property with emphasis on the act and intent requirements; principles of justification and excuse; inchoate crimes; and the theories of punishment. This course is a required for graduation.

## **Criminal Procedure I**

LAW 808      3 Credits

An examination of the constitutional rights of the accused with regard to arrest, search, interrogation, wire-tapping and other forms of eavesdropping, and entrapment. This course considers the limitations upon police agencies in the various areas of the individual rights of the accused. The mechanics of the criminal process, such as grand juries and preliminary hearings are also examined.

## **Criminal Procedure II**

LAW 848      3 Credits

The procedural problems experienced in the preparation and prosecution of a criminal proceeding are presented in this course. Major areas of analysis include arraignment and bail; an examination of the problems encountered in a preliminary hearing; the scope, extent and goals of a grand jury proceeding; pre-trial discovery, motions and suppression hearings; and the "plea bargaining" process.

*Prerequisite:* Criminal Procedure I.

## **Cyberlaw {S}**

LAW 967      3 Credits

Cyberlaw examines the effect of the Internet on the law, and of the law on the internet. In one sense, Cyberlaw provides a petri dish to examine how technology interacts with and impacts the entire law. In a richer sense, Cyberlaw shows how intermediated network technologies can disrupt existing forms of power—laws, markets, and social norms—in unexpected ways, creating new centers of norms and power. In that sense, Cyberlaw is a study of how technology brings chaos as well as unexpected order. Whether the chaos and order is good will be a central and recurring question. Topics covered will vary depending on current developments in law and technology and one can expect the class to regularly confront ongoing events. Topics in any semester may include: online jurisdiction; cyber-speech; trolling and bullying; privacy and anonymity; defamation; online intellectual property disputes; service provider liability; social networks; cybersecurity, cyberwar, and cybercrime; and network neutrality.

## **Elder Law**

LAW 851      3 Credits

This course explores the growing needs of the elderly throughout the nation and the legal response to those needs including federal & state responses and legislation. Topics to be

discussed in the course will include a study of the demographics of the elder population, ethical issues raised in representing the elderly, age discrimination in employment, income maintenance, health care, long-term care, housing, guardianship, property management, health care decision making, and elder abuse neglect and crime. The weighting of various topics will depend on the needs of the class and the avoidance of duplicate coverage with other courses that may touch on one or more of topics. Efforts will be made to familiarize the students with the medical considerations of an aging population and the relevant tests of competency in common uses. The course may include visits to nursing homes and Probate Court of Miami Dade and Broward County.

### **Election Law**

*LAW 920 2 or 3 Credits*

This course will give students a basic understanding of the legal regulation of elections and politics. It will cover federal and state cases on a variety of topics, including: the 2000 presidential election controversy; reapportionment and racial gerrymandering; ballot access and the initiative process; campaign financing and the regulation of political parties; the degree to which courts intervene in the electoral process; and the Voting Rights Act and other civil rights legislation.

### **Employment Discrimination Law**

*LAW 824 3 Credits*

The study of substantive rules of federal law in employment discrimination, blending the constitutional and statutory sources of employment discrimination law with the rapidly developing case law. Employment discrimination in the major classifications of race, sex, age, and national origin are analyzed and studied especially in light of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

### **Entertainment Law**

*LAW 713 3 Credits*

This course is designed to introduce law students to the legal, business, and creative aspects of the entertainment industry. The course surveys the many legal doctrines that help shape the entertainment industry and explores how these doctrines interact. The primary entertainment areas surveyed include film, television and music. The course is designed to prepare the student to analyze a wide variety of entertainment law issues at a general level

### **Environmental Law**

*LAW 895 2 or 3 Credits*

A survey of environmental law, policy, and regulation with particular emphasis on issues of current concern in Florida. Topics may include the role of the courts in environmental decision-making, techniques of pollution control in the major environmental statutes, the regulation of toxic substances, and the relationship between energy and environmental policy. A substantial writing component is required, e.g. comments on an EPA rulemaking, client memoranda construing environmental statutes and regulations, briefs in environmental litigation, and practical research problems.

### **Essential Concepts of Business for Lawyers**

*LAW 907A 1 or 2 Credit(s)*

This course will introduce the law student into the basic concepts of business and taxation needed by the lawyer to better understand and with greater sophistication courses in business

law, finance, accounting for lawyers, real estate development, securities, bankruptcy, tax, estate planning, wills, trusts, and related areas. This course will focus on four specific areas: (1) Accounting and Financial Statements; (2) Principles of Finance and Valuation; (3) Financial Instruments and Capital Markets; and (4) Federal Income Taxation.

### **Estate Planning**

LAW 902 3 Credits

An exploration of the various means of effecting the most beneficial results in the planning of a client's estate. Consideration is given to drafting techniques, choice of marital deduction formulas, selections of fiduciaries, federal estate tax credits, inheritance, and income taxes.

*Prerequisites:* Federal Income Taxation and Federal Estates and Gift Taxation.

### **Evidence**

LAW 826 4 Credits

The study of the preparation and presentation of evidence, examination of witnesses, the opinion rule and expert testimony, cross-examination and subsequent examination of witnesses, impeachment of witnesses, the procedure of admitting and excluding evidence, competency of witnesses, the scope and effect of the evidentiary privileges, relevancy, demonstrative evidence, authentication of writings, the "best evidence" rule, the hearsay rule and exceptions, judicial notice, and the burden of proof and presumptions. This course is required for graduation.

### **Evidence Focus for the Bar**

LAW 826A 1 Credit

This practical course prepares students for Evidence questions on the Multi-State Exam (MBE). It covers the Federal Rules of Evidence and other federal law relating to Evidence, such as Confrontation Clause. The course helps students develop and hone multiple-choice skills, including critical reading and analytical thinking, necessary for MBE preparation. All students are encouraged to take this course to [re]familiarize themselves with aspects of Evidence. This course is only offered to third-year law students and is grade pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite:* Evidence.

### **Family Law**

LAW 810 3 Credits

The study of the law of marriage in depth including who may marry and the constitutionality of both substantive and procedural restrictions on the right to marry. Marital agreements including ante-nuptial and post-nuptial contracts are examined. Divorce and the role of counsel in a dissolution of marriage are examined, including issues such as jurisdiction, custody, visitation, support, property division, and modification and enforcement of court orders. Child neglect, children born out of wedlock, and adoption are included in this course.

### **Family Wealth Management**

LAW 885 3 Credits

This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of financial planning needs of every family and how these needs are accommodated by lawyers and other professionals. It provides a foundation for a better understanding of courses dealing with business associations, federal taxation, wills & trusts, property ownerships and transfer, investment, insurance and related courses. Topics covered included accounting practices, investment strategy, risk and return, portfolio theory, property succession, income and wealth transfer taxation, housing, life and disability insurance, retirement planning and elder law. By

providing an understanding of the basic structures supporting family wealth the student will be in a better position to make decisions on the areas of law the student would like to pursue.

### **Federal Courts**

*LAW 879 2 or 3 Credits*

A detailed comparison of the federal court system to the various state court systems on both the trial and appellate level. The limitations on the federal courts contained in the United States Constitution and the implications of the concept of federalism embodied in the Constitution are discussed in addition to federal judicial review.

### **Federal Estate and Gift Taxation**

*LAW 901 3 Credits*

An examination of methods used to tax estates, trusts, beneficiaries, grantors, persons having power over an estate or trust, decedents, donees and successors-in-interest. Income tax implications are discussed, with the balance of the course being devoted to the federal estate tax, the federal gift tax, and the federal tax on certain generation-skipping transfers.

*Prerequisite: Federal Income Taxation.*

### **Federal Income Taxation**

*LAW 812 4 Credits*

The main objectives of this course are to help students learn, first, how to use the Internal Revenue Code and the Regulations to solve tax problems, and, second, how to use the tax laws for business and individual tax planning. This is a basic tax course requiring little business, accounting or mathematical background. The substantive content includes the basic principles of federal income taxation as they relate to the determination of income and deductions and when they are reported. Special emphasis is placed upon transactions that most individuals engage in and tax avoidance techniques. The underlying elements of tax policy are discussed. Students who do not have a business background should consider taking Legal Accounting prior to or concurrently with this course.

### **First Amendment Law**

*LAW 828 3 Credits*

An examination of the First Amendment guarantees concerning expression and religion. In particular, the course focuses upon theories of values underlying freedom of speech and of the press, processes and consequences of speech classification, special considerations regarding modern media, regulatory methodologies that are constitutionally consonant, and freedom of association. The Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause are also covered. Attention is given to historical and contemporary context as it relates to the First Amendment's general meaning and the guarantee's specific clauses.

### **Florida Civil Practice**

*LAW 881 3 Credits*

A study of the unique aspects of Florida Law, including the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the preparation of pleadings and materials for trial, the court system, legislative procedures, and the significance of Florida's integrated Bar with an emphasis on professional responsibility. The course examines jurisdiction, venue, and process. The Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, with specific emphasis on pleadings, the discovery process and sanctions are reviewed in depth. Students are required to prepare pleadings, discovery motions, orders and judgments.

**Florida Condominium Law**

LAW 764A 2 Credits

The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of the issues impacting condominium owners, tenants and real estate investors, among others. It provides an in-depth look at how condominium and homeowner associations operate, and covers the condominium board's responsibility for enforcement of the community's covenants and restrictions. It also examines statutory rules, administrative regulations and case law, in addition to how governing documents are drafted and disputes are resolved. Students will be exposed to the contractual aspects of this area of law, including the interpretative and litigation issues affecting members of the community. Further, students will be given a primer on how the recent foreclosure crisis has impacted this area of the law.

**Florida Constitutional Law**

LAW 880 3 Credits

An examination of the Florida Constitution, recognized as a model for state constitutions throughout the United States. Special emphasis is given to the role of state constitutions in the United States federal framework. Students are asked to weigh the values underlying state constitutions. The course also focuses on Florida Constitutional provisions involving court jurisdiction, legislation, prohibited statutes, administrative penalties, access to the courts, homestead, privacy, contract impairment, due process, equal protection, amending the constitution, counties, municipalities, and taxation.

**Florida Construction Law**

LAW 764 2 or 3 Credits

This course covers construction contract law, industry forms and contracting techniques. Students will review the various types of Florida construction lien laws, explore construction insurance issues, and surety and bond claims. Students will have the opportunity to follow a construction litigation claim from filing the complaint through trial.

**Florida Criminal Procedure**

LAW 884 2 or 3 Credits

Analysis of the Florida Statutes, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and leading case law regulating the trial of criminal cases. The course explores all aspects of Florida criminal procedures including: arrest, filing of charges and arraignment, bail, pretrial release and pretrial detention, discovery, pretrial motion practice, speedy trial, jury selection, proof and argument at trial, jury instructions and deliberation, verdict and judgment.

**Florida Fundamentals Focus for the Bar**

LAW 884B 1 or 2 Credits

This is a one or two-credit course designed to prepare students for the Florida Section of the Florida Bar. This course covers the topics in Florida Law that have been tested by multiple choice on the Florida Bar Exam: Florida civil and criminal procedure, business entities, evidence, wills, and administration of estates. The course is team taught by faculty as well as adjunct professors. Students will learn the subjects in depth and have numerous opportunities to practice multiple-choice questions. Essay writing strategies for the Florida Bar subjects may also be covered. The course is graded pass/no pass.

### **Government Benefits**

*LAW 735A 3 Credits*

This course will explore the history, substantive law, and procedures in the practice of Social Security law. Topics to be discussed in the course will include classes of qualified recipients of government benefits, basic coverage of benefits, with detailed discussions on procedures applied in implementing the eligibility determination process. The weighting of the various topics will depend on the needs of the class and the avoidance of duplicate coverage with other courses that may touch on one or more of the subjects. Efforts will be made to familiarize the students with an overview of government benefits available to eligible individuals through the Social Security Administration, qualification criteria, disability determination, calculation and payment of benefits and introduction to the Social Security practice and procedures.

### **Guardianship Law**

*LAW 851A1 3 Credits*

Guardianship Law entails many areas of the law including: public and private assistance, advance directives, property and constitutional rights. This class is intended to teach students about how to plan for disability beyond personal and financial maintenance should the client become mentally or physically disabled. Traditional methods such as selecting beneficiaries on death and taking efforts to save income should be considered and the tools used to accomplish these objectives include guardianship, trusts, POD accounts, jointly held property, TOD accounts, convenience accounts, health care surrogate designations, POA and living wills. The weighting of the various topics will depend on the needs of the class and the avoidance of duplicate coverage with other courses that may touch on one or more of the subjects. Efforts will be made to familiarize the students with the medical considerations and financial concerns of an aging population and the relevant tests of competency as well as the legal process of determining incapacity. The course may include visits to the Probate Court of Miami-Dade, Broward County and to the Jackson Memorial Hospital Baker Act Court.

### **Health Care Compliance**

*LAW 689B 3 Credits*

Proactive regulatory compliance programs are, or soon will be, mandatory throughout the health care industry in the U.S. as a result of federal mandates. Effective compliance programs also are mandated by prudent business practices. This course is designed to introduce law students to health care compliance. Students will learn the background and general theory of compliance, what health care compliance programs are, how they are developed, how they operate and the consequences of inadequate and ineffective compliance programs. Special attention will be paid to the role and operation of compliance programs – with respect to both routine compliance matters and those that are complaint-based. The roles and responsibilities of government enforcement agencies such as the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and state Medicaid agencies in defining, directing and overseeing compliance and corporate integrity programs will also be considered. The future of compliance programs, including the potential for collateral liabilities as a result of compliance activities, will be addressed.

### **Health Law and Policy**

*LAW 689A 2 or 3 Credits*

This course acquaints students with some of the important health law and policy issues facing us today. Special attention is given to understanding some of the major provisions of the



Affordable Care Act and its regulatory impact. Other focal issues include physician and hospital liability for substandard care or refusal to treat; distinctions between health, disease, and what is covered as treatment; confidentiality and disclosure of medical information; Medicare and Medicaid; public health and health as a human right.

### **Hip Hop and International Law**

*LAW 702A 3 Credits*

This course is an exploration of hip-hop culture as it takes shape in different locations around the world in relation to international human rights law; more specifically the freedom to express, associate, assemble, and openly practice political thought. It will draw upon hip-hop culture's tremendous ability to be leveraged in multiple localities while always referencing larger global issues. In each international context, we will analyze how voices from the margins, be they immigrant communities in Europe, indigenous communities in Australia, or political movements in Africa and Latin America, are using hip-hop not only to express themselves and their feelings but also to change their societies, and establish transnational networks. Particular attention will be paid to the transnational, geopolitical, and popular cultural vibrancy of the networks that hip-hop wields; and hip hop's connection to international human rights law around the globe.

### **How Lawyers Get Paid {S}**

*LAW 837A 2 Credits*

This course examines how lawyers get paid. Topics covered may include methods of attorney compensation in law firms, referrals, the billable hour and its alternatives, contingency fees, settlements, and aggregate litigation (e.g. mass torts, class actions). The course explores these topics from the perspective of economic theory, public policy, legal ethics, and practical considerations. This is a skills course.

### **Human Trafficking Law and Policy**

*LAW 752 (LLM 752) 3 Credits*

This course analyzes human trafficking as a transnational organized crime, as a crime under U.S. federal law, and under Florida law. It explores the doctrinal issues related to human trafficking and slavery, the smuggling of people, involuntary servitude, as well as the case law related to each issue. It focuses on the main forms of human trafficking: forced labor, domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation. It looks at the intersection of human trafficking law with other areas of law such as immigration law and foreign sovereign immunities act, and it examines questions related to jurisdiction. On a more practical level, it teaches tools of prosecuting successfully a trafficking case and brings in the perspectives of prosecutors, victim's attorneys, law enforcement and service providers. Finally, it assesses human trafficking as an egregious violation of human rights and evaluates international cooperation in criminal matters as well as the challenges of prosecuting transnationally.

### **Immigration Law {S}**

*LAW 830 3 Credits*

An overview of the laws, theory, practice, and procedures that enable aliens to enter, to reside in, and ultimately to become citizens of the United States. Legal and social aspects of this process, including visas, detention, exclusion, deportation, judicial review, and citizenship by birth and naturalization are examined.

## **Innovations and Inventions through Patents and Trade Secrets [S]**

*LAW 942 3 Credits*

Innovation policy is so important to this country that the Founders addressed patents in the Constitution and made patent protection one of the first laws passed by the new Republic. Since then, patent law – along with its cousin, trade secret law – has become even more important to the development of the economy, with many businesses being built on a foundation of patents and trade secrets. Ironically, patents and trade secrets are mirror opposites of one another: patents hinge on disclosure, whereas trade secrets require secrecy. Yet any substantial business plan involving technology may require both. Regardless of their benefits, both patents and trade secrets are being increasingly criticized by those who lament these laws, criticizing “patent trolls,” pharmaceutical price-gouging, and a lack of transparency in proprietary computer code. With both the practical and policy issues in mind, this course addresses innovation law with a heavy emphasis on placing legal doctrine in a real-world context. The course will emphasize practical aspects of these doctrines as well, spending class time learning the basics of reading patents, construing claims, and considering NDA and employment issues. Relevant state and federal laws to be studied include the Patent Act of 1952, the America Invents Act of 2012, the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, and the Defend Trade Secrets Act.

## **Insurance Law**

*LAW 841 2 or 3 Credits*

This course focuses on the legal and practical issues involved in the field of insurance. Specific areas covered include basic principles of insurance (risk, underwriting, claims), the nature and extent of state regulation under the McCarran-Ferguson Act; the rights, duties, and liabilities associated with property/casualty, liability, and life/health insurance and with reinsurance; the defenses available to insurers in general and for each broad area of insurance; and problems associated with the claims process (“bad faith”).

## **Intellectual Property Overview**

*LAW 871A 1 Credits*

Intellectual property, or “IP,” is at the center of some of today’s most important legal disputes. Accordingly, any well-studied lawyer ought to have knowledge of the topic. This course serves as an overview of major areas of intellectual property law, namely, copyright, trademark, patent, trade secrets, and right of publicity. The class serves three purposes. First, it is aimed at students who want to learn the basics of IP law so that they become better able to identify IP issues that may arise in practice. Second, this course serves as a foundation for students wishing to explore the IPL @ STU certificate program, which offers specialized IP courses. Third, it serves as a way for students to integrate concepts found in other 1L and foundational courses, because IP law often reflects concepts arising from the law of torts, contracts, property, procedure, and even criminal law.

## **Intercultural Human Rights Law Review**

*LAW 602 1-5 Credits*

The Intercultural Human Rights Law Review is a scholarly journal publishing original articles stimulating global intercultural dialogue about issues in the field of human rights. It is operated jointly by J.D. and LL.M. students and provides students with extensive writing, editing and managing experience. Membership is determined on the basis of academic excellence and/or demonstrated writing ability. A publishable article, comment or note must be completed to qualify for membership.

J.D. members of the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review receive one academic credit per semester, starting in the spring semester of their second year, up to a maximum of three credits overall. The J.D. members of the Executive Board, which is composed of third-year students, earn an additional academic credit in each of the two semesters of the third year, up to a maximum of five credits overall. The faculty advisor is responsible for determining whether Intercultural Human Rights Law Review participants have completed their responsibilities and are thus entitled to credit. No student can earn more than a total of 5 credits from participating in the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*.

**Prerequisite:** *International Law*.

### **International Business Transactions**

LAW 832      3 Credits

An examination of the legal problems arising under American, international, and foreign law which affect businesses whose affairs cross national boundaries. Topics include aliens and economic activities, foreign investments, foreign corporations, choice of law, sovereign immunity, and economic regulations. Special attention is given to various forms of enterprise and financing of foreign investment, as well as to forms of international dispute resolution, such as arbitration.

### **International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition**

LAW 710I1    1 (Spring) and 2 Credits (Fall)

This course is designed to prepare students to compete in Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition. The course consists of two semesters: Fall (students will attend lectures and research issues presented in the Problem and prepare and submit Claimant's and Respondent's Memoranda); and Spring (students compete in Pre-Moots in preparation for the Oral Argument rounds, which will be held during the Spring semester). By the end of the competition, which will be held in the spring at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna, students will have learned how to write a memorandum focusing on question of a transnational contract – flowing from a transaction relating to the sale or purchase of good under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and other uniform international commercial law- in the context of an arbitration of a dispute under specified Arbitration Rules. Students will also have practiced and improved their oral advocacy skills.

### **International Law**

LAW 700 (LLM 700)    3 Credits

This is a general course in public international law. It focuses on the process of making and implementing lawful international decisions. The emphasis is on the sources of international law – treaties, customary international law and general principles of law -- and the many roles of the nation-state, its establishment, transformation and termination, as well as the regulation of protection and control of resources and persons, via the mechanisms of nationality and human rights. The subject-matter of this course will be delivered through lectures *ex cathedra* and applications of the Socratic style, power point presentations and practice exercises. International law is too vast a field to cover comprehensively in one course, but this class will familiarize you with the basic concepts of international law and will serve as springboard for those who, later, will need or might wish to explore in greater depth areas such as international criminal law, international environmental law, international corporate practice, the law of the sea, etc. It is a dynamic field that intersects ever more with other fields of law. Living in an increasingly inter-connected world, whether your career goals include working for the government, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, or being a

local prosecutor, a corporate attorney or a civil rights activist, you must have a thorough grounding in international law. This course will help you identify the concepts and acquire the skills necessary for influencing future decisions in the range of arenas in which international lawyers must operate--parliamentary, diplomatic, business, criminal and civil litigation, judicial and arbitral practice -- nationally and internationally.

### **International Human Rights and Religion**

*LAW 966B 3 Credit*

This course will explore the protections afforded by international human rights instruments modeled on and derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the practice of the major world religions. Students will explore the major tenants, practices, and beliefs of the worlds' religions and the conflicts that arise when such tenants, practices, and beliefs interact with the civil authorities and with other religions. Case studies will explore the response of various religious traditions to the human rights standards and demonstrate ways such standards have protected vital interests such as liberty of conscience, religious pluralism and equality, free exercise of religion, nondiscrimination on religious grounds, and autonomy for religious groups. The course will seek to understand the importance of an appropriate balance for the interaction between law and religion in a thriving twenty-first century global society.

### **International Legal Research Boot Camp**

*LAW 846A 1 Credit*

This course will emphasize legal research strategies and the practical use of research materials in foreign and international law. Print and online resources will be discussed. Students will evaluate sources, basic terms and research techniques. Students will be expected to discuss their research ideas and objectives. The course is pass-fail and the grade will be based on class attendance, four homework assignments, and a final take-home exercise.

### **International Moot Court Classroom Component {S}**

*LAW 732 1 Credit*

The purpose of the international moot court classroom component is to strengthen the forensic skills of all international moot court members, with special focus on training them to be competitors and coaches in future international moot court competitions. International moot court problems from past and current competitions will be used within the confines of the rules of the respective competitions, focusing on problem analysis, research, brief writing and oral argument. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite or Co-Requisite: International Law*

### **International Moot Court Team - Space Law {S}**

*LAW 732A/B 1 or 2 Credits*

Students who are selected to participate in an interschool competition are eligible for *up to* two credits in the semester in which this competition occurs. This course provides advanced training in international litigation practice, including both the briefing and argument of cases, through participation in international court proceedings. The maximum credit allowed per semester is two. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisites or Co-Requisites: International Law; International Moot Court Classroom Component*

### **International Moot Court Team – Jessup {S}**

LAW 732A1/B1 1 or 2 Credits

Students who are selected to participate in an interschool competition are eligible for *up to* two credits in the semester in which this competition occurs. This course provides advanced training in international litigation practice, including both the briefing and argument of cases, through participation in international court proceedings. The maximum credit allowed per semester is two. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded.

*Prerequisites or Co-Requisites: International Law; International Moot Court Classroom Component*

### **International Organizations**

LAW 893 3 Credits

This course studies the development of the law of International Organizations with reference to its parameters and constitutionality. The course will refer to the limits of the mandates, to express powers and limitations thereof, implied powers and the effect of dismemberment on the corpus of law. Reference will be made to the democratic structure (one state-one vote), the variations on that theme (weighted voting, etc.), and the question of recognition, representation, and relations between the host state and representative government. The operations of the Organizations will be discussed, *inter alia*, Secretariat staffing and structure, national affinities therein, privileges and immunities, external relations, and budgetary matters. Universal and regional organizations will be analyzed with special reference to peacekeeping, individual and collective self-defense, human rights, international adjudication, women's rights, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

### **Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation {S}**

LAW 817 2 Credits

A study of the basic theories and techniques needed to develop competent lawyering skills for interviewing clients and witnesses, counseling clients, and negotiating with opposing parties. Skills are developed through simulated exercises, discussions, live demonstrations and may include videotaping student presentations. Emphasis is on student performance.

### **Journal of Complex Litigation**

LAW 603 1-5 Credits

The St. Thomas Journal of Complex Litigation is a scholarly journal publishing original articles submitted by faculty, students, and members of the bar and bench about issues in the field of complex litigation. It is operated by J.D. students and provides students with extensive writing, editing, and managing experience. Member candidacy is determined on the basis of academic excellence and/or demonstrated writing and editing ability. Full membership is contingent upon the member candidate's completion of a publishable comment, note, or similar work.

Each member of the Editorial Board, which is composed of third-year students, receives two credits in the fall and two more credits in the spring. Second-year and third-year members receive one credit for each semester they are members. An additional credit may be available to the second- and third-year students, at the discretion of the faculty advisor, for service as an Articles Editor. A maximum of five credits may be earned overall. The faculty advisor is responsible for determining whether Journal participants have completed their responsibilities and are thus entitled to credit. No student can earn more than a total of 5 credits from participating in the *Journal of Complex Litigation*.

### **Judicial Decision-Making: How Judges Think**

*LAW 837C 1 or 2 Credits*

In this course students will explore the different modalities used by judges in interpreting constitutional and statutory texts, as well as how others through various works of scholarship have tried to gauge the various factors that are perceived as being part of the decision-making process. Students will review the case law to see how judges have utilized the differing modalities to render opinions. In this course, students will approach the following questions: Why we should care about how judges make decisions? Isn't it enough that judges make the "right" decision? Students will explore how judges make decision can be as important as the resulting decision.

### **Juvenile Law**

*LAW 886 2 Credits*

An examination of the law and legal process relating to juveniles. Emphasis will be placed on juveniles who commit unlawful acts, but coverage will also include juveniles who are neglected or abused. The recurring tensions in Juvenile Law between punishment and treatment, immaturity and accountability, judicial discretion and consistency, and the rhetoric and reality of the juvenile system will also be explored. Juvenile Law is a Florida bar-exam subject.

### **Labor Law**

*LAW 816 3 Credits*

The federal law of labor relations, including the relevant Constitutional provisions, the National Labor Relations Act, the Sherman Antitrust Act, the Clayton Antitrust Act, and the Norris and LaGuardia Act are examined. Selected topics include unfair labor practices, picketing, strikes, organization and representation of employees, federal preemption, collective bargaining, antitrust, and labor arbitration.

### **Land Use Planning**

*LAW 853 3 Credits*

Land use law deals with whether and how the development of land shall occur. Grounded in government's police power, land use controls are properly designed and implemented to advance the public's interest-including environmental, aesthetic, health, safety and economic interests, among others. Often pitched against the exercise of such governmental power are the interests of the private property owner, interests shielded by the full force of Constitutional protections and, in recent years, a growing body of private property-oriented legislation. Land use law provides the legal and political framework for resolving these conflicts and achieving the best allocation of limited land resources.

### **Law and Bioethics**

*LAW 889 3 Credits*

Technology has changed the practice of health care and has given rise to ethical quandaries in determining when, whether, and how to integrate these technologies into patient care. Ethical principles are applied along with legal reasoning in dealing with the issues. Some of the areas explored include genetic engineering; surrogate decision-making; reproductive technology; human and animal organ transplantation; euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide; stem cell research; and regulation of care when patients are also the human subjects of medical research.

### **Law and Economics**

LAW 814A 3 Credits

Economics for Lawyers will provide you with an overview of basic tools involved in microeconomic analysis (including game theory, and some basic financial and statistical concepts), and an application of these tools to various areas of the law, including property, contracts, tort, and antitrust. This course will prepare you to think critically about the economic implications of legal rules. The ability to draw on economic arguments to shape legal arguments will make you more effective advocates.

### **Law and Literature**

LAW 776 (LLM 776) 2 or 3 Credits

The use of critical theory and works of literature to help students gain new perspectives on their chosen profession and to improve student skills in interpretation and composition. The course may include the study of: (1) critical theory from the Law and Literature movement; (2) law *as* literature; and (3) legal themes *in* literature.

### **Law Office Management {S}**

LAW 831 2 Credits

This course is designed to help you develop the skills and learn what you will need to succeed in the practice of law. The class will be both substantive and practical. The course was developed for law school students who plan to start their own practice, whether after law school or at a future time. Topics covered include professional responsibility and responsiveness, time management, calendar and other monitoring systems, malpractice avoidance, client satisfaction, office location, office library and equipment, personnel management, marketing, fees and billing, specialization, trust accounting and formulating a business plan.

### **Law Review**

LAW 601 1-5 Credits

The St. Thomas Law Review is a student-operated scholarly journal publishing articles submitted by faculty and members of the bench and bar nationwide. Membership is determined on the basis of academic excellence and/or demonstrated writing ability. A publishable comment or note must be completed for membership. The Law Review provides students with extensive writing, editing and managing experience.

The Editor-in-Chief earns two credits in her or his first semester in that position and three credits in her or his second semester. Members of the Board, which is composed of third-year students, receive two credits in the fall and two more in the spring. Second-year staff members receive no credits in the fall and one in the spring. Third-year staff members receive one credit in the fall semester, one in the spring semester, and an additional credit, at the discretion of the faculty advisor, for service as an Articles Editor. The faculty advisor is responsible for determining whether Law Review participants have completed their responsibilities and are thus entitled to credit. No student can earn more than a total of 6 credits from participating in the St. Thomas *Law Review*.

### **Lawyer Professionalism**

LAW 807B 1 Credit

This limited-enrollment, practical skills course, often taught by a current or retired judge, uses role plays, reading and presentations to explore professionalism's ideals and the Florida's bar exam tested mandates. Students will appreciate how character, competence, commitment and

civility define a lawyer's reputation, while considering the relationship between professionalism, ethics, morality and zealous legal advocacy.

### **Legal Accounting**

LAW 910 3 Credits

A basic introduction, for students with little or no business background, to the approaches and methodology used in reporting and analyzing business or investment activity. No special mathematical skill is required. The business background, fundamental skill, and familiarity with financial statements developed in this course will be helpful in other law school courses such as Business Associations, Bankruptcy, Securities Regulation and Taxation. Course material emphasizes the underlying meaning, legal as well as financial, to be extracted from financial statements whenever there is a need for reporting the results of business or investment endeavors.

### **Legal Analysis, Writing and Research**

LAW 635 3 Credits

The purpose of this course is the development of a first-year law student's analytical ability. Legal writing is a thinking process and legal research methods affect and shape the thinking process involved. The program integrates research skills with analytical thought, requiring students to resolve legal problems by researching the law, briefing cases, understanding legal reasoning and composing arguments. This course is required for graduation.

### **Legal Issues for Startups, Entrepreneurs, and Small Businesses**

LAW 831A 2 Credits

This course will provide an overview of the legal issues that arise for entrepreneurs and small businesses. Specific topics will include entity formation, angel financing and venture capital, intellectual property, acquisition of talent and employment law issues that arise at the early stage of a business, initial public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, business torts, social entrepreneurship, and liquidation. The course will also cover business ethics and potential conflicts of interests that may arise when attorneys take an equity stake as payment for their services. Students will study real cases and will address concrete legal issues through simulations and drafting exercises for a startup. The course will feature guest speakers including entrepreneurs and business lawyers to provide context for the assignments.

***Prerequisite or Co-Requisite:** Business Associations is preferred but not required prior to taking the course but students who have not taken BA are strongly encouraged to take it during the same semester as this course.*

### **Legal Methods and Essay Writing**

LAW 647 2 Credits

This course focuses on providing students with the knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law; legal analysis and reasoning; written and oral communication; and other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession. Students will receive ongoing formative assessment feedback on a regular basis. This course is graded on the elective curve.

### **Legal Research Boot Camp Federal Law**

LAW 846B 1 Credit Pass/No Pass

An intensive legal research course covering advanced techniques which will allow students to become proficient in performing legal research to be used in internship programs and



employment opportunities which specifically involve federal law. The course will cover topics such as federal legislative history, federal regulations, federal court operating procedures and rules, and filing procedures in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

### **Legal Research Boot Camp State Law**

*LAW 846C 1 Credit Pass/No Pass*

An intensive course designed to build on existing legal research skills, with its focus specifically on the research of Florida law. This course will cover techniques for researching state decisional law, state legislation and legislative materials, state administrative resources, and state court rules, including the rules governing filing procedures in the state court system. The course will also include advance training in online research techniques of state law databases.

### **Legal Skills**

*LAW 630A 1 Credit Pass/No Pass*

The course is mandatory for first-year students and consists of pre-coursework; a three-day, in-class workshop; and post-coursework. Students will improve learning and analytical abilities while continuing to lay ground work for development of stronger problem-solving skills through: (1) instruction; (2) exercises; and (3) debriefing. The course will build and refine fundamental lawyering skills including reading comprehension, rule mastery, issue spotting, outlining, and the mechanics of essay writing. Students are provided individual attention and feedback to improve. This course is required for graduation.

### **Legislation and Regulation**

*LAW 888A 1 Credit Pass/No Pass*

This short course introduces students to the world of legislation, regulation, and administration that creates and defines much of our legal order. At the same time, it teaches students to think about processes and structures of government and how they influence and affect legal outcomes. The course may include materials on most or all of the following topics: the structure of American Government (especially federalism), the separation of powers; the legislative process, statutory interpretation; delegation and administrative agency practice; and regulatory tools and strategies.

### **Marine Insurance**

*LAW 749 2 or 3 Credits*

Marine Insurance is the most pervasive discipline in the field of Admiralty and Maritime Law. There is virtually no legal and business issue that is not subject or related to Marine Insurance. Marine Insurance even extends to cover risks for events “on land”, which have a legal or logistic connection with maritime transportation or business at large. This course will explain and describe the rules that govern insurance “markets” and will also look at insurance of building and repair operations, the so-called “Builders’ Risk. The course will then shift to the fundamental principles of “insurable interest” and “no-wagering”, which pervade the whole discipline, with vital twists of international and comparative law, as these principles find heavy trans-border application.

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### **Military Justice**

LAW 738 2 or 3 credits

This course will provide a survey of the U.S. military justice system as it applies to the military establishment. The primary text will be the Manual for Courts Martial (MCM). The U.S. system will be contrasted with a national Model Code of Military Justice developed by the Military Law Committee of the Americas. Human rights critiques of the system will also be covered.

### **Mock Trial Classroom Component {S}**

LAW 734 1 Credit

The purpose of the mock trial classroom component is to strengthen the trial practice skills of all mock trial members, with special focus on training mock trial members to be competitors and coaches in future mock trial competitions. The course provides advanced training in all aspects of trial practice, including problem analysis, research, and presentation of cases. The skills that participants develop in the classroom will make them better competitors and coaches in the actual competitions in which the team participates, and better lawyers when participants pass the Bar. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded pass/no pass.

### **Mock Trial Team {S}**

LAW 734A 1 or 2 Credits

Students who are selected to participate in an interschool competition are eligible for up to two credits in the semester in which the interschool competition occurs. This course provides advanced training in trial practice, including the presentation of cases in the context of a mock trial competition. In all other circumstances, credit will be limited to one (1) credit per semester. Maximum credit allowed per semester is two. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4).

The course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite or Co-Requisite: Mock Trial Classroom Component*

### **Moot Court Classroom Component {S}**

LAW 710 1 Credit

The purpose of the moot court classroom component is to strengthen the appellate skills of all moot court members, with special focus on training moot court members to be competitors and coaches in future moot court competitions. Class members will work on moot court problems from past and current competitions within the confines of the rules of the respective competitions. The course prepares students for all facets of the competitions, including problem analysis, research, brief writing and oral argument, with the major emphasis on brief writing. The skills that participants develop in the classroom will make them better competitors and coaches in the actual competitions in which the team participates, and better lawyers when participants pass the Bar. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded pass/no pass.

### **Moot Court Team {S}**

LAW 710A 1 or 2 Credits

Students who are selected to participate in an interschool competition are eligible for up to two credits in the semester in which the interschool competition occurs. This course provides

advanced training in appellate practice, including both the briefing and argument of cases on appeal, through participation in appellate moot court proceedings. Maximum credit allowed per semester is two. The maximum credit allowed for any combination of competition team(s) (Mock Trial, Moot Court, and International Moot court) and their classroom components is four (4). The course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite or Co-Requisite: Moot Court Classroom Component*

### **Negotiations {S}**

LAW 852A 1 Credit

The course is designed to immerse students in an introduction to the art and science of effective lawyer negotiation. The course begins with an interactive class discussion of the fundamental concepts, theories, tactics, and techniques of effective transactional and dispute resolution negotiation. The discussion integrates the latest research involving the primary negotiation strategies (distributive-adversarial and integrative-problem solving), the key stages of negotiation (preparation, assessment, persuasion, and exchange), and the core bargaining styles (competitive and cooperative). This is a graded, one-credit class.

### **Partnership Taxation**

LAW 907 3 Credits

This course studies the federal income tax consequences of partnerships and covers the formation, operation, and liquidation or sale of partnerships. Special emphasis is placed on choice of entity considerations and the business planning flexibility available to partnerships, such as special allocations and deferral of income. This course applies the basic principles learned in the Federal Income Taxation course to partnership transactions.

*Prerequisite: Federal Income Taxation.*

### **Payment Systems**

LAW 821 3 Credits

Payment Systems is a general introduction to commercial transactions. It covers various ways of making payments (checks, credit cards, debit cards, letters of credit, wire transfers, and electronic payment devices), transactions for borrowing money (notes and guaranties) and also negotiable instruments and securitization. Doctrinally, it covers Articles 3, 4, 4A, and may also include 5, 7, and 8 of the Uniform Commercial Code. Coverage may also include (among other things) major provisions of the Expedited Funds Availability Act, the Truth-in-Lending Act and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act.

### **Practical Legal Research**

LAW 926 2 Credits

A presentation of modern methods of research and information retrieval over the Internet and selected proprietary networks. Comprehensive, accurate and current research in substantive legal areas must be weighed against the restraints of time and financial cost. This course provides the structure for students to gain the exposure and experience needed to develop efficient and effective legal research methods and to develop a critical perspective on the various print and electronic research sources. The course has been offered in the traditional classroom format and on-line.

### **Pre-Trial Practice {S}**

LAW 861 3 Credits

This course examines the rules and procedures applicable to conflict resolution that occur prior to the actual trial. The course is designed to help develop skills to assist in the investigation of

facts, and the drafting of appropriate motions, complaints and answers. Students will learn how to prepare for a trial; how and when to file motions, pursue and defend discovery (including depositions) and prepare lay and expert witnesses. Since most conflicts are resolved prior to trial, this course would be helpful to any student interested in augmenting his or her litigation skills.

### **Products Liability**

*LAW 894 3 Credits*

An examination of areas of law dealing with defective and dangerous products and the remedies for breaches of warranty, strict tort liability and negligence in relationship to products. Tort and contract theories of recovery are examined and the governmental regulation of the law relating to these theories is also discussed. Special problems in product liability litigation, including the role of the expert witness, are discussed.

*Prerequisite: Torts.*

### **Professional Responsibility**

*LAW 850 3 Credits*

An examination of the attorney's ethical obligations to the client, the court, the profession, and society, with special attention to the conflicts inherent in these duties. Included within the course is a history of ethical standards and a study of the character and fitness required for admission to the practice of law, and the disciplinary process of those who do not abide by appropriate regulations in the practice of law. Confidentiality, loyalty, advising of clients, client perjury, handling client funds, and the unauthorized practice of law are also covered. The course includes discussion of advertising, solicitation, and specialization within the profession. *Pro bono* work and the reputation and image that attorneys project to the public are also examined. Finally, the course discusses the role of the judiciary as it relates to clients, society, and the profession. This is a required course.

### **Property**

*LAW 690A 4 Credits*

Property introduces students to foundational legal doctrines that govern how people may possess, own, share, transfer, and otherwise use "things." The course begins with a study of the means of acquiring property, including, but not limited to, adverse possession. The course then explores the system of estates and future interests. The course also examines various types of co-ownership, marital interests, and landlord-tenant law. The course then explores the stages of the land sale transaction, including contracts of sale; the statute of frauds; marketable title; risk of loss and equitable conversion; mortgage financing; interpretation of deeds; methods of title assurance; and the recording system. The course concludes by examining private land use arrangements, including easements, covenants, and servitudes. This course is required for graduation.

### **Property Focus for the Bar**

*LAW 747 1 or 2 Credits*

This practical course prepares students for Property questions on the Multi-State Bar Exam (MBE). It covers key areas of the common law of Property. The course helps students develop and hone multiple-choice skills, including critical reading and analytical thinking, necessary for MBE preparation. All students are encouraged to take this course to [re]familiarize themselves with aspects of Property. This course is only offered to students in their last year of study. This course is graded pass/no pass.

*Prerequisite: Property.*

### **Real Estate Development and Finance {S}**

LAW 843 3 Credits

This course will examine, legal and business aspects of land development, including purchase and sales contracts, ground leases, notes and mortgages, title work, surveys, environmental inspection and negotiation. It can also include sales and leasing of the completed project, and working out the failed project. This is a skills course requiring detailed technical reading, multiple written and oral exercises, hands-on drafting and oral negotiation in a simulated transaction, and extensive student participation.

*Prerequisite: Property.*

### **Recreational Boating and Cruising**

LAW 856A1 2 Credits

This course explores the legal issues connected with the trade and operations of yachts, boats and cruises, such as, but not limited to: building, financing, purchasing, importing, documenting, licensing, insuring yachts and boats, boating accidents and salvage, cruise line accidents on board and on shore, tour and travel accidents and litigation, contractual issues between passengers and cruise lines, at home and abroad, chartering of yachts. The course also extends to legal issues connected with the industry of Hospitality, including marinas, parasailing, scuba diving, jet skis and the like. Also, the Coast Guard will deliver material, presentations and a Boating Course.

### **Remedies**

LAW 856 2 or 3 Credits

This course provides a trans-substantive approach to providing rights for most wrongs, in both public and private law cases, including administrative and regulatory matters. Injunctions, declaratory judgments, damages, restitution, and post-judgment relief are considered, as well as civil and criminal penalties, including punitive damages. The role of equitable discretion is emphasized.

### **Sales**

LAW 815 2 or 3 Credits

This course provides coverage of article I (general provisions), article II (Sales) of the uniform of the Uniform Commercial Code. This course may also include basic coverage of Article 2A (Leases) and the Convention of International Sale of Goods (CISG).

*Prerequisite: Contracts.*

### **Secured Transactions**

LAW 820 3 Credits

This course examines the basic rules, concepts and techniques governing the attachment, perfection, priority and enforcement of commercial financing structured as a secured transaction in personal property under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. Secured transactions include sales of goods and services on credit where payment is collateralized by goods, loans secured by tangible and intangible personal property, and sales of rights to payment of money.

*Prerequisite: Contracts.*

### **Space Law**

LAW 746A 1 or 2 Credits

This course will provide a general overview of space activities, from their inception to current trends, including their commercialization and privatization. The role of various international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations will be addressed. The role of regional and national public entities and the growing involvement of private corporations in space activities will also be considered.

While the emphasis will be on the regulation of various kinds of telecommunications satellite systems, other satellite systems, such as those used for remote sensing or earth observation (LANDSAT, SPOT Image, CBERS, DigitalGlobe) will be referred to in this course. Other space activities (e.g., scientific exploration, the International Space Station, launch activities, space tourism, space debris) will also be addressed. Governmental -military uses of satellites will not be addressed.

### **Sports Law**

*LAW 745      2 Credits*

An exploration of the regulation and legal issues involved in professional sports, including the nature of player contracts, league structure and rules, franchise agreements, broadcast licensing, and relationships with other aspects of the law, such as anti-trust, tax, and labor issues. There is a specific focus on the role of agents, contract negotiations and issues, union representation, and the judicial and administrative decisions relating to these issues.

### **State and Local Government Law**

*LAW 890      2 Credits*

An examination of a legal framework for the governing of urban and rural areas with emphasis on the relationship of local governments to one another and to state and national governments. Some of the topics considered are the organization, financing and operation of local governments, legislative control of local governments and source and limits of local governing power.

### **State and Local Taxation**

*LAW 908      2 Credits*

The primary focus of the course is on ad valorem of taxation, specifically the taxation of real property. The course discusses both federal and state constitutional and statutory issues which impact judicial decisions. This course will examine the techniques for litigating significant issues and advising clients. Students will review broad principles applied throughout the country and then, utilizing Florida as a prototype state, analyzing how Florida has applied those principles.

The ad valorem taxation of personal property is also covered during the course. Additionally, topics that will be discussed during the course are other forms of state and local taxation and revenue raising, such as state gift, estate, and inheritance taxes, state income taxes, sales taxes, special assessments, and debt financing.

### **State, Federal, and International Copyright Law**

*LAW 965A      3 Credits*

This course will explore and survey legal issues associated with state, federal, and international copyright law. Topics will include: what works are protected by copyright, what rights are granted to a copyright owner for how long, what constitutes copyright infringement, how to enforce copyright protection, and defenses to infringement actions. The course is designed to

provide not only a solid foundation in U.S. copyright law, but an understanding of the basic international copyright agreements such as The Berne Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

### **Taxation of International Transaction**

*LAW 650A 4 Credits*

This course analyzes the taxation of foreign persons in the United States, including taxation of United States real property interests and withholding on the disposition or acquisition of business interests in the United States; related issues such as choice of entity and sales of goods imported into the United States; and pre-immigration tax planning strategies. It further studies the Internal Revenue Code provisions controlling the income taxation of investments outside the United States, including controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, foreign personal holding companies, indirect foreign tax credits, allocations of deductions, and foreign currency transactions. This is a 4 credit course.

### **Torts**

*LAW 650A 4 Credits*

This course examines the civil liability for an intentional or unintentional breach of duty imposed by law. In addition, it explores the various theories for distributing losses due to harmful conduct. The torts to be studied include intentional torts, negligence, and strict liability for certain types of conduct. The affirmative defenses and privileges with respect to tortious conduct will also be covered. Students will develop greater proficiency in applying the rules of tort law to complex fact patterns and in recognizing, analyzing, and clearly expressing the legal issues and public policy arguments arising from actual and hypothetical cases. This course is required for graduation.

### **Trademark and Branding Law {S}**

*Law 965C*

Brand names such as COCA-COLA, NIKE, and APPLE are much more than trademarks: they are icons of modern culture. The core of brand-name law is trademark law, the law governing fair and unfair competition regarding the words and symbols used by businesses for their goods and services. But in an information age, the law of brand names touches far more than hornbook trademark law, including social media branding practices that recruit consumers as soldiers in the corporate branding machine; disruptive technology that makes brand enforcement difficult; and cultural norms that treat brand names as symbols of social status and commentary, such as "this watch is the Mercedes of watches," or the parodic song "Barbie Girl." Any attorney who advises businesses in connection with product naming, marketing, or digital outreach should therefore have a solid grounding in the law of trademarks and branding. Accordingly, this course covers major topics in domestic trademark law, such as subject-matter, distinctiveness, genericness, the likelihood of confusion test, dilution, cybersquatting, false advertising, and enforcement. It also pays close attention to the interplay of technology and law.

Finally, the course extends beyond book learning to employ realistic practice exercises that tie lawyering skills to the readings. Examples may include developing a brand, brand-name clearance, preparing a trademark registration, and enforcement.

### **Transnational Criminal Law**

*Law 855A3 3 Credits*

Transnational Criminal Law examines crimes that cross national borders. These offenses are governed by US domestic criminal law. Examples of transnational crimes include drug trafficking, terrorism, cybercrimes, illegal arms trade, human trafficking, counterfeiting and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act all defined by US Federal law. Procedural issues are extra-territorial jurisdiction, mutual legal assistance and extradition. Defense attorney arguments and statutory interpretations are emphasized.

A term paper is required.

### **Transnational Litigation**

*LAW 855 2 or 3 Credits*

This course explores the procedural problems that arise when litigation of international private disputes crosses the boundaries of the United States. The presence of non-U.S. party-litigants often causes conflicts with foreign substantive and procedural laws, and creates special issues that the legal practitioner does not encounter in a totally domestic litigation. The primary focus of the course is to introduce and familiarize the students with the major topics of trans-national litigation, such as service of U.S. process abroad, service of foreign process in the United States; law suits pending in U.S. and in foreign court contemporaneously, “parallel jurisdiction”; default in international litigation; taking U.S. discovery abroad; taking U.S. discovery in the United States in aid of foreign litigation; protective injunctions, “blocking statutes”; suits in foreign courts; recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in the United States; recognition and enforcement of U.S. judgments abroad; foreign sovereign immunities, etc. This course is a natural complement of and progression from Conflicts of Law and Comparative Law; however, neither of these courses is a prerequisite.

*Prerequisite: Civil Procedure.*

### **Transnational Security**

*LAW 855A1 3 Credits*

This course concerns the legal, political, economic and military aspects of international relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Contemporary issues including international terrorism, threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, intelligence operations, constitutional constraints on defending America, treaty negotiations and implementation, use of military force and related public international law topics are covered.

### **Transactional Skills {S}**

*Law 820 B 3 Credits*

This course focuses on the skills needed by lawyers involved in transactional practice. Those skills include ascertaining the parties’ true desires through interviews and negotiation, creatively structuring deals and drafting terms to achieve those desires, and imagining all the events that might later interfere with the transaction documents. The course will take students through the early development of a commercial transaction, negotiating its terms and structure, and ultimately the drafting of the transaction documents. In that process, students will be confronted with issues of ethics and professional responsibility. They will also learn the distinctions between representations, warranties, covenants, conditions, and the other types of contract terms and practice how to spot and avoid ambiguity.

This course will count toward the skills requirement for a student taking the Business Law Certificate and is included in the menu of courses that can be used to attain the Certificate in Real Estate Law.



**Trial Advocacy Practice {S}**

LAW 760 3 Credits

The systematic development of active student participation in the techniques involved in the trial of cases, including jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross-examination of witnesses, introduction of exhibits and closing arguments. Students conduct simulated jury trials. Problems used may be criminal, civil, or both.

*Co-Requisite: Evidence.*

**White Collar Crime**

LAW 891 3 Credits

An exploration of recently expanding areas within the realm of federal criminal law. Categories of emphasis include the Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), mail fraud, drug offenses, obstruction of justice, false statements to law enforcement agents and the Hobbs Act. In addition to the pursuit of substantive criminal law themes within the federal enforcement system, policy, procedural, and sentencing aspects as they relate to these offenses are examined.

**Wills and Trusts**

LAW 840 3 Credits

An overview of gratuitous transfers made by individuals while living and at death. Specific topics include wills, will substitutes, intestacy, living and testamentary trusts, and gifts. The primary emphasis of this course is on the interpretation of language found in the various documents and the governing statutes. The course also discusses how the myriad of vehicles available serves the needs of the individual.

## SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

*In addition to other requirements for successful completion of a seminar, a paper is required; every seminar offers an option for this paper to satisfy the Intensive Writing Requirement.*

**Cybersecurity Law & Policy Seminar**

LAW 899H3 2 Credits

The course is intended to introduce students to this developing area of the law. Our society depends on a stable and safe Internet, and there is growing concern about the misuse of the Internet. With the increasing proliferation of mobile technologies and the growing real-time borderless exchange of information, cybersecurity has become a relevant subject with international connotations that require a global approach to finding a solution. Cyber attacks are a personal threat to all users of the Internet, and impose great dangers to nation-states. The course will examine the social and legal processes developed by governments, the private sector, and civil society to secure the Internet. The course will also examine the regulatory role played by nations, in particular the U.S. government, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and legislative and treaty-based mechanisms for global governance, but with a focus particularly on the management and security of the Internet's critical internet resources. The seminar will also consider the policy choices faced by the involved stakeholders.

**Election Law Seminar**

LAW 899E1 2 Credits

This seminar surveys the law of democracy-that is, legal facets of the American electoral system. Election law, however, is by its very nature interdisciplinary, crossing disciplines of law, political science and even psychology.

### **Employment Discrimination Seminar**

*LAW 899D2 2 Credits*

This seminar will examine the various rules that comprise the law of employment discrimination. The law's historical evolution will be discussed for both the public and private sectors. To that end, the roles of the federal constitution, executive orders, federal and state statutes, and court responses to these regulations will be considered. The course will also show how workplace discrimination law continues to evolve along with the adjudicatory processes for dispute resolution. In addition, the class offers students the opportunity to work on employment discrimination exercises, and write a thoughtful paper on this subject, consistent with the law school's rules for the intensive writing requirement.

### **First Amendment Law Seminar**

*LAW 899O1*

This seminar will focus on some specific topics of first amendment law. For example, the student might look at hate speech, symbolic speech, or commercial speech, or might concentrate on a particular justification for speech like the pursuit of truth or the actualization of one's identity.

### **Hispanics, Civil Rights and the Law Seminar**

*LAW 899L3 2 Credits*

Hispanic and Latino name a United States Census category of ethnicity. As of 2013, people of Hispanic origin numbered 54 million, or seventeen percent, of the U.S. population. In Florida, Hispanics composed almost twenty-four percent of the populace, and in Miami-Dade County, they constituted sixty-five percent. How have law and policy shaped the social conditions of the diverse peoples who are called Hispanic, and how can lawyers shape law and policy to chart the future of Florida and the U.S. in general? This course will educate students about how U.S. law has mediated the territorial incorporation, and contradictory inclusion and exclusion, of diverse Hispanic peoples, highlighting their commonalities while nuancing their differences through an array of civil rights laws, migration patterns, and social struggles, and by highlighting their relations with Brazilians, Haitians, and other Caribbean peoples. This course may be used to satisfy the Senior Writing Requirement.

### **Immigration Law Seminar**

*LAW 899Y*

This is a research and writing seminar intended to satisfy the Senior Writing Requirement as well as to engage students in an exploration of some of the cutting-edge issues in U.S. immigration and citizenship law. The seminar will focus on changes in the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws and shifting government priorities. Are we facing an identity crisis as a Nation? Do Americans still consider this a nation of immigrants? Immigration litigation is occurring around the country, mostly on behalf of immigrants and refugees, but also in the opposite direction. Immigration restrictionists introduce legislation to cut back on family-based immigration and to impose an English-language requirement on persons seeking permanent residence. State and local governments respond either by seeking to assist the government in immigration enforcement, or through acts of resistance to enforcement priorities. Meanwhile, immigrant advocates and service providers are developing new strategies for defending

immigrants facing removal. Ongoing developments, both in and out of government, provide a rich context for examining important questions of U.S. immigration law and policy, executive power, federalism, and due process. Students may fulfill their writing requirement through a traditional law review comment or case note, as a policy paper for decision-makers at the local, state or federal level, or through a manual for service providers. It should reflect substantial original research and writing, and be 30 double-spaced pages (or 15 single-spaced pages), including extensive footnotes. Students not seeking to fulfill the writing requirement may use other media, including art, film or music, as approved by the professor.

### **International Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seminar**

*LAW 899J (LLM 899J) 2 Credits*

An introduction to the structure and dynamics of the process in which law beyond the nation-state is generated, changed and terminated. It reviews relevant, if conflicting, theories of and about international law, assesses the participants and their bases of power, analyzes problems arising from conflicting claims regarding people, territory and resources, and develops recommendations to address these problems with a view toward approximating a world public order of human dignity.

### **Internet Governance Law and Policy Seminar**

*LAW 899H2 2 Credits*

The course will analyze the legal and technological landscape faced by nations as they seek to adopt internet governance policies. The class analyzes the Internet's infrastructure, its impact in society and why the international community must be aware of the governance of this technology. The course will consider governance activities, their relationship to the technical coordination of the Internet and the interests of all stakeholders. Topics to be discussed include, among others, the role of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The course will consider the governance models proposed for the control of the Internet. The policies discussed in class recognize that participation in the global debate of this issue represents a significant challenge, but one rooted in human rights and the protection of access to information.

### **Jurisprudence Seminar**

*LAW 899Q 2 Credits*

This seminar acquaints students with the culture of the law and enables them to clarify their own theories about the law. With a frame of inquiry that focuses on both legal authority and effective power, the seminar examines major schools of jurisprudential thought to discover the insights and procedures, if any, that these schools can offer to the contemporary lawyer and to the range of legal and social tasks to be performed. A prior course in Jurisprudence is helpful, but not mandatory.

### **Law, Literature and Popular Culture Seminar**

*LAW 899Z2 2 Credits*

This course encourages students to (1) examine law as a form of literature (using critical theory from the Law and Literature movement), and (2) analyze images of law and lawyers in literature, film, and television, in order to gain new insights into their chosen profession. Topics may include the following: interpretation in law and in literature; the good lawyer in popular culture; race, gender, and justice in legal stories, etc. Readings typically range from judicial opinions to Shakespeare to slave diaries to graphic novels.

### **Legal Storytelling and Persuasion Seminar**

LAW 899Z 2 Credits

An exploration of legal storytelling from several traditions, including: behavioral decision theory, cognitive psychology, classical rhetoric, trial practice and jurisprudence. There will be consideration of such issues as “how does a jury reach its decision?” and “how can an advocate use legal storytelling concepts and findings to be more persuasive?” The goal of the seminar is to give students a solid theoretical background for use in practical application.

### **Moral Dilemmas Seminar**

LAW 899R 2 Credits

A consideration of several of the more elusive ethical and moral dilemmas confronted in the practice of law. Examples will be drawn from a variety of areas of practice, including criminal law, domestic relations, corporate law, and civil litigation. Most are situations which have been treated in a superficial or confusing manner, if at all, by the ABA model codes of ethics. Accordingly, the codes will play a diminished role in our analysis.

### **Race and Law Seminar**

LAW 899L 2 Credits

A survey of racial pattern in America law. Insight into race as social and legal constructs will be discussed in detail. In focusing on the interconnection of race and the law, seminar participants will study case law, statutes, and the works of historians and critical race theorists in such areas as public facilities, voting rights, criminal justice, protest, public education, housing and environmental justice.

### **Rule of Law Seminar**

LAW 899L1 2 Credits

The principle of the “rule of law” is commonly seen as one of the hallmarks of good government. Notwithstanding its contrast to the “rule of men” [or “women”], its meaning is tough to grasp. Rather formal understandings, “thin” definitions, stand against “thicker” concepts that include ideas of substantive justice or an order of human dignity; benefits and drawbacks might exist with either of these competing notions. All of these understandings are arguably subject to modification in times of crisis. This seminar will discuss the various approaches in light of concrete questions that highlight their relative usefulness or lack thereof. Students will write and defend papers on topics of their choice. Any societal problem that threatens or impinges upon the rule of law may be addressed. This includes case studies of individual problems in individual countries or cross-country comparisons of issues.

### **Sexual Identity and the Law Seminar**

LAW 899N 2 Credits

The seminar addresses the emerging field of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender-related litigation. Seminar topics will include: the history of sexual identity in law, the humanities, and the social sciences; workplace discrimination; sexual orientation discrimination and the Equal Protection clause; the debate over same-sex marriage, domestic partnership, and legal recognition of non-marital relationships; anti-sodomy laws (Model Penal Code and state laws); the exclusion of lesbians and gays from the military; the constitutional rights of gay students and gay political organizations; sexual minorities and human rights; legal protections available to gay parents (both biological and adoptive); and the legal status of hate crimes statutes and anti-gay referenda.

### **Selected Topics in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Seminar**

LAW 899O 2 Credits

A review of the selected criminal law and procedure topics including the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendment rights, which safeguards one's rights regarding unreasonable searches, and seizures, self-incrimination, due process, cruel and unusual punishment, as well as a criminal defendant's right to a fair trial, as it has evolved since the 1960's. The functional and symbolic roles of these Amendments will be viewed through the prism of the rights to counsel, to confrontation, to compulsory process, to a jury, and to a speedy trial, and the sometime conflict between a free press and the Sixth Amendment assurance of a fair trial free from prejudicial publicity. The goal of the course is to determine the Court's adherence to the core values embedded in the primary criminal procedure Amendments and their related criminal law context.

*Prerequisite: Criminal Law.*

### **United Nations, Global Governance and Global Ethics Seminar**

LAW 899Q2 2 Credits

This course will explore the contemporary search for an adequate global ethics through a study of major global issues before the United Nations, the role of the United Nations in global governance, and the global ethical perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. The United Nations and its agencies represent the most world's most important instrument for global governance. The philosophical side of Catholic Social Teaching carries the legacy of Western cultures most significant traditions of ethical wisdom, and today it is being expanded by dialogue with all wisdom traditions of the human family. Catholic Social Teaching strongly supports the United Nations and in turn advocates within the United Nations for a global ethics founded on the common truth of human wisdom traditions.

The course, which requires a research paper, serves in part as a preparation for law students interested in the semester long-internship at the United Nations with the Pax Romana Non-Governmental Office, Inter-Governmental Organizations, Permanent Missions and Offices of the United Nations in New York.

### **Women and the Law Seminar**

LAW 899P (LLM 899P) 2 Credits

A perspective on the law's approach to social policy issues relevant to women and an introduction to contemporary feminist thought. The topics include the workplace (occupational inequality), the family (no-fault divorce, custody and support), pornography, the law of rape, and domestic violence. The special issues of Native American women and black women will also be explored.

## **CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

*Successful completion of any clinic or externship offered for credit by the Law School automatically satisfies the skills requirement for graduation. An internship outside of the Law School curriculum cannot be used to satisfy the skills requirement. All students must be in good academic standing to apply.*

### **Appellate Litigation Clinic {S}**

LAW 845A & LAW 845B 12 Credits (two semesters, 6 credits each semester)

This is a year-long clinical program open to third-year students. Students must register for each semester. Students must be cleared by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and certified by the Florida Supreme Court to participate in this clinic. The Appellate Litigation Clinic provides experience in handling criminal cases in state appellate court on behalf of clients represented by the Miami-Dade Office of the Public Defender. Each student will have primary responsibility for at least two cases in which the record on appeal has been filed and the case is ready to be briefed. Working in a team of two students, each student will prepare an initial brief of appellant in the first case and an answer brief of appellee in the second case. Each student will present the oral argument before the Third District Court of Appeal in one of their two cases. This is a graded clinic with a weekly classroom component.

**Prerequisites:** *Evidence.*

**Co-requisite:** *Criminal Procedure.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *Yes.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week*

### **Bankruptcy Externship {S}**

*LAW 934 3 Credits*

This is a Spring semester externship that offers a comprehensive set of legal services focused on assisting and empowering low-income individuals in their interaction with the bankruptcy system. Under the supervision of adjunct law faculty, the attorneys at Put Something Back and the mentors from the local bankruptcy bar, students represent debtors in bankruptcy cases and proceedings, meet with judges and local practitioners, participate in several joint classes with other local law schools' bankruptcy clinics, and may be invited to attend events sponsored by the Bankruptcy Bar Association.

Students are required to attend the weekly class component.

**Prerequisites:** *Bankruptcy.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week.*

### **Civil Practice Externship {S}**

*LAW 857 4\* or 8 Credits*

This is a single semester externship, available for four or eight credits, which provides opportunities for students to observe and participate in lawyering at government agencies and non-profit, public interest settings. Typical placements include legal aid services, city and county attorneys, state and local government agencies, school boards, and healthcare facilities. Participation enhances the development of a broad range of lawyering skills, advance personal career goals, enable critical reflection of the legal profession and legal institutions, encourage self-directed learning through reflection, and promote core competencies and professional values that produce skilled and ethical lawyers and professionals in our society. Those students whose placement requires a Certified Legal Intern status must have completed four semesters (a minimum of 48 semester hours) and have received Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance.

Students are required to attend the weekly class component.

**Prerequisite:** *Completion of one year of law school in good academic standing.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *Depending on placement.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week minimum 4 credit; or 30 hours per week minimum 8 credits.*

\* *The summer semester is four credits with a minimum hourly requirement of 32 hours per week for seven weeks.*

### **Criminal Practice Externship {S}**

LAW 864      6\* or 8 Credits

This is a single semester externship for students who are eligible for Certified Legal Intern status by having completed four semesters (a minimum of 48 semester hours) and received Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance. Both prosecution and defense placements are available. These placements provide intense exposure through actual trial experience. Students assigned to the State Attorney's office receive a docket of cases, engage in plea bargain negotiation, and try cases to the court, or in some cases, to a jury. Students assigned to the Public Defender's office defend indigent adults and minors charged with felonies and misdemeanor crimes. Students assigned to the United States Attorney's Office will draft motions and memos on issues involving the legality of searches and seizures, identification procedures, or confessions along with defenses of insufficient evidence, mistaken identity, alibi, entrapment, or self-defense.

Students are required to attend the weekly class component. Students will NOT be able to take any other courses that are offered during the day, while taking the Criminal Practice Externship.

**Prerequisites:** *Criminal Procedure and Evidence.*

**Co-requisite:** *Trial Advocacy Practice or Mock Trial.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *Yes*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *30 hours per week.*

\* *The summer semester is six credits with a minimum hourly requirement of 32 hours per week for seven weeks.*

### **Elder Law Externship {S}**

LAW 874      4 Credits

This is a Spring semester externship that addresses the ethical and practical issues of representing the elderly. Issues include income maintenance, health care, long-term care, competency, guardianship, and probate. Students will become familiar with the medical considerations of an aging population. Students will be assigned to the Probate division of the Circuit Court and work, together with members of the Florida Bar's Elder Law section, to learn strategies and case management skills in dealing with an aging population.

Students are required to attend the weekly class component.

**Pre-requisites:** *Wills and Trusts.*

**Co-requisite:** *Elder Law.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week.*

**Eligible Students:** *2L's and 3L's*

### **Florida Supreme Court Internship {S}**

LAW 870      6\* or 12 Credits

For one semester, the intern will function as a law clerk to an individual Justice or as a central staff law clerk working for all of the Justices. Duties include: reviewing and making recommendations on petitions for discretionary review, attorney discipline matters, and extraordinary writ petitions; and conducting legal research and preparing memoranda on pending cases. The intern will have the opportunity to attend oral argument, discuss cases with staff attorneys and the assigned justice, and assist in the drafting of orders or opinions. The

intern also will attend special lectures, group discussion, and training sessions. The intern will be awarded a certificate of recognition upon successful completion of the program. This Internship requires the student to have his or her Notice of Registrant Clearance.

This placement is based in Tallahassee. Housing in Tallahassee is provided by the law school.

**Prerequisites:** *Second- or third-year students with an outstanding academic record (generally top 25 percent) and exceptional research and writing skills. Civil Procedure; Evidence. Criminal Procedure and Florida Constitutional Law are recommended.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *Yes.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *40 hours per week.*

*\* The summer semester is six credits with a minimum hourly requirement of 40 hours per week for seven weeks.*

### **Immigration Clinic {S}**

LAW 835A & LAW 835B      12 Credits (two semesters, 6 credits each semester)

This is a year-long clinic available to second- and third-year law students designed to provide the legal, ethical, and moral tools needed to provide high-quality immigration services to the under-served community. Students will represent asylum seekers, battered spouses and children, and other non-citizens seeking immigration relief in Immigration Court, before the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Department of Homeland Security.

**Prerequisites:** *Immigration Law.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Hourly Requirement:** *Minimum 20 hours per week.*

### **Judicial Internship {S}**

LAW 865      4\* Credits

This is a single semester internship that provides experience within the judicial system. Students learn about judicial decision-making and use their analytical, research, and writing skills to draft opinions and memoranda for pending matters under the direct supervision of judges, their law clerks, and staff attorneys. By observing court proceedings, students become familiar with court procedures and legal advocacy. Placements include the judicial circuit courts, the Florida District Courts of Appeal, the United States District Court, and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. A student must be in academic good standing to apply. Students are required to attend the weekly class component.

**Prerequisite:** *Completion of one year of law school in good academic standing.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week.*

*\* The summer semester is a minimum hourly requirement of 32 hours per week for seven weeks.*

### **United Nations Internship in New York {S}**

LAW 857A & LAW 857B      6 Credits in summer and 12 Credits fall & spring\*

The United Nations Internship aims to form global legal leaders by instilling in students the knowledge of multilateral international organizations, the importance of globalizing international relations, and a desire to use law to assist the world's most vulnerable. United Nations interns are accredited to the United Nations by permanent missions, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations as well as by various offices of the United Nations Secretariat. Interns obtain access to meetings, events and discussions available only to



diplomats and delegates. United Nations interns have attended meetings of the Security Council and spoken to the UN General Assembly, Commissions, Committees, High-Level Dialogues and have engaged in formal and informal resolution consultations.

Member states, permanent missions and non-governmental organizations partnering with the St. Thomas Law United Nations Internship program include, the Permanent Missions of South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Honduras, Dominica, Costa Rica, United States of America and Grenada. Intergovernmental Organizations with Permanent Observer Missions at the United Nations include the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, International Criminal Court, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and a spectrum of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and NGO committees, among them the Committee on Disarmament, the Committee on Africa, the Committee on Child Rights, the Committee on the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People, Committee on Financing for Development and the Committee on Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Internship is highly sought after; it operates year round and typically provides credentials for between six and eight interns at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and Geneva.

**Prerequisite:**

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *40 hours per week.*

*\* Twelve credits are awarded in the Fall and Spring semesters. Six credits are awarded in the Summer semester. The academic component is graded and the field work is Pass/Fail.*

### **Tax Clinic {S}**

*LAW 911 4 Credits (one or two semesters)*

This is a single semester internship for second- and third-year students, which may be extended to a second semester with the permission of the Director. This clinic gives students the opportunity to work with underserved communities and, under supervision, represent low-income clients involved in tax controversies before the IRS, District Counsel, and the U.S. Tax Court. Students perform outreach services by providing education on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. taxpayers to the community particularly for those whom English is a second language. Students are required to attend Tax Court sessions and the weekly clinic class component.

This clinic requires prior acceptance by the Tax Clinic Director and enrollment is limited.

Students are required to attend the weekly class component.

**Prerequisite:** *Federal Income Taxation.*

**Co-requisite:** *None required.*

**Florida Bar Notice of Registrant Clearance:** *No.*

**Minimum Hourly Requirement:** *16 hours per week.*

## ELECTIVE COURSES GROUPED BY AREAS OF PRACTICE

### **CIVIL LITIGATION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Administrative Law  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Conflict of Laws  
Federal Courts  
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Practical Legal Research  
Products Liability  
Remedies  
Trial Advocacy Practice

### **CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Bankruptcy  
Bankruptcy Externship  
Business Associations  
Commercial Paper  
Debtor and Creditor Rights  
Family Wealth Management  
Federal Income Taxation  
Insurance Law  
Legal Accounting  
Sales

### **CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE REPRESENTATION**

Criminal Procedure I  
Criminal Procedure II  
Criminal Practice Externship  
Florida Criminal Procedure  
International Criminal Law  
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Juvenile Law  
Seminar: Selected Topics in Criminal Law  
and Criminal Procedure  
Trial Advocacy Practice  
White Collar Crime

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE LAW**

Administrative Law  
Admiralty Law  
Admiralty Procedure  
Comparative Environmental Law  
Human Rights and the Environment

Land Use Planning  
Law and Bioethics  
Legal Accounting  
Legislation and Regulations  
Marine Insurance  
Products Liability  
Real Estate Development and Finance  
Real Estate Transactions  
Remedies

### **FAMILY LAW**

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Elder Law  
Elder Law Externship  
Family Court Externship  
Family Law  
Family Wealth Management  
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Juvenile Law  
Trial Advocacy Practice

### **HEALTH LAW**

Administrative Law  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Bioethics  
Civil Practice Externship  
Elder Law  
Elder Law Externship  
Employment Discrimination Law  
Health Law and Policy Seminar  
Insurance Law  
Intellectually Property  
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Labor Law  
Medical Malpractice  
Products Liability  
Remedies

### **IMMIGRATION LAW**

Administrative Law  
Immigration Law  
Immigration Clinic  
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Trial Advocacy Practice

**INTERNATIONAL AND  
COMPARATIVE LAW**

Business Associations  
Comparative Law  
Conflict of Laws  
International Business Transactions  
International Law  
International Legal Research Boot Camp  
International Organizations  
Marine Insurance  
Internship at the United Nations  
Rule of Law Seminar  
Space Law  
Transnational Criminal Law  
Transnational Litigation  
United Nations Internship Seminar

**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW**

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Employment Discrimination Law

Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation  
Labor Law

**REAL ESTATE AND LAND USE**

Legal Accounting  
Real Estate Development and Finance  
Real Estate Transactions

**TAXATION**

Corporate Taxation  
Estate Planning  
Family Wealth Management  
Federal Income Taxation  
Federal Estate and Gift Taxation  
Legal Accounting  
Partnership Taxation  
State and Local Taxation  
Tax Clinic

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

To be eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.), a student must have:

1. successfully complete 90 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0;
2. attended as a “full time” student or “flex time” student (as defined below);
3. completed all required courses and academic requirements within five years of initial matriculation, unless a written extension of this period is granted by the Academic Standing Committee or the Dean;
4. completed the 50-hour *pro bono* requirement (as defined in this handbook).
5. completed the skill requirement of at least 6 hours of designated skill course credit hours.
6. satisfied the Intensive Writing Requirement by receiving a passing grade in a seminar class.

"Full-time" study requires completion of 12 or more hours during fall and spring semesters. A "flex time student" must take at least 9 credits in any fall or spring semester. A student may be a "flex time" student only with approval of either the Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Scholarships or the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. A student may not enroll in more than 15 hours in any fall or spring semester without the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or her designee. Any student may take any number of credits (but not to exceed 18) in his or her last semester if he or she obtains prior approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or a designee. A student may take no more than 15 on-line credits that will count towards his or her J.D. degree. No student is required to take classes any summer term. No student may take more than 7 J.D. credits in any summer term, without express approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or a designee.

When a student is out from school for any reason (for example, leave of absence, dismissal, visiting other schools), he or she will be obligated to meet the requirements in place at the time the student is readmitted to the Law School.

Degrees are ordinarily conferred upon students who meet the prescribed academic requirements. The Law School reserves the right, however, to withhold a degree whenever it appears that a student's character, conduct, or the quality of work completed will prevent acceptable representation of the school or compromise the standards of the legal profession.

St. Thomas University considers the graduation ceremony to be an academic event. Only students who have completed all requirements for graduation prior to the date of the ceremony, and those students who have registered for the summer session to complete 9 or fewer credits remaining toward graduation, will be allowed to participate.

Please note that requisites for graduation are subject to change by the faculty. Students must meet the requisites for graduation in existence in the semester in which they would otherwise graduate.

## REGISTRATION

Registration is a formal procedure that represents both an academic and financial commitment. To be officially enrolled at the law school, students must complete the financial part of registration before the first day of the term.

Attending class by itself does not constitute an official registration. All prior balances must be cleared before students are permitted to register for the current term. The financial obligations that a student incurs through registration remain unless the registration is cancelled by the law school or the student officially withdraws from school during the refund period. If a student withdraws during the refund period, he or she is entitled to a refund based on the effective date of the withdrawal.

## COURSE AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students who decide to add, drop, or change their course schedule must do so via Web Advisor by the end of the add/drop period. Students can access MyBobcat online at St. Thomas Law school website. If problems occur while accessing the web site, or in processing the add/drop transaction, the student will need to contact the Registrar's Office. Students enrolled in the J.D. program must be enrolled full-time (12 credits minimum during the fall and spring semesters), or have been approved for a flex schedule.

The add/drop period for the fall and spring semesters is scheduled during the first week of class. In the summer, the add/drop period is the first three days of class. Discontinuing class attendance does not constitute official withdrawal. *Once the add/drop period has passed, students may only add or drop individual courses upon receiving written approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Students who are authorized to withdraw from any class after the add/drop period remain financially responsible for the course from which they withdraw.* Students authorized to withdraw must submit the written approval to the Registrar's Office for processing. A "W" grade will be entered on the transcript. Students who fail to submit the written approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs to the Registrar's Office will receive a grade of "F".

Students who completely withdraw from the Law School must return all borrowed books to the libraries, pay any fines due and clear all outstanding accounts with the Law School and/or the University.

## ATTENDANCE AND ENROLLMENT

A student may enroll in a course after the first week of classes only with permission of the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

The Attendance Policy enacted by the faculty, a twenty percent limit on class absences, is strictly enforced. For the specific absences allowed in each class under the Attendance Policy, see the STUDENT HANDBOOK or obtain a copy of the policy from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

The Attendance Policy does not preclude instructors from also imposing their own, more demanding attendance requirements. Attendance and preparation for class may be considered in determining students' grades in courses. A student may be requested to leave a class for being unprepared.

Prior to enrolling in a course for which credit is obtained, a student must complete all prerequisites for that course, unless prior approval has been granted by the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

During the first full academic year of residence at the law school, a student is required to maintain enrollment in all first-year required courses unless the student obtains prior administrative approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. In subsequent years, a student may drop a course during the first week of classes, provided that the student remains enrolled in twelve or more credit hours. Students must consult with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs before dropping a required course. After the first year, students are required to enroll in no less than twelve credit hours of courses each semester, unless the student has been authorized by the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Services to pursue the J.D. degree as a “flex” student.

### **CREDIT HOUR POLICY**

In preparing a course syllabus and planning the work required in the course, faculty must keep in mind the Law School’s credit hour policy, which complies with Standard 310 of the ABA Standards for Rules and Procedures of Approval of Law Schools:

A “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates:

- a. Not less than fifty minutes of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours (120 minutes) of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks (including one week for a final examination), or the equivalent amount of minimum total classroom or direct faculty instruction and out-of-class student work over a different amount of time; or
- b. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in 1.a. for other academic activities, including Independent Study, simulations, externships, field placements, clinical, law reviews or journals, advocacy teams, and other academic work for which units of credit are awarded.

### **EXAMINATIONS AND GRADES**

The unit of credit at St. Thomas University School of Law is the semester hour. Credits may be earned in the regular fall and spring semesters or in a summer session. A student’s performance in courses and seminars is evaluated with letter grades which translate into quality points according to the scales below:

A	=	4.0
B+	=	3.5
B	=	3.0
C+	=	2.5
C	=	2.0
C-	=	1.5
D	=	1.0
F	=	0.0
P/F	=	Pass (grade point are not applicable)/Fail (0.0 grade point factor into g.p.a.)
P/NP	=	Pass/No Pass (grade points are not applicable)

The School of Law uses letter grading for course evaluation purposes and the semester system for its calendar. No transfer credits are used in calculating the School of Law Grade Point Average (GPA).

Students are required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average to be considered in good standing. First year classes have a mandatory grading curve such that the average grade for each first year course must fall between a 2.25 and 2.5. Required upper level courses have a mandatory grading curve of 2.25-2.75. In each first year and upper division required course, at least 15% of all grades assigned shall be higher than C+ and at least 15% of the grades assigned shall be lower than C. Effective fall 2018 semester elective courses have a mandatory grading curve of 2.50-3.25. The current range of means requirement for electives (2.50-3.25) does not apply to Legal Writing, Summer-in-Spain, seminars, clinics, and skills courses. Elective courses with an enrollment of ten or less are exempt from the mandatory curves.

A student's grade point average for any given period is determined by dividing the total quality points earned by the number of graded semester hours attempted during the period. The total quality points for any given period is derived by multiplying the numerical value of the grade earned in that period by the number of semester hours of the course, and then adding the sums derived for each course in the given period.

An "F" grade or "NP" grade remains on a student's permanent record and the credit attempted is not counted toward residency requirements. Both the failing grade and the grade earned when the course is repeated are computed into the grade point average. (P/NP grades are not calculated into a student's grade point average.)

The University's administrative database maintains a complete record of each student's progress, which includes the grades earned, hours attempted and completed, semester grade point averages and cumulative grade point averages. Students may access their grades online at the St. Thomas Law school website under "Students" and unofficial transcripts online at <http://www.flvc.org>. No official transcript, letter of good standing, Dean's certificate, certificate of completion, diploma, or leave of absence will be granted to any student until all financial obligations to the Law School and/or the University have been met.

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **Dean's List**

The names of students who complete at least 9 hours in the fall or spring semester and achieve a grade point average of 3.0 in the work undertaken in that semester will be recorded on the Dean's List.

### **Graduation with Honors**

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 will qualify for a degree *Cum Laude*, a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 will qualify for a degree *Magna Cum Laude*, and a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 will qualify for a degree *Summa Cum Laude*.

### **Graduation Speaker**

The student with the highest, cumulative grade point average, going into his/her last semester, is designated as the class graduation speaker. In the event two or more students are tied, then

the student with the highest grade point average for the required courses will be designated as the class graduation speaker.

### **ST. THOMAS ACHIEVEMENT ("BOOK") AWARD**

To recognize scholastic achievement, the law school grants an award to the best performing student in each course or seminar. The law school participates in the CALI program and provides a certificate designated by the professor. In each course or seminar, each semester, the Professor may (at his or her discretion) designate an outstanding student. This is generally the student with the highest grade in the class. Each spring at the Law Day Luncheon students selected as outstanding students in one or more courses from the previous school year are recognized and presented certificates.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION AND EXCLUSION**

#### **Students in their first two regular (fall or spring) semesters of law school:**

1. If any student (including a transfer student) fails to make a grade point average of 1.65 or greater in his or her first semester, then he or she is subject to dismissal and will be dismissed unless the student files a petition. If that petition is granted the student continues in school for his or her second semester and is subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, below. If the student fails to file a petition or files a petition and the petition is denied, then the student shall be dismissed and the student shall have no further right to petition or to appeal the dismissal. Students should consult the Law Student Handbook for a more comprehensive explanation.
2. If a student makes a grade point average of at least 1.65 but less than 2.0 in his or her first semester, then he or she is allowed to continue in law school, but is considered on "Academic Probation" and not in "Good Standing."
3. If a student makes a grade point average of at least 2.0 in his or her first semester then he or she is considered in "Good Standing."
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, above, all students must have a *cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (or above) at the end of their second semester or they will be* subject to dismissal and will be dismissed unless the student files a petition as provided under the section entitled "Policies and Procedures for Petitioning to Continue in Academic Program" in the Student Handbook.
5. If a student takes a leave of absence after completing only one semester, then upon his or her return in the subsequent fall or spring, he or she will be considered in his or her "second" semester.
6. For purposes of these provisions, courses taken during a summer session will be deemed to have been taken during the following fall or spring semester.

#### **All students following the completion of the first two semesters of law school:**

1. After completing the first two semesters of law school, every student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above. In the event a student's cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.0 in any semester, then he or she is placed on Academic Probation and considered not in "Good Standing".



2. In the semester following the semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average fell below 2.0 and he or she was placed on Academic Probation, the student must increase his or her cumulative grade point average to 2.0 or above, or the student will be subject to dismissal and will be dismissed unless the student files a petition as provided under the following section entitled "Policies and Procedures for Petitioning to Continue in Academic Program.
3. For purposes of these provisions, courses taken during the summer session will be deemed to have been taken during the following fall or spring semester.
4. A student who has completed the number of semester hours required for graduation, but has failed to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (or above) will not graduate and may not continue in the School of Law, except with the express approval of the Dean.

#### **Consequences of being placed on academic probation:**

1. If a student's grade point average falls below a 2.0 and that student is put on academic probation, the student may be required to take additional courses.
2. If a student was ever on academic probation he or she will not be eligible to participate in any of the joint degree programs and the student must receive approval of his or her class schedule from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or a person that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs designates) before the student may register for classes each semester.
3. A student on academic probation is not allowed any absences in any classes, except for illness or other extraordinary circumstances beyond his or her control. Accruing absences in classes will lead to automatic dismissal.

If a student is financing his or her legal education with loans, he or she should also be aware that eligibility for those loans may depend on the student making "satisfactory academic progress." For further information on how academic performance can affect eligibility for loans see the section of the Student Handbook regarding Financial Aid.

### **READMISSION**

A student who has been academically dismissed may subsequently apply for admission and be considered as a new applicant.

Also, in lieu of applying as a new student, a student who was excluded from the School of Law for academic reasons after completion of more than one semester, may be readmitted and allowed to continue his or her studies upon submission of a petition for readmission and favorable action thereon by the Academic Standing Committee. In determining questions of readmission, the Committee will be governed by the standards and guidelines of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, in addition to the School of Law's Policies and Procedures for Readmission. A student seeking readmission should review the School of Law's Policies and Procedures for Petitions for Readmission contained in the Student Handbook or obtain a copy from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

## WITHDRAWAL/DISMISSAL

An enrolled student who wishes to withdraw from the law school entirely must submit a withdrawal form or a written request for approval to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Withdrawals will only be granted upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances. A student who fails to satisfy financial obligations to the law school or the university will not be granted a withdrawal. Students authorized to withdraw from the law school during a semester or a summer session, but prior to the beginning of an examination period, will receive a "W" as the recorded grade on his or her transcript. After the examination period begins, grades will be assigned in accordance with the law school's grading policy. Discontinuing class attendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Any student who drops out of law school without obtaining the prior written approval of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs will be deemed to have been dismissed from the law school and will receive an "F" in any classes he or she was taking. Unless the Honor Council finds otherwise, any student who is expelled or dismissed for an Honor Code violation receives a "W" in all classes in which he or she was registered at the time of the dismissal or expulsion and the dismissal or expulsion are noted on the student's transcript.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An enrolled student who wishes to take a leave of absence must submit a written request for approval to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. In the case of a student who has not yet completed the first-year program, a leave of absence will be granted only for serious medical or personal reasons. A student who fails to meet any of the conditions of the leave of absence must reapply for admission. A student who has failed to satisfy financial obligations to the law school and/or the university will not be granted a leave of absence. Students granted a leave of absence from the law school during a semester or summer session, but prior to the beginning of an examination period, may do so with no grades recorded. After the examination period begins, grades will be assigned in accordance with the law school's grading policies. A student out from school, for any reason, will be obligated to meet the requirements in place at the time of readmission to the law school.

## LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING

Letters of good standing certify that a student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above. Requests for letters of good standing should be in writing to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The request should state the reason the letter is needed and the name and address where the letter should be sent. Letters of good standing are normally sent within three (3) working days; however, during periods of high work volume, a period of up to ten (10) working days may be required. Letters of good standing for transfer purposes are sent after ranking are completed by the Registrar for the most current semester. A student who has failed to satisfy financial obligations to the Law School and/or the University will not be granted letters of good standing. Requests for letters of good standing with the appropriate information can be emailed to [jhernandez@stu.edu](mailto:jhernandez@stu.edu).

## TRANSCRIPTS

A transcript is the student's official academic record. Requests for official transcripts are ordered on-line through the National Student Clearinghouse. To order transcripts please visit [https://secure.studentclearinghouse.org/tsorder/faces/TranscriptOrder?\\_afLoop=1942687685770274&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_adf.ctrl-state=1ddcjcfn2l\\_4#firstload](https://secure.studentclearinghouse.org/tsorder/faces/TranscriptOrder?_afLoop=1942687685770274&_afWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=1ddcjcfn2l_4#firstload)

All transcripts from other institutions and other materials submitted to St. Thomas University School of Law become the sole property of the University and cannot be returned to the student. The Law School does not provide transcripts from other colleges or universities. Transcripts of records from other institutions must be obtained from those institutions.

### **HONOR CODE**

Student conduct is governed by the Honor Code. A copy of the Code is available on the law school website and copies are also available in the Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. All students are charged with a responsibility to be aware of the contents of the Honor Code and to act in accordance with the requirements of the code.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

#### **The St. Thomas University Admiralty and Maritime Law Society (STAMLS)**

The St. Thomas University Admiralty and Maritime Law Society (STAMLS) is dedicated to the promotion of scholarship, education, and practice in the field of admiralty and maritime law. STAMLS expose members to various aspects of admiralty practice, and seeks to provide a forum for students, faculty, and practitioners to discuss and analyze maritime issues and interests. South Florida serves as the locus to a number of significant admiralty and maritime interests, and presents the perfect environment for the study and practice of maritime law.

#### **American Association for Justice**

The American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), is the world's largest trial bar, providing trial attorneys with information, professional support and a nationwide network that enables them to most effectively and expertly represent clients. The mission of the American Association for Justice is to promote a fair and effective justice system—and to support the work of attorneys in their efforts to ensure that any person who is injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain justice in America's courtrooms, even when taking on the most powerful interests.

#### **American Bar Association/Law Student Division (ABA/LSD)**

The purpose of the American Bar Association Law Student Division is to encourage interaction between law students and the legal community, promote activities and competitions with other law schools, and further the professional development of law students.

#### **American Constitution Society of St. Thomas University School of Law**

The purpose of the American Constitution Society is to harness values of compassion and respect for each individual, and to re-incorporate them into American law and politics, in order to build a stronger and more decent national community. American Constitution Society seek to restore the fundamental principles of respect for human dignity, protection of individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, and access to justice to their rightful -- and traditionally central -- place in American law. We want to strengthen the intellectual underpinnings of -- and the public case for -- a vision of the law in which these values are paramount. Our goal is a rekindling of the hope that by reason and decency, we can create an America that is better for us all.

#### **Asian American Law Student Association (AALSA)**

The St. Thomas Chapter of AALSA is a member of the National Asian Pacific American Law School Association (NAPALSA), which is the student branch of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA). AALSA is dedicated to Asian American issues in the legal community, such as immigration, property rights, employment law, and civil rights. AALSA is working to create a network of Asian American attorneys, professors, and law students in South Florida. AALSA strives to provide education for the general Asian American community concerning their legal rights. The local chapter offers representation for Asian American students to the Student Bar Association and St. Thomas Administration.

### **Association of Public Health Law Students**

The mission of the Association of Public Health Law Students (A-PHLS) is to serve as the leading authority on public health law issues within the greater student body. To that end, the Association provides a forum for interaction and information exchange among law students with an interest in public health law issues, serves as a resource for jobs, internships, and mentors within the field of public health law, and supports public health law related initiatives of the St. Thomas Health Law Program that benefit our members, the law school community, and the general public. Our particular focus is on initiatives that protect the health of the most vulnerable - children, the elderly, the poor, and the underserved. The Association's decidedly public approach to health law reflects an understanding that health is a public issue and that the policies, laws and regulations governing public health are matters of local, national and global concern.

### **Black Law Student Association (BLSA)**

The purpose of the Black Law Student Association is to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of black law students and to advocate professional competence. Further, it educates law students and attorneys about the needs of the black community and encourages assistance whenever possible. The organization also sponsors a variety of academic and social activities.

### **Business Law Society**

The objective of the Business Law Society is to educate and inform students of the numerous areas where law interfaces with business and commerce. The Business Law Society facilitates various symposia and other events where students can learn from and interact with business leaders.

### **Caribbean Association of Law Students (CALC)**

The objective of the Caribbean Law Students is to promote a greater awareness of and commitment to the civil, economic, social cultural and political rights of the Caribbean community. The Caribbean Association of Law Students foster and encourage academic and professional excellence among Caribbean law students.

### **Criminal Law Society**

The Criminal Law Society is dedicated to the universal ideas of justice and fairness that encompass our society by way of the law. CLS is non-partisan and aims to build relationships among law students from a diverse background and with different career goals who share a common interest in criminal law and the way that society deals with both crime and criminal. The goal of the organization is to connect these law students with professors and lawyers in the community in addition to building a practical knowledge of the American criminal law system through field trips, social events, lectures, and community service events.

### **Children and Family Law Society**

The Children and Family Law Society (CFLS) focuses on supporting law students interested in pursuing legal careers that serve, advise and advocate for children, women, and families. CFLS's mission is to serve the region's underrepresented communities while supporting the Law School's vision and dedication to this cause. We provide our members with the opportunity to work hands-on with family law attorneys, participate in pro bono opportunities and engage in family law; with exposure to criminal, property, wills and trusts and immigration law. CFLS's members dedicate their time to the practice of family law outside of their academic program.

### **Cuban American Student Bar Association**

The purpose of this organization is to facilitate the networking experience of its members with the Cuban-American legal community. Through a variety of functions involving local attorneys, judges, and many other well-recognized legal scholars, each of CASBA's members will be afforded substantial opportunity to not only become integrated with the legal community, but also participate in numerous *pro bono* and volunteer activities.

### **Elder Law Society**

The goal of the Elder Law Society is to establish and maintain Elder Law related opportunities for St. Thomas University law students. We work to promote and explore education, experience and employment in Elder Law. The Elder Law Society has provided St. Thomas Law with informational sessions on continuing education in Elder Law and Board Certification, participated in nursing home *pro bono* projects, and hosted several networking events. During the school year, St. Thomas Law students have the opportunity to participate in the Elder Law Externship. These students work directly with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court and members of the Elder Law section of the Florida bar and gain first hand insight in to the many legal needs of the elderly. Each year, we host an Elder Law Symposium, where distinguished Elder Law attorneys are invited to speak on hot topics in Elder Law.

### **Entertainment and Sports Law Society (ESLS)**

The purpose of the Entertainment and Sports Law Society is to educate and inform students about the fields of entertainment and sports law. Symposia are planned to bring to our campus some of Florida's most prominent sports and entertainment agents.

### **The St. Thomas Environmental Law Society (STELS)**

The St. Thomas Environmental Law Society continuously strives to create an awareness of the balance between the increasing needs of humanity and our fragile planet. STELS members strive to effectively fulfill our responsibility as inhabitants of Earth, and foster awareness, scholarship, and education in applicable areas of law and to develop skills to administer and improve environmental policies.

### **Fashion in Law Society**

The purpose of the Fashion in Law Society is to promote awareness and knowledge of proper professional etiquette, ethics, and first impressions, as well as educate and inform the student body on the legal matters that concern the growing fashion industry as well as the possibilities of dressing professionally and stylish while on a budget. The society emphasizes the importance and techniques of mastering self-presentation and conveying a confident and professional self-image during first impressions. The Fashion in Law Society strives to also focus on charitable work by donating professional attire to law students and members of the community who are unable to afford it.

### **Federal Bar Association Student Division (FBA)**

The Federal Bar Association ("FBA") is dedicated to the advancement of the science of jurisprudence and to promoting the welfare, interests, education, and professional development of all attorneys involved in federal law. The Hon. Peter R. Palermo Student Division of the Federal Bar Association at St. Thomas works in concert with the South Florida Chapter of the FBA to deliver on these goals.

### **Federalist Society**

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians interested in the current state of the legal order. It is founded on the legal principles that the state exists to preserve freedom and that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution. The Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

### **Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL)**

The Florida Association for Women Lawyers was established to assist women in the legal profession. Membership in this organization is open to male and female students. The law school chapter of FAWL sponsors seminars and lectures of special interest to women students. FAWL also offers scholarships to qualified students.

### **Hispanic American Law Society Association (HALSA)**

The purpose of the Hispanic American Law Student Association (HALSA) is to simplify networking while fostering a sense of camaraderie for our members and alumni through their Hispanic and American cultures with the local Hispanic-American legal community (though we welcome students from all ethnic/cultural backgrounds). We help organize various networking events, inter-organization programs, and various *pro bono* opportunities to help our members take an active role in the South Florida legal community.

### **Immigration Law Student Chapter (ILSA)**

The Immigration Law Students Association (ILSA) aims to promote awareness and discussion of current and relevant legal immigration issues and to create and promote pro bono service opportunities relating to immigration law at St. Thomas University School of Law. ILSA is devoted to fostering and maintaining a supportive community of immigration law students, as well as facilitating networking among graduates, faculty, industry professionals, and students.

### **Intellectual Property and Cyber Law Society**

The mission of the Organization is to encourage promising students interested in Intellectual Property and Cyber Law to attend St. Thomas University School of Law.

Our goals is to engage current students with an interest in Cyber Law and its implications on Intellectual Property and individual rights by providing educational opportunities to develop the professional skills of students and alumni interested or involved with Cyber Law; to inspire recruiting of students by employers engaged in Cyber Law.

Moreover, the vision is to create an expansion for the study of Intellectual Property and Cyber Law.

### **Interclub Council**

The Interclub Council is made up of the president (or his or her designee) of each school organization. The president of the Interclub Council is the elected Vice-President of the Student Bar Association.

The purpose of the Interclub Council is to consider for approval any new student organization and/or the re-start of any organization that became dormant. The Interclub Council also coordinate and monitor events sponsored by any student organization.

### **International Law Society**

The St. Thomas International Law Society is a member of the International Law Students Association, and sponsors seminars, roundtables and guest lectures on issues relating to international affairs.

### **Lambda Law Society**

The Lambda Law Society ("LLS") at St. Thomas University School of Law is an organization, for students of all sexual orientations, focused on spreading awareness of LGBTQ related issues in the law while providing mentorship and advancing the professional development of our members via partnership with South Florida professional organizations, participation in networking events.

### **National Jewish Law Students Association**

The organization has co-sponsored (with the International Law Society) a visit from the Consul General of Israel. To establish relationships with other Jewish Law Societies, the organization has tri-law events with Jewish organizations at other law schools. The goal of the society is to further its presence within the Miami community by sponsoring speakers and activities. During the past four years a tradition has been started at the School of Law to hold a Seder at Passover to which the whole law school community is invited.

### **Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court at St. Thomas**

The Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court at St. Thomas is a chapter of the American Inns of Court Foundation founded in 1980 by former Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. The American Inns of Court, modeled after the British system of training young "barristers," or trial lawyers, is committed to improving the practice of law. Members of the Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court include judges, attorneys, law school faculty, and students.

### **Phi Alpha Delta - Soia Mentschikoff Chapter (PAD)**

Phi Alpha Delta, the world's largest law fraternity, has invited distinguished speakers to the law school, sponsored law related films, and assisted students in completing Florida Bar applications.

### **Public Interest Law Society**

This group consists of law students who are dedicated to making a difference in their communities and who understand that the privilege of being an attorney involves service to one's community. The organization is committed to promoting public interest opportunities, advancing a public service philosophy, and facilitating the pursuit of such careers. In providing students with opportunities to serve the community, the hope is that all who graduate from St. Thomas University School of Law appreciate the privilege of being an attorney and strive to become leaders for positive change.

### **Real Estate Law & Urban Development Association**

Real Estate Law and Urban Development Association ("RELUDA") attracts students that are considering pursuing real estate law after law school. Real estate law includes urban development, which is the expansion and improvement of Miami's under privileged neighborhoods. RELUDA teaches students on what real estate law has to offer and focuses on getting St. Thomas Law students engaged with real estate professionals through networking events. RELUDA's goal is to get students excited about their future careers and meet other real estate lawyers who can guide them with constructive advice.



### **St. Thomas Labor and Employment Law Association**

The St. Thomas Labor and Employment Law Association (L.E.L.A.) is dedicated to establishing a cohesive body of law students interested in learning about labor and employment law issues, and in pursuing careers in the labor and employment law field. The Association caters to its members by providing them with networking opportunities to meet other practitioners in the area of labor and employment law, as well as by keeping them apprised of the latest job and internship/externship opportunities in the area of labor and employment law. The Association's long term goal is to have a Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program instituted at the law school.

### **St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society**

The purpose of the St. Thomas More Society is to focus on community service and promote the highest standards of ethics, civility, human dignity, justice, professional knowledge and skill in the practice of law, with the encouragement of traditional Catholic values within the St. Thomas Law community. Our goal includes conducting an annual Red Mass, reminding us that we should become outstanding members of the legal community, while exercising our Catholic values.

### **St. Thomas University Law Student Division of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division**

The mission of the St. Thomas University Law Student Division of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") is to assist the YLD in furthering the goals of The Florida Bar. The Law Student Division is designed to encourage interest in, and participation by, division members in the purposes of the YLD. The Law Student Division connects law students to YLD members, through a variety of activities and projects designed to be of interest and assistance to Division members, and engages in such activities that tend to further the best interests of the legal profession.

The STU Law Student Division, in conjunction with the YLD, coordinates activities for law students providing discussion and free interchange of ideas relative to the duties, responsibilities, and problems faced by members of the legal profession. The STU Law Student Division and YLD also offer mentoring opportunities, which provide professionalism training in order to enhance the integrity and reputation of the legal professional. The STU Law Student Division is encouraged to aid the YLD in serving the public, particularly those persons outside the legal profession, through state-wide and local community service projects and pro bono service.

### **St. Thomas University School of Law Student Chapter of the Dade County Bar Association**

The Dade County Bar Association ("DCBA") is the largest lawyer network in Miami-Dade County and the largest voluntary bar association in Florida. The St. Thomas University School of Law Student Chapter is committed to increasing student membership with the DCBA. Through DCBA membership, students have opportunities to connect with attorneys and judges, mentors, and future colleagues in a number of unique ways. Student members have the opportunity to attend social networking events, educational events, and pro bono/community service events with DCBA members. Networking is an integral part of the legal profession and the St. Thomas University Student Chapter of the DCBA provides an avenue for students to begin making these essential connections.

### **Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)**

The SALDF is the law student branch of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF). ALDF is a nonprofit group of attorneys and animal advocates dedicated to defending animals from abuse and exploitation throughout the United States. Its mission is to work through the courts and legislatures to win animals the rights and protections that they deserve. Backed by over 100,000 members and supporters, ALDF takes direct legal action on behalf of imperiled animals everywhere – in laboratories, on farms, in the wild and in our communities.

#### **Student Veterans of America St. Thomas Law Chapter**

Student Veterans of America, St. Thomas Law Chapter supports students and alumni who are currently serving in the military, who are student military veterans, student spouses of veterans, student family members of veterans, or who have an interest in military affairs. SVA's primary mission is to support veterans in the community via local organizations, veterans courts, and tax clinics. SVA's goal is to start a veterans legal clinic. Student Veterans also supports law students who are applying for the Judge Advocate General Corps. SVA additionally seeks to communicate and work with fellow student veterans organizations of other local law schools.

#### **Student Bar Association (SBA)**

The purpose of the SBA is to provide a measure of self-government and to further the professional development of its members. Each law student is automatically a member of the Student Bar Association, and has an opportunity to participate in the activities and responsibilities of the organization.

#### **Tax Law Society**

The Tax Law Society has been established to promote and achieve excellence in tax issues and litigation. The Tax Law Society's major project at St. Thomas University is the sponsorship, in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service, of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance ("VITA") Program in the spring. St. Thomas University law students assist low income and non-English speaking members of the community with the preparation of their income tax returns.

## **STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

The Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs works to insure that all J.D. students are provided academic advisement. Students, at their discretion, can meet with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, the Assistant Dean for Professionalism, the Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Scholarships, the Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations, the Assistant Dean for Career Development, the Associate Dean for Administration, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to discuss course offerings, curricular planning, clinical experiences, and any other questions regarding completion of the J.D. program, preparation for the Bar examination and guidance with regard to career path options. If a J.D. student is unsure who to meet with regard to these matters, the student can contact the office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs for assistance.

The Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs also refers students to Professors, Adjunct Professors, and Career Counselors in the Office of Career Development who can provide specific information and guidance with regard to areas of practice and guidance on career path options.

LL.M. students and J.S.D. students should consult with the Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights or the Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights for Academic Advisement and guidance.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is responsible for class scheduling, and meets with students who wish to discuss their course and scheduling preferences.

First-year students are introduced to the Law School culture and academic requirements during the orientation program. The Law School catalog and website clearly set out all course and academic requirements. All full-time law faculty have an “open door” policy and mandatory office hours. Advance standing students and transfer students meet with the Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Scholarships. Students in one of the joint degree programs meet with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM**

The Academic Success program consists of two distinct, yet complementary, components: Law School Academic Support and Bar Support.

### **Law School Academic Support**

The study habits and skills that were adequate in undergraduate school may not be sufficient for success in law school. Law school requires more than just reading of assignments, memorization and restating memorized facts on exams. The First Year Academic Support Program teaches skills essential to excelling in law school including:

- time management
- efficient and effective study techniques
- critical reading
- case briefing
- outlining
- legal analysis
- taking multiple choice exams
- effectively writing law school essay exams

The First Year Academic Support Program teaches these skills to first-year students through workshops led by the Academic Success Program professors (ASP professors) and student fellows (ASP fellows). ASP fellows are second- and third-year law students who have been successful in law school.

The First Year Academic Support Program consists of required and optional programming.

### **Introduction to Legal Studies:**

Introduction to Legal Studies is a two-week, non-credit summer program offered to incoming students. It is optional for some students and required as a condition of acceptance for others. In the past almost all entering students have participated in the program. St. Thomas Law's Introduction to Legal Studies Program provides students an opportunity to develop an accurate picture of the realities, rewards, and challenges of being a law student before beginning law school. Students study two law topics taught in a law school format, augmented with sessions in law school skills building. Throughout the Program, students will:

- Gain a comprehensive grounding in fundamental legal concepts and techniques;
- Enhance foundational academic and legal skills;
- Learn firsthand about different aspects of the law from law school professors.

#### Enhanced Orientation:

As part of the required 1L Orientation, all first year students are required to participate in a two day, academic program led by a recognized expert in academic success that introduces students to the basic skills and processes they need to succeed in law school. Students are taught how to read and brief cases, take notes, create outlines and answer law school examinations

#### Legal Skills:

Legal Skill is a mandatory course for first-year students. It consists of several onsite workshop sessions held throughout the fall and spring semesters. Students improve learning and analytical abilities while continuing to lay the ground work for future development of problem-solving and analytical skills through: (1) instruction; (2) exercises; and (3) debriefing. The course builds and refines fundamental lawyering skills, including reading comprehension, rule mastery, issue spotting, outlining, and the mechanics of essay writing. Students are provided individual attention and feedback to improve. This course is required for graduation.

#### 1L ASP Workshops:

In addition to the legal skills, required workshops, ASP professors present a series of optional workshops targeted to specific critical skills such as time management, outlining, issue spotting, matching facts to legal rules and elements, the “IRAC” essay writing format, essay writing skills, and multiple choice strategies. The Academic Success team schedules multiple presentations of each workshop to accommodate all first-year schedules. Dates and times of the sessions are provided to all students at the beginning of each semester.

#### ASP Fellows:

Each student is assigned an ASP Fellow at the beginning of the 1L year. ASP Fellows are second- and third-year students who have been successful at STU Law. Each student's ASP fellow is available for help with developing the above skills to succeed in first-year courses.

#### Essay & Legal Methods:

This is an elective course that focuses on providing students with the knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law; legal analysis and reasoning; written and oral communication; and other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession. Students will receive ongoing formative assessment feedback on a regular basis.

#### Advanced Legal Skills:

This required, second year course provides a review of a selection of topics covered in the first year. The course highlights topics from subjects that are tested on the bar exam. The course is designed to provide students with substantive review and to acclimate them early to the bar preparation process.

The course emphasizes essay writing. The course breaks down each component of effective essay writing and the students learn to incrementally build toward effective legal analyst. The

course includes periodic exercises and exams and a final exam. The periodic essays will cover important topics in the substantive subjects covered in the course.

### **Bar Support**

The second component of our Academic Support Program focuses on assisting St. Thomas Law second and third year students, and recent graduates, in enhancing their study and test taking skills for the bar examination.

#### **Bar Prep Skills I:**

Students take Bar Prep Skills I in their third year. This is a course required to be taken in one of the student's last two semesters of school. It provides an overview of fundamental concepts covered in Federal Constitutional Law, Federal Civil Procedures, Evidence, and Real Property. Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of law in those areas and to apply those principles in both essay writing and multiple-choice questions.

#### **Bar Prep Skills II:**

This is an optional course designed to be taken in the student's last semester. It provides an overview of Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. Students have to demonstrate an understanding of the key legal principles in these areas and an ability to answer Bar-style multiple choice questions.

#### **Bar Review Workshop Series:**

After graduation, and while the students are studying for the bar, St. Thomas Law presents a series of interactive bar review workshops that are open to St. Thomas Law graduates. Multiple sessions are offered by recognized bar experts and faculty that cover substantive review, as well as strategies to employ in studying for and taking the bar exam. St. Thomas Law graduates are also provided individual assistance on examination techniques and substantive law by faculty and alumni mentors.

#### **Commercial Bar Preparation Program**

In addition to the bar review classes and programs provided by the school all St. Thomas Law J.D. graduates are provided a free, commercial bar review program of their choice from a selected list of providers. The graduate has up to two years from the date of graduation to enroll in a commercial bar review program. If a student elects not to receive a commercial bar review program, he or she is not entitled to any refund or credit for not participating.

## **J.D. PROGRAM**

### **ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for admission to the law school, a candidate must have earned a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or the foreign equivalent of a Bachelor's degree. All official transcripts must be submitted prior to the anticipated date of enrollment. Admissions decisions are made by the law school Admissions Committee, which evaluates each applicant's potential for excellence in the study of law. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score is one of several factors used in the admissions process. Consideration will also be given to other relevant factors such as the undergraduate record and grade point average, undergraduate institution, course of study, any graduate degrees or course work, work experience, honors and/or awards, extra-curricular activities, community service, the personal statement, and the letter(s) of recommendation.

St. Thomas University School of Law conforms to all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination and is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, race, color, disability, religious affiliation, national origin, ancestry, or social condition in its educational programs, admission policies, employment policies, financial aid and other school-administered programs and activities.

St. Thomas University School of Law has been ranked as one of the most diverse law schools among ABA-accredited law schools. The law school is committed to a policy of enhancing the diversity of its student body and strongly encourages applications for admission from minorities, women and individuals of differing backgrounds and experiences.

#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

First-year students are admitted solely in the fall, on a full-time basis or flex-time (minimum of 9 credits). Transfer students are considered for admission in any semester. An on-line application for admission is available through the Law School Admissions Council's website at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the following application materials are received by the Office of Admissions: a completed and signed application for admission; an application fee of \$40.00; a typed personal statement, a resume, and a letter of recommendation. The applicant must have a current and complete Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report at the time of application. An application will not be considered by the Admissions Committee until all required materials are received.

All applicants are required to present a recent score from the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and to subscribe to the CAS, both of which are services of the Law School Admission Council. The LSAT must have been taken no more than five years prior to the date of the application for admission. In the event of multiple LSAT scores, St. Thomas will use the highest of all test scores taken within the past five years. All undergraduate, graduate and professional school transcripts must be sent directly to LSAC. Letters of recommendations should also be sent directly to LSAC. The CAS Report includes an evaluation of the undergraduate record, all

LSAT scores, and copies of all transcripts and letters of recommendation. Graduates of foreign colleges and universities must submit official transcripts to LSAC for evaluation. Information and registration for the LSAT and CAS Report may be obtained from the Law School Admission Council, Box 2000, Newton, PA 18940; (215) 968-1001, [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

Applications for transfer are considered from students who attended another law school and are in good academic standing at that law school. Credits earned at another law school may transfer so long as a grade of “C” or better was obtained. Grades do not transfer. In addition to the required application materials outlined above, a transfer applicant must submit an official law school record, including transcripts, an updated CAS Report, and a letter from the Dean stating the applicant’s class rank, and that the applicant is in good standing.

*Applications from students who have previously been dismissed from law school will be considered only if the applicant presents evidence that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete a program of legal education. A previously dismissed applicant will be considered if the applicant can show that the prior disqualification does not indicate a lack of capacity to successfully complete the program of legal education.*

The Admissions Committee will consider only the materials in the applicant’s file when evaluating an application for admission. It is important that the applicant include in the personal statement, or a supplemental statement, pertinent information which would otherwise not be available to the committee. *No reconsideration of an admission decision will be granted unless it is based on new information that was not previously available to the Admissions Committee.* Applicants are advised to submit their applications and supporting materials as early as possible since the number of seats in each class is limited.

If offered admission, an applicant is required to submit a *non-refundable deposit* to reserve a seat in the class. The deposit of \$500 is due on the date set out in the acceptance letter. The deposit will be applied toward tuition for the first semester.

Prior to matriculation, students must ensure that official, final transcript(s), *showing the award of a degree(s)*, is submitted to LSAC from the Registrar of the undergraduate and graduate institution(s) attended. *If the transcripts, reflecting the degree was conferred, is not received by October 15<sup>th</sup>, the student will be withdrawn from classes.*

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Intercultural Human Rights Law Review**

The Intercultural Human Rights Law Review is an annual journal of intercultural human rights scholarship. Committed to exploring new directions and perspectives in the struggle for Human Rights, Justice, and Equality, it publishes cutting-edge articles and essays in the field authored by academics, practitioners, and students. It strives to be a useful resource for all scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from around the globe. The Intercultural Human Rights Law Review is run jointly by J.D. and LL.M. students. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

### **International Moot Court Board**

Members of the International Moot Court Board compete in international competitions, including the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. The Jessup Competition,



sponsored by the American Society of International Law and the International Law Students Association, attracts participants from well over one hundred countries. Students form teams and conduct legal research, write an appellate brief and present oral arguments. Only members of the Board can represent St. Thomas in international competitions. International Moot Court Board may be taken for credit as described under the course descriptions. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

### **Journal of Complex Litigation**

The Journal focuses on a number of complex litigation topics, including mass torts, class actions, multi-district litigations, electronic discovery, and civil procedure issues. The mission of the Journal is to publish relevant and thought-provoking articles to ensure that the Journal is known as a leading resource for legal practitioners and judges alike who frequently practice in this area of the law.

The Journal is published electronically. Each article is edited by St. Thomas University law students; however, the faculty advisor, Professor Patricia Moore, plays an integral role in the selection of publishable articles. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

### **Trial Team**

The purpose of the Trial Team is to promote excellence in litigation and trial advocacy skills. Students participate in state, regional and national advocacy competitions, vying for team membership through tryouts. St. Thomas University School of Law trial teams have achieved prominence in numerous competitions. Trial Team may be taken for credit as described under the course descriptions. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

### **Moot Court Board**

The Moot Court Board is designed to promote excellence in legal research and written and oral advocacy. Board membership is open to second- and third-year students. Participants prepare a brief and present oral arguments based upon a simulated appellate record containing issues that require in-depth research and analysis. Students compete in an intramural moot court tournament judged by faculty and members of the local bench and bar. The Board selects national and regional competitions each year for participation by its members. Moot Court Board may be taken for credit as described under the course descriptions. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

### **St. Thomas Law Review**

The St. Thomas Law Review is a student-operated scholarly journal publishing articles submitted by faculty and members of the bench and bar nationwide. Membership is determined on the basis of academic excellence and/or demonstrated writing ability. A publishable comment or note must be completed for membership. The Law Review provides students with extensive writing, editing and managing experience. Law Review may be taken for credit as described under the course descriptions. A student must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be eligible to be a member.

## **SUMMER-IN-SPAIN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

St. Thomas University School of Law will conduct its 24<sup>th</sup> annual Summer-in-Spain Program in June 2019. The Spain Program is a joint program with Barry University School of Law. The

venue each summer is El Escorial, located in the beautiful foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains, about 25 miles northwest of Madrid. With an elevation of 3,432 feet, the area enjoys a pleasant year-round temperature.

The Summer-in-Spain program is A.B.A. approved. St. Thomas students, along with students from Barry University School of Law and students from other law schools, can study various subjects in International and Comparative Law. Grades from St. Thomas Summer-in-Spain program will count in the St. Thomas Law students' grade point average and the Summer-in-Spain program counts toward the residency requirement.

## **NETHERLANDS WATER COURSE**

Organized in partnership with the Florida Earth Foundation (FEF), the weeklong water law course, led by FEF Executive Director, Stan Bronson, and St. Thomas Law Professor Keith Rizzardi, allows students to study water management as experienced in a nation situated below sea-level. Among other opportunities, students will attend lectures at the United Nations Institute for Water Education; learn about Dutch and European Union legislation; and gain a deeper understanding of the historic context and the magnitude of the future challenges and solutions. Field trip destinations include the historic windmills at Kinderdijk, the Flood Disaster Museum in Zeeland, and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

## **THREE PLUS THREE**

### **BA/JD PROGRAM**

The St. Thomas University 3 + 3 B.A./J.D. program combines a quality undergraduate and law school education that is a great path for high-achieving students who are eager to begin their career in law as early as possible. This program offers a combined Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor degree. The B.A./J.D. program allows students to complete their B.A./J.D. in six years, instead of the typical seven years. Students in the B.A./J.D. program must meet the following requirements:

1. Applicants must have a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and an ACT minimum score of 25, or a combined SAT score of 940 in Critical Reading and Math.
2. The program is also open to Sophomore students who have maintained at least a 3.0.
3. Applicants must maintain a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and have a minimum LSAT score of 150 to enter the law school portion of the program.
4. A formal application to the B.A./J.D. Program must be completed.

### **How it Works**

All B.A./J.D. students take several courses designed to provide a solid foundation for their years of law study. The B.A./J.D. student takes 90 credits as an undergraduate, fulfilling the major and general education requirements. The student then takes the remaining 30 credits during the first year of law study at St. Thomas University School of Law. Upon successfully completing the first year of law study, students are awarded the Bachelor's degree in their chosen major.

Acceptance into the 3+3 program does not guarantee acceptance to St. Thomas Law. Students must still satisfy the admission requirements of the law school. Students are encouraged to sit for the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test) no later than February of their junior year. Upon successfully completing their first year of law study, students are awarded the bachelors degree in their chosen major.

Students must fulfill all the criteria for admission into the law school. Presently, disciplines such as business administration, natural sciences, computer information systems and education do not enable students to participate in this joint degree program.

### **Pre-Selection Criteria for Admission to the Law School**

1. Candidates must have completed 90 credits of undergraduate work, including all requirements towards their degree, before they may enter the law school.
2. The student's academic record should be reviewed periodically to ensure that the student is making satisfactory progress towards meeting the undergraduate degree requirements and the law school entrance requirements. An assessment will be made after the completion of 30, 60 and 75 credits to determine the student's ability to meet the conditions of the joint degree.
3. A letter from the Academic Advisor or appropriate University official, stating that the candidate has fulfilled all requirements and that the academic department agrees to accept the law school credits, must accompany the law school admission application.
4. Candidates who have been subject to disciplinary or academic action may not be considered for admission to the law school without special justifying circumstances.
5. Candidates must be registered with LSAC, and participate in the Credential Assembly Services (CAS).
6. Candidates should take the LSAT no later than February of the student's junior year.
7. Candidates must have at least a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and a 150 LSAT score.

### **Application Procedures**

Students selected for this program must meet the admissions requirements set forth by the School of Law.

1. Complete and submit the Law School Application for Admission. The application fee will be waived for St. Thomas University B.A./J.D. applicants.
2. Provide two letters of recommendation from faculty members.
3. Submit a personal statement.
4. Request an official transcript.
5. Submit a resume.

### **Selection Criteria**

1. The Law School Admissions Committee will review all applications. An application is considered complete when all of the items listed above in the Application Procedures section have been received at the Law School Office of Admissions.

2. Applicants with the strongest academic records, aptitudes and abilities, and who are active participants in student activities and/or service in the University or community will be selected for interviews.
3. An interview will be required before a final decision is made on the applicant.

### **Tuition and Fee Costs**

The charges will be based on the student's enrollment status. For the first three years of undergraduate studies the student will pay the regular undergraduate rates. Once the student begins law school, the student will be charged the applicable law school tuition and fee costs. All students admitted as part of the B.A./J.D. program, will be offered a \$5,000.00 scholarship for each of the three years of law school.

### **Financial Aid and Scholarship Eligibility**

As undergraduates, students are eligible to apply and be considered for all federal aid programs, i.e., Pell Grant, student loans, college work-study, as well as state aid and undergraduate scholarship programs. Upon enrolling at the law school students are considered graduate/professional students and hence are no longer eligible for federal and state grants. As law students, both federal loans and private loans are available to qualified students. Students who successfully enter St. Thomas University School of Law through the B.A./J.D. program will automatically receive a \$5,000 scholarship for each year of law school study. Candidates will also be considered for merit-based law school scholarships. Eligibility for law school scholarships is based on the LSAT score and undergraduate GPA.

### **Withdrawal from the Program**

A student may withdraw from the first-year law school program only under the term and conditions in which he or she would otherwise be approved for a leave of absence. In the event the student withdraws from the Law School prior to completion of the first-year, credits earned while in law school may be applied towards the undergraduate degree but will only count towards elective credits.

## **JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

The faculties of the Law School and the Graduate School work in close collaboration to offer six exciting, joint-degree programs: the J.D./M.S. in Sports Administration, the J.D./M.B.A. in Sports Administration, the J.D./M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling, the J.D./M.B.A. in International Business, the J.D./M.B.A. in Accounting, and the J.D./M.A. in Criminal Justice.

These programs offer St. Thomas Law students the opportunity to complete both the Juris Doctor and the Master's degrees in the three years it typically takes to complete the Juris Doctor degree. The respective graduate school and the Law School have agreed to accept credits from courses taken at the other school, thereby reducing the total number of credits needed for both degrees. Participants thus complete both degrees, receiving a diploma for each, in a reduced period with reduced overall costs.

Joint degree students generally enter and complete their first year of law school prior to taking any masters level courses. However, a student may begin one of the applicable master's programs prior to starting law school. Upon admission to the law school he/she will be

required to take the entire first year law school curriculum (and no master's level courses.) A student can be given credit only for the master level courses taken after matriculating into the law school. Law students will not be given credits for any master level course taken before matriculating into the law school nor will they be given any credit toward the J.D. for courses taken other than at St. Thomas University.

### ADMISSION

All St. Thomas University School of Law students who are in good standing at the completion of their first year of law school are eligible for admission into any of the joint degree programs. Students must meet all admission requirements for St. Thomas University graduate programs.

A law student wishing to matriculate into one of the joint degree programs must file an application for admission before March 1<sup>st</sup> of Spring Term of their first year. Applications may be accepted later for some of the joint degree programs at the discretion of the graduate program director. After filing the application, the student must meet with the degree program director from the graduate school to which they seek admission. The degree program director of the graduate school will ensure that the degree program will meet the educational objectives of the student and ensure that the degree program student has the requisite background and skills in the areas of study of the graduate degree program to successfully compete in the graduate degree program. Upon approval by the degree program director of the respective graduate school program and completion of the first year of law school, the student will be admitted into the joint degree program. Students then begin to undertake study in the respective graduate program and law school (simultaneously) beginning in the first summer term following the first year of law school.

Students in all the joint degree programs must complete a total of 78 J.D. credits, a combination of required classes and elective hours. Students in the joint degree program cannot register for more than 21 credits (combined) in any J.D. term. The joint degree students must complete all other requirements of the "regular" J.D. program (except for the reduction in credit hours), including the senior writing requirement, *pro bono* hours, the skills course requirement and the residency requirement.

### GRADING

For Law School and Graduate School courses, joint degree students will be graded on the respective grading scales applicable to them at the Law School and Graduate School.

### ACADEMIC STANDING

J.D. students must remain in "good standing" in their J.D. program to be eligible to continue to take non-J.D. classes as part of one of the joint degree programs. Joint degree students shall remain in good academic standing. Those who fall below the minimum levels required for good standing at either school are placed on academic probation, subject to the rules governing academic probation and dismissal at the School or Schools at which they are on probation.

Except in exceptional circumstances in which a student is granted a leave of absence, students admitted into a joint degree program must take classes continuously upon admission into the program until completion of all required courses. Failure to satisfactorily complete all required courses in the graduate school will preclude the student from obtaining the graduate school

degree and the J.D. Failure of the student to complete all required courses in the law school will likewise preclude the student from obtaining a J.D. degree or the respective graduate degree.

The entire required graduate school curriculum serves to replace elective credit hours the law student would otherwise have to take to acquire the J.D. degree. However, individual graduate course credit hours are not transferable to the J.D. degree. Accordingly, students must complete all required graduate school courses in order to meet graduation criteria for the J.D. degree. In the event the student does not satisfactorily complete all required courses in the respective graduate school the student will then be required to take elective courses in the J.D. program sufficient to satisfy graduation requirements and the student will not be given J.D. credit for the graduate degree courses. Likewise, in the event the student does not successfully complete the required J.D. program, the respective graduate school will not count any of the law school courses toward degree requirements in the respective graduate school and the student would have to acquire sufficient credit hours in the respective graduate school to qualify for the respective graduate school degree.

### **COST**

Upon admission to the joint degree program, students pay the applicable graduate tuition rate per credit for the courses taken in the respective graduate school and the applicable law school tuition rate per credit hour for courses taken in the law school. In the summer, students pay the regular summer school rate for J.D. classes. Students are responsible for all other fees and costs applicable to law and/or graduate students.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM PROGRAM**

Students may withdraw from the graduate school component of the joint degree program at any time. However, upon withdrawal, none of the credit hours earned in the respective graduate school are credited toward the J.D. degree and the student must complete all J.D. requirements to receive his or her J.D. degree.

Students who withdraw from the law school component of the joint degree may continue with their graduate school degree. However, credits earned in the law school may not transfer to the respective graduate school. Students must meet the graduation requirements of the respective graduate school to qualify for the graduate degree.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Participation in a joint degree program does not affect the student's eligibility for scholarships or financial aid otherwise available from the law school. Student loans and other sources of funds may be available through government unsubsidized loan programs. Students must comply with the applicable rules and procedures for obtaining such loans.

### **HONORS**

Participants in the joint degree programs must meet the same criteria otherwise applicable to J.D. students to graduate with honors in the J.D. program and must meet the same criteria otherwise applicable to graduate with honors in the graduate degree program.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Students in the joint degree programs must follow all administrative procedures for registration as required by both the law school and the respective graduate school. The Assistant Dean for

Student Affairs from the law school and the joint degree program director of the respective graduate school shall serve as advisors to the Joint Degree students. In the event of a student requiring special consideration or deviation from the requirements contained herein, both the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs of the law school and the joint degree program director of the respective graduate school must agree to such modification or deviation.

### **ELECTIVE COURSES**

Students in any of the joint degree programs must take all the designated, required courses. In addition to the required courses, a menu of elective courses is also provided for each program. Students may take any J.D. course as an elective (including courses in study-abroad programs) with permission of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

## **JOINT DEGREES IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION**

People who know sports administration know St. Thomas. The University was a pioneer in the sports administration field. The program was started in 1973 and today offers one of the most highly esteemed programs in the country.

Students interested in working as a college athletics compliance officer, sports agent, commissioner of sports leagues or conferences, or any number of other sports-related legal and business careers, should consider the J.D./M.S. in Sports Administration and J.D./M.B.A. in Sports Administration programs. Students will receive a first-rate legal education through the School of Law, while taking specialized sports administration classes toward their respective Master's degree. Classes in sports administration will provide students with the unique skills necessary for success in this area through courses in sports financial management, sports marketing and promotions, and sports media and public relations. These programs are designed to qualify joint-degree graduates to compete for positions in top sports-related legal fields.

### **J.D./M.S. IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION**

#### **J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS**

LAW 600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW 610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW 650A	Torts	(4)
LAW 635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW 630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW 620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW 681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW 690A	Property	(4)
LAW 705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW 685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW 711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW 968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW 745	Sports Law	(2)
LAW 813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW 826	Evidence	(4)
LAW 840	Wills and Trusts	(3)
LAW 850	Professional Responsibility	(3)
LAW 819	Alternative Dispute Resolution	(2) = 58
Seminar (To satisfy the Intensive Writing Course)		(2)

A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic (various hours)  
*(Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)*

Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.	78
Credits allocated from graduate courses	<u>12</u>
TOTAL J.D. Credits	90

\*Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

### **M.S. GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS\*\***

#### Required Courses

MAN 503	Applied Research Methods	(3)
SPO 717	Seminar and Principles of Sports Administration	(3)

*Five from the following:*

SPO 540	Sports Media and Public Relations	(3)
SPO 543	Sports Financial Management	(3)
SPO 544	Sports Marketing and Promotions	(3)
SPO 546	Facility and Event Management	(3)
SPO 547	Principles of Leisure Services Management	(3)
SPO 548	Sports Psychology	(3)
SPO 549	Athletic Fund Raising	(3)
SPO 551	Negotiations in the Sports Industry	(3)
SPO 552	Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics	(3)
SPO 719	Legal Aspects of Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 750	Issues in Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 755	Special Topics in Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 790	Supervised Internship I	(3)

Total Graduate Credits	24
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**	<u>6</u>
TOTAL MS Credits	30

\*\* Six (6) credits from the student's law program courses will transfer to the M.S. in Sports Administration. LAW 745 (Sports Law) will replace SPO 719 (Legal Aspects of Sports Administration) as a regular course. LAW 819 (Alternative Dispute Resolution) will replace a SPO elective.

## **J.D./M.B.A. IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION**

### **J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS**

LAW 600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW 610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW 650A	Torts	(4)
LAW 635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW 630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW 620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW 681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW 690A	Property	(4)
LAW 705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW 685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW 711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW 968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW 745	Sports Law	(2)



LAW 813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW 826	Evidence	(4)
LAW 840	Wills and Trusts	(3)
LAW 850	Professional Responsibility	(3) = 56
Seminar Course (to satisfy the Intensive Writing Requirement)		(2)
A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic		(various hours)
<i>(Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)</i>		
Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.		78
Credits allocated from graduate courses		<u>12</u>
TOTAL J.D. Credits		90

\*Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

### M.B.A. GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS\*\*

#### Preparatory Courses\*\*\*

ACC 530	Essentials of Accounting	(3)
BUS 724	Foundation for Business Studies	(3)
BUS 532	Statistical Analysis for Management	(3)

\*\*\*These courses may be waived depending on undergraduate preparation.

#### Required Courses

ACC 770	Managerial Accounting	(3)
BUS 777	Data Analytics	(3)
BUS 775	International Business	(3)
BUS 704	Policy, Planning and Strategy Systems	(3)
BUS 750	Strategic Marketing Management	(3)
FIN 751	Financial Management	(3)
MAN 700	Organizational Behavior	(3)
SPO 717	Seminar and Principles of Sports Administration	(3) =24

*One courses from the following:*

SPO 540	Sports Media and Public Relations	(3)
SPO 543	Sports Financial Management	(3)
SPO 544	Sports Marketing and Promotions	(3)
SPO 546	Facility and Event Management	(3)
SPO 547	Principles of Leisure Services Management	(3)
SPO 548	Sports Psychology	(3)
SPO 549	Athletic Fund Raising	(3)
SPO 551	Negotiations in the Sports Industry	(3)
SPO 552	Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics	(3)
SPO 719	Legal Aspects of Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 750	Issues in Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 755	Special Topics in Sports Administration	(3)
SPO 790	Supervised Internship I	(3) = 3

Total Graduate Credits	27
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**	<u>3</u>
TOTAL MBA Credits	30

*\*\*Three (3) credits from the student's law program courses will transfer to the M.B.A. in Sports Administration. LAW 745 (Sports Law) will replace SPO 719 (Legal Aspects of Sports Administration) as a regular course. Student who began the program before August 2018, have different requirements.*

## **J.D./M.B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**

Students in the joint J.D./M.B.A. program in International Business earn both degrees in three years, instead of the traditional four and a half years. They learn the skills necessary for success in today's rapidly changing, global business environment through courses such as International Economics, International Finance, International Business Transactions, and Regional Business Environment. Miami, one of the world's most active commercial hubs, is an opportune venue for the program.

### **J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS**

LAW	600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW	610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW	650A	Torts	(4)
LAW	635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW	630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW	620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW	681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW	690A	Property	(4)
LAW	705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW	685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW	711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW	968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW	700	International Law	(3)
LAW	813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW	826	Evidence	(4)
LAW	840	Wills and Trusts	(3)
LAW	850	Professional Responsibility	(3) = 57
Seminar (to satisfy Intensive Writing Requirement)			(2)
A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic			(various hours)
<i>(Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)</i>			
Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.			78
Credits allocated from graduate courses			<u>12</u>
TOTAL J.D. Credits			90

\* Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

### **MBA GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS**

#### Required Courses

ACC	770	Managerial Accounting	(3)
BUS	777	Data Analytics	(3)
BUS	775	International Business	(3)
BUS	704	Policy, Planning and Strategy Systems	(3)
BUS	750	Strategic Marketing Management	(3)
FIN	751	Financial Management	(3)
MAN	700	Organizational Behavior	(3) =21

Two courses from the following:

BUS	672	Multinational Mar. Concepts & Strategies	(3)
FIN	772	International Finance and Banking	(3)
BUS	774	Issues and Applications in Import/Export	(3)
BUS	771	International Business**	(3)
BUS	780	Regional Business Environment	(3)
BUS	789	Graduate Project	(3)
BUS	792	Business Internship I	(3)
BUS	795	International Management	(3)
ECO	671	International Economics	(3) = 6
Total Graduate Credits			27
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**			<u>3</u>
TOTAL MBA Credits			30

\*\*Three (3) credits from the students' law program courses will transfer for the MBA in International Business. If a student in the joint degree program with the MBA specialization in International Business takes LAW 700 (International Law or LAW 832 (International Business Transactions), he/she should not take BUS 771 (International Business Law). Students who began the joint program before August 2018 have different requirements.

## J.D./M.B.A. IN ACCOUNTING

This degree couples skills traditionally in great demand in the corporate, tax, and accounting worlds. In addition to the intensive graduate accounting curriculum, participants learn the core areas of business and law. The degree is also designed to prepare students with an undergraduate degree in accounting to complete the educational requirements for the CPA exam in Florida.

### J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS

LAW	600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW	610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW	650A	Torts	(4)
LAW	635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW	630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW	620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW	681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW	690A	Property	(4)
LAW	705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW	685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW	711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW	968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW	813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW	812	Federal Income Taxation	(4)
LAW	826	Evidence	(4)
LAW	840	Wills and Trusts	(3)
LAW	850	Professional Responsibility	(3) = 58
Seminar (to satisfy the Intensive Writing Requirement)			(2)
A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic (Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)			(various hours)
Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.			78
Credits allocated from graduate courses			<u>12</u>

TOTAL J.D. Credits

90

\*Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS

#### Preparatory Courses\*\*\*

ACC	530	Essentials of Accounting	(3)
BUS	724	Foundation for Business Studies	(3)
BUS	532	Statistical Analysis for Management	(3)

\*\*\*These courses may be waived depending on undergraduate preparation.

#### Required Courses

BUS	775	International Business	(3)
BUS	777	Data Analytics	(3)
BUS	704	Policy, Planning and Strategy Systems	(3)
BUS	750	Strategic Marketing Management	(3)
FIN	751	Financial Management	(3)
MAN	700	Organizational Behavior	(3) = 18

*And three courses from the following:*

ACC(BUS)	502	Advanced Auditing	(3)
ACC(BUS)	503	Management Accounting II-Cost Analysis	(3)
ACC	504	Advanced Accounting Information Systems	(3)
ACC(BUS)	507	Governmental and Institutional Accounting	(3)
ACC(BUS)	508	International Accounting	(3)
ACC(BUS)	605	Seminar in Accounting Theory	(3)
ACC(BUS)	755	Seminar: Selected Topics in Accounting	(3)
ACC(BUS)	781	International Taxation	(3)
ACC(BUS)	783	Tax Research	(3)
ACC(BUS)	785	Taxation of Estates, Trusts and Gifts	(3)
ACC	786	Advanced Corporate Taxation	(3)
ACC(BUS)	788	"S" Corporation and Partnership Taxation	(3) = 9

Total Graduate Credits	33
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**	<u>9</u>
TOTAL MBA Credits	42

\*\*Three (3) credits from the student's Law program courses will transfer to the MBA-Accounting. If a student in the joint degree program for the MBA specialization in Accounting completes LAW 812 - Federal Income Taxation, he/she should not take ACC 505 - Advanced Taxation. Students who began the joint program before August, 2018 have different requirements.

## J.D./M.S. IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING

The J.D./M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling fills a significant and largely unrecognized gap in legal education. Marriage and family counseling issues are inherent in an array of matters handled by family law practitioners. To optimize the client's well-being in such cases, the attorney must see the client through the eyes of a trained therapist. For example, the attorney seeking a protective order for a battered woman might well endanger his client without such knowledge, mistaking the *loving respite* phase of the battering cycle for the absence of danger to the client. Since most family law clients are in a state of emotional upheaval, attorneys with a formal background in areas such as the theory and practice of counseling

couples, transitions in family life, and multicultural counseling will be better prepared to work closely with them and to recognize and address their legal and emotional needs. Students who complete the joint degree will be well prepared to enter, *inter alia*, fields such as non-profit family advocacy and juvenile, domestic, and family law practice.

**J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS**

LAW 600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW 610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW 650A	Torts	(4)
LAW 635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW 630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW 620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW 681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW 690A	Property	(4)
LAW 705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW 685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW 711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW 968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW 813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW 810	Family Law	(3)
LAW 817	Interviewing Counseling and Negotiation*	(2)
LAW 819	Alternative Dispute Resolution	(2)
LAW 826	Evidence	(4)
LAW 850	Professional Responsibility	(3)
LAW 886	Juvenile Law	and (2) or
LAW 851	Elder Law	(3) = 60 or 61

Seminar (to satisfy the Intensive Writing Requirement)	(2)
A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic	(various hours)
<i>(Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)</i>	

Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.	78
Credits allocated from graduate courses	<u>12</u>
TOTAL J.D. Credits	90

**GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS**

CPS 730	Theories of Personality	(3)
CPS 740	Introduction to Family Therapy and Evaluation	(3)
CPS 741	Transitions in Family Life	(3)
CPS 742	Intermediate Family Therapy	(3)
CPS 743	Theory and Practice of Counseling Couples	(3)
CPS 745	Abnormal Psychology	(3)
CPS 746	Human Sexuality Counseling	(3)
CPS 760	Multicultural Counseling	(3)
CPS 792	Field Experience in Marriage and Family Therapy I	(3)

Total Graduate Credits	27
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**	<u>3</u>
TOTAL MS Credits	30

\*This is a skills course required to be taken by all students in the J.D./M.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling program. It will also be used to satisfy the skills course hour requirement for graduation.

\*\* Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

## J.D./M.A. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The J.D./M.A. in Criminal Justice program combines the legal knowledge and procedural skills needed for the practice of law, and especially criminal law, with the theoretical, research based scientific teachings that explain the behavior of criminals as well as those who work in the criminal justice system, including the police, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and correctional officers. Successful students in the joint degree program will not only be able to identify the elements of various crimes and the working of the common law tradition of our justice systems, but they will be able to address crucial extra-legal factors that influence our legal systems. Criminal Justice is inevitably filtered through a culture that exposes each individual member to norms, values, beliefs, bio-physical conditions, and attitudes that shape the law, give it meaning, stability, and at times encourage it to change.

### J.D. CLASSES AND CREDITS

LAW	600A	Civil Procedure	(4)
LAW	610A	Contracts	(4)
LAW	650A	Torts	(4)
LAW	635	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research	(3)
LAW	630A	Legal Skills	(1)
LAW	690A	Property	(4)
LAW	620	Criminal Law	(3)
LAW	681A	Constitutional Law	(4)
LAW	705	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	(3)
LAW	685	Appellate Advocacy	(2)
LAW	711B1	Advanced Legal Skills	(4)
LAW	968	Bar Prep Skills	(4)
LAW	813	Business Associations	(4)
LAW	826	Evidence	(4)
LAW	819	Alternative Dispute Resolution	(2)
LAW	808	Criminal Procedure	(3)
LAW	850	Professional Responsibility	(3) = 56
Seminar (to satisfy the Intensive Writing Requirement)			(2)
A Skills Class, Internship, Externship or Clinic <i>(Used to satisfy the skills hours requirement)</i>			(various hours)
Other J.D. credits such that the student takes a minimum of 78 J.D. credits.			78
Credits allocated from graduate courses			<u>12</u>
TOTAL J.D. Credits			90

\*Students who matriculated into the J.D. Program prior to August 2016 have different requirements. Please go to the St. Thomas Law Website.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREDITS

CJA	651	Quantitative Research Methods	(3)
CJA	630	Juvenile Crime and Justice	(3)
CJA	660	Advanced Criminological Theory	(3)
CJA	775	Comparative International Criminal Justice Systems	(3)
CJA	710	Globalization and Terrorism	(3)
CJA	630	Economics of Crime	(3)
CJA	660	Counseling Criminal Offenders, Crime Victims, and Law Enforcement Personnel	(3)
CJA	715	Cybercrime and its Control	(3)

Total Graduate Credits	24
Credits allocated from J.D. Program**	<u>12</u>
TOTAL MA Credits	36

## **CERTIFICATES**

### **ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Admiralty and Maritime Law will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including the following:
  - a. Admiralty Law (2 or 3 credits); and
  - b. International Business Transactions (3 credits); and
  - c. At least two of the following courses:
    - Boating and Cruising Law (2 credits);
    - Environmental Law Practice (2 or 3 credits);
    - Federal Courts (3 credits);
    - International Law (3 credits);
    - Marine Insurance (3 credits); or
    - Transnational Litigation (3 credits); and
  - d. Any of the following additional courses, if necessary, to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 credits);
    - Federal Income Tax (4 credits); or
    - Seminar: International Law in the 21st Century; and

A skills component, which may be met by completing two Continuing Legal Education seminars sponsored by the Admiralty Law Section of The Florida Bar.

### **BUSINESS LAW CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Business Law will be awarded to J.D. graduates who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including the following:
  - a. At least two of the following courses:
    - Bankruptcy (3 credits);
    - Corporate Finance (3 credits);
    - Federal Income Taxation (4 credits);\*
    - Legal Accounting (3 credits);
    - Payment Systems (3 credits);
    - Secured Transactions (3 credits); or
    - Sales (3 credits); and
  - b. Any of the following additional courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Bankruptcy (3 credits);
    - Commercial Law Amicus Initiative (2 credits);\*\*
    - Commercial Law Survey (3 credits);
    - Consumer Law (3 credits);
    - Corporate Finance (3 credits);
    - Debtor and Creditor Rights (3 credits);



- Essential Concepts of Business for Lawyers (1 credit);
  - Family Wealth Management (3 credits);
  - Federal Income Taxation (4 credits);\*
  - Insurance Law (3 credits);
  - Intellectual Property Overview (1 credit);
  - International Business Transactions (3 credits);
  - Law Office Management (2 credits);
  - Legal Accounting (3 credits);
  - Legal Issues for Startups (2 credits);
  - Negotiations (1 credit);
  - Payment Systems (3 credits);
  - Real Estate Development & Finance (3 credits);
  - Sales (3 credits); and
  - Secured Transactions (3 credits);
  - Transactional Skills (3 credits);\*\*
  - Transnational Business and International Human Rights (1 credit); or
  - White Collar Crime (3 credits); and
2. Completion of one of the following:
    - a. One of the following field placements or skills courses:
      - Bankruptcy Law Externship;
      - Civil Practice Externship (in a business law-related area, with the specific placement approved by the Director of the Business Law Certificate Program);
      - Commercial Law Amicus Initiative;\*\*\*
      - Transactional Skills;\*\*\* or
    - b. Thirty (30) hours of Continuing Legal Education programs sponsored by the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar or the American Bar Association; and
  3. A minimum of 4 hours as part of a Continuing Legal Education program sponsored by the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar or the ABA.

\*Tax courses other than Federal Income Tax are excluded from this Certificate, because students interested in taxation should be encouraged to pursue a Tax Certificate.

\*\*If not used to satisfy the skills requirement in Paragraph 2(a).

\*\*\*If not used to fulfill the course requirements in Paragraph 1.

## **CRIMINAL LITIGATION CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Criminal Litigation will be awarded to J.D. students who have applied to the Certificate program at least a semester prior to completion of the J.D. degree requirements and who have satisfactorily completed:

1. Either the Criminal Practice Externship (6 or 8 credits) or the Appellate Litigation Internship (12 credits); and
2. Criminal Procedure I (3 credits); and
3. Florida Criminal Procedure (2 credits); and
4. At least seven credit hours from among the following courses:

- Capital Punishment (2 credits)
- Criminal Procedure II (3 credits)
- Florida Criminal Practice (3 credits)
- Human Trafficking Law and Policy (3 credits)
- International Criminal Law (3 credits)
- Juvenile Law (2 credits)
- National Security and Fourth Amendment (1 credit)
- Topics in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Seminar (2 credits)
- Transnational Criminal Law (3 credits)
- White Collar Crime (3 credits).

### **ELDER LAW CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Elder Law will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including the following:
  - a. Elder Law (3 credits); and
  - b. Elder Law Externship (4 credits); and
  - c. Guardianship Law (3 credits); and
  - d. Any of the following additional courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Administrative Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Advanced Trusts (2 credits);
    - Disability Rights: Law and Practices (2 credits);
    - Essential Concepts of Business for Lawyers (1 credit);
    - Estate Planning (3 credits); and
    - Family Wealth Management (3 credits);
    - Federal Estate and Gift Taxation (3 credits); or
    - Federal Income Taxation (4 credits);
    - Government Benefits (3 credits);
    - Health Care Compliance (3 credits);
    - Health Law and Policy (3 credits);
    - Law and Bioethics (3 credits);
    - Legal Accounting (3 credits);
    - Legislation and Regulation (1 credit);
    - Selected Issues in Taxation (3 credits);
    - Seminar: Advanced Problems in Taxation (2 credits);
    - Seminar: Poverty Law and Economic Justice (2 credits);
    - Statutory Interpretation (3 credits); and
2. Two (2) Continuing Legal Education seminars presented by the Elder Law Section of The Florida Bar.

These courses introduce the student to all fundamental principles of elder law that are tested on The Florida Bar's Elder Law Certification examination. Students pursuing the Elder Law Certificate must file a statement of intent with the Registrar and the Director of the Elder Law Certificate Program as soon as they desire to pursue the program.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE

Environmental lawyers, whether in private practice, government, or public interest, must have a sound grounding in the technical issues and concepts that form the basis for environmental regulatory programs and that frequently arise in environmental litigation, transactions, and site cleanups.

A Certificate in Environmental Sustainability will be awarded to those J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed at least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:

1. Environmental Law (2 or 3 credits); and
2. Human Rights and the Environment (1 credit); and
3. Any of the following additional courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
  - Administrative Law (2 or 3 credits);
  - Admiralty Law (3 credits);
  - Comparative Environmental Law (3 credits);
  - Comparative Water Law (1 credit);
  - International Environmental Law (3 credits);
  - Land Use Planning (3 credits);
  - Legislation and Regulation (1 credit);
  - Natural Resources Law and Policy (2 or 3 credits);
  - Negotiations (1 credit);
  - Real Estate Development and Finance (3 credits);
  - Remedies (3 credits);
  - Seminar: Environmental Law Policy (2 credits); or
  - Seminar: Regulatory Compliance (2 credits).

## IMMIGRATION PRACTICE CERTIFICATE

A Certificate in Immigration Practice will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:
  - a. Immigration Law (3 credits); and
  - b. At least one of the following courses:
    - Asylum & Refugee Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Human Trafficking Law & Policy (3 credits);
    - Seminar: Immigration Law (2 credits); or
    - The Protection of Refugees (1 credit); and
  - c. Any of the following additional courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Administrative Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Comparative Immigration Law (3 credits);
    - Family Law (3 credits);
    - Guardianship Law (3 credits); or
    - Immigration Clinic: Students enrolled in the Immigration Clinic for a full year may count six credits towards
    - Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (2 credits);
    - Juvenile Law (3 credits);
    - Law Office Management (2 credits);
    - Legislation and Regulation (1 credit).

- Seminar: Hispanics, Civil Rights, and the Law (2 credits); or
  - Seminar: Poverty Law and Economic Justice (2 credits); and
2. One of the following field placements:
    - a. Civil Practice Field Placement (4 credits summer or 8 credits fall/spring);
    - b. Immigration Clinic (6 credits fall and 6 credits spring); or
    - c. At least 30 hours of service at a placement approved in advance by the Immigration Practice Certificate Director.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Intellectual Property Law will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed at least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:

1. At least three of the following four courses:
  - a. Branding and Trademark Management (3 credits);
  - b. Copyright and Content Management (3 credits);
  - c. Innovations and Inventions through Patents & Trade Secrets (2 or 3 credits); and
  - d. Intellectual Property Overview (1 credit); and
2. Any of the following additional courses to meet the total of 12 credit hours:
  - Administrative Law (2 or 3 credits);
  - Advanced Civil Procedure: Complex Litigation (2 or 3 credits);
  - Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Law (1-2 credits);
  - Cyberlaw (3 credits);
  - Entertainment Law (3 credits);
  - First Amendment Law (3 credits);
  - Seminar: Bioethics: Controversies in Law and Medicine (2 credits);
  - Seminar: Cyber Security Law & Policy (2 credits);
  - Seminar: First Amendment Law (2 credits)
  - Seminar: Internet Governance Law & Policy (2 credits); and
  - Sports Law (2 credits); or

The program course options provide innovative skills and writing opportunities to help students prepare for the digital economy. Many of the program courses provide an emphasis on integrating doctrinal studies with a practical context. Students will often engage in simulations of legal practice in order to develop practice skills, professional knowledge, and to assemble job placement portfolios.

## **INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATE**

The courses offered in the LL.M. program in Intercultural Human Rights are open for credit to all J.D. students at St. Thomas University. A Certificate in Intercultural Human Rights will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed at least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:

1. International Bill of Rights (LL.M.) (3 credits); and
2. International Law (3 credits); and
3. Any of the following additional courses to meet the total of 12 credit hours:
  - Armed Conflict and Individual Liability (LL.M.) (2 credits);
  - Ethical Moorings (LL.M.) (1 credit);
  - First Amendment Law (3 credits);

- Human Rights and Religion (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Human Rights and Terrorism (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Human Rights and the Environment (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Human Rights Lawyering (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Human Trafficking Law and Policy (3 credits);
- International Economic Law and Human Rights (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Protection of Refugees (LL.M.) (1 credit);
- Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection (LL.M.) (3 credits);
- Seminar: International Law in the 21st Century (2 credits);
- Seminar: Rule of Law (2 credits); or
- Women’s Rights and the Rights of the Child (LL.M.) (1 credit).

### **REAL ESTATE LAW CERTIFICATE**

A Certificate in Real Estate Law will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:
  - a. At least 2 of the following courses:
    - Florida Condominium Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Florida Construction Law (3 credits);
    - Land Use Planning (3 credits);
    - Real Estate Development & Finance (3 credits) (skills course); or
    - Real Estate Transactions (2 credits); and
  - b. Any of the following courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Administrative Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Bankruptcy (3 credits);
    - Corporate Finance (3 credits);
    - Environmental Law (2 or 3 credits);
    - Essential Concepts of Business for Lawyers (1 or 2 credits);
    - Family Wealth Management (3 credits);
    - Federal Income Taxation (4 credits);
    - Interviewing Counseling and Negotiation (2 credits);
    - Legal Accounting (3 credits);
    - Legal Issues for Startups, Entrepreneurs, and Small Businesses (2 credits);
    - Negotiations (1 credit);
    - Seminar: Contracts Drafting (2 credits);
    - State & Local Taxation (2 credits); or
    - Transactional Skills (3 credits); and
2. One of the following:
  - a. A four (4) credit hour Civil Practice Externship in real estate (this is the preferred method of attaining the Real Estate Certificate); or
  - b. An additional 4 credit hours (for a total of 16 credit hours) from among the designated doctrinal courses above.

## TAX LAW CERTIFICATE

A Certificate in Tax Law will be awarded to J.D. students who have satisfactorily completed:

1. At least 12 credit hours of designated course work, including:
  - a. Federal Income Taxation (4 credits); and
  - b. Federal Estate and Gift Taxation (3 credits); and
  - c. Corporate Taxation (3 credits); and
  - d. Any of the following courses to reach the total of 12 credit hours:
    - Advanced Problems in Taxation (2 credits);
    - Comparative International Taxation: Aspects of Law & Policy (3 credits);
    - Elder Law (3 credits);
    - Estate Planning (3 credits);
    - Family Wealth Management (3 credits);
    - Federal Tax Practice and Procedure (2 credits);
    - Guardianship Law (3 credits);
    - Legal Accounting (3 credits);
    - Partnership Taxation (3 credits);
    - Selected Issues in Taxation (2 or 3 credits); or
    - Taxation of International Transactions (4 credits); and
2. At least two Continuing Legal Education seminars that qualify for credits awarded by The Florida Bar;\* and
3. One of the following:
  - a. One semester of the Tax Clinic (4 credits); or
  - b. At least 25 hours of volunteer service in the St. Thomas Law School Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.\*\*

\*Students must provide proof of attendance at the two CLE's to the Tax Law Certificate Director. If a student wants to take American Bar Association or other tax-oriented CLE's for the Certificate they must receive advance approval from the Tax Law Certificate Director.

\*\*Students must provide certification of the hours of tax return preparation services to the Tax Law Certificate Director.

## **THE MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE PROGRAMS**

### **LL.M. in Cybersecurity Law & Policy**

The completely online program provides students the option to pursue an LL.M. in the fast-growing field of cybersecurity. The LL.M. Program is supported by the School of Law, which recognizes the importance of cybersecurity for our nation and the global community. Whether a desire to pursue a career in law firms, government, private sector, or military, the LL.M. help students prepare for this challenging field. The innovative graduate program provides a wide perspective, integrating law, policy, and technology.

This online program is designed to be completed in one year and is designed to meet the needs of working professionals, as well as traditional students, seeking a flexible opportunity to advance career goals. All sectors of society are increasingly vulnerable to surreptitious network intrusions that threaten data integrity, personal privacy, and national security.

#### **Admission and Application Requirements**

Enrollment for the LL.M. program is open to holders of a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree or similar foreign qualifications in the field of law. An applicant must have a first law degree (J.D., LL.B. or the equivalent) from a foreign or ABA accredited law school. Admission may also be granted to holders of a bachelor's degree or its foreign equivalent, who have a desire to develop an understanding of legal and policy principles of cybersecurity. Admission to the LL.M. program is competitive. In evaluating applications, the Graduate Program Committee takes into consideration the applicant's grades, university studies, letter of recommendation, occupational interests, professional, personal accomplishments, and other factors. Students may apply for full time or part-time status.

#### **Who Should Apply?**

The program is designed for candidates interested in issues of law, policy and developing risk management skills expressly to create the next generation of cybersecurity's legal professionals. This online program is designed to be completed in one year and is designed to meet the needs of working professionals, as well as traditional students, seeking a flexible opportunity to advance career goals. The program will offer a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity law and policy, and will address the legal ramifications of cyber-threats in the aerospace field, especially at the present moment of increased concerns with widespread cyber-attacks.

#### **Application Requirements**

Applications require a completed application form, including a personal statement; a resume or curriculum vitae; previous American college and university transcripts and/or certified copies of foreign transcripts, diplomas or certificates; and two letters of recommendation, preferably from a recent professor or employer; and the application fee. The program requires electronic applications via the Law School Admission Council.

#### **Tuition and Fees**

Our tuition is one of the most competitive among ABA-Law Schools. The program's tuition is fixed at \$30,264.00, and its fees at \$125. The LL.M. is a 26-credits program at \$1,164.00 per credit hour.

Government-subsidized student loans are available to qualifying U.S. persons, and private loans are available to non-U.S. persons who have a qualifying U.S. loan-guarantor. Limited scholarships are available.

### **Student Status**

#### *a. Full-time Students*

The first semester requires that students complete 12-credits of required introductory courses. The second semester includes 12-credits of specialized courses, and a seminar. Students are required to earn 2-academic credits by engaging in a faculty-supervised research and writing project and electives will be offered from which to choose for their remaining 2 credits. Students will be expected to complete their degrees within 36 months of initial enrollment in the School of Law.

#### *b. Part-time Students*

Applicants may be admitted to the program as part-time students. Upon consultation with, and approval by, the Program Director, they may select their courses and complete them over a period of up to four years. If changes to the curriculum occur during this period of time, the Program Director will determine, in consultation with the student, which classes of the amended LL.M. curriculum the student will have to enroll in order to attain the full complement of 26 academic credits. In order to apply for financial aid, part-time students must enroll in at least six credits in any one semester.

### **Attendance**

The School of Law's attendance policy applies to all courses of the LL.M. Program. The Director of the Program may, in his discretion, excuse non-attendance for compelling reasons.

### **Examinations and Grading**

Required courses of the LL.M. Program are tested via take-home examinations. The text of final examinations is handed out to the students by the end of each class, and each student has to return the completed examination by a specified date and time. Individual faculty retains the right to allocate a certain percentage of the grade for projects and/or paper written in the course. Professors may upgrade students by half a grade-point for outstanding classroom performance.

All other law school regulations regarding examinations apply unless inconsistent with the procedures mentioned above.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation from the LL.M. Program in Cybersecurity Law and Policy requires the completion of 26 academic credits in the LL.M. course of study, including all the required courses, and needed elective seminar. The student needs to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to graduate. If the student's cumulative GPA falls below that standard at the time of graduation, he/she may take classes related to the program as indicated by the Program Director and try to obtain the cumulative grade point average of 2.0, but only within a maximum period of two academic years starting from the date of his/her initial enrollment in the program.



The Law School's Grade Replacement Policy also applies to LL.M. students. In addition to this option, if the student has received an "F" in any required course, the student may write a paper in substitution of the failed course requirement, carrying the same number of credits as the failed course. In substance and format, this paper has to fulfill the standards of an independent research project under the supervision of the Program Director or the instructor of the class in which the student received the failing grade. This paper is graded by the supervising professor; it is not subject to approval by the Curriculum Committee or the Dean.

Additionally, students have to write a paper in a qualifying seminar offered by the School of Law (2 credits). Qualifying seminars have to be approved ahead of their offering by the Program Director as consonant with the LL.M. Program.

Instead of the seminar, qualified students may write a thesis specifically for the LL.M. Program. For two credits, the student who chooses to prepare a LL.M. Cyber Thesis must write a significant analytical paper in the field of cybersecurity law and policy consisting of at least 15,000 words, and reflecting substantial legal research, original thought, proper writing style, and correct citation form. The paper should satisfy the above mentioned criteria and earn a passing grade. A full-time student must finish and submit the LL.M. Cyber Thesis to his/her supervisor within the deadline established by the program administration, in the same academic year he or she started.

### **Honors**

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 will receive the LL.M. degree *cum laude* (with honors); students with a cumulative GPA of 3.4 will receive the LL.M. degree *magna cum laude* (with high honors); and students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 will receive the LL.M. degree *summa cum laude* (with highest honors).

### **Transfer of Credit**

Generally, the LL.M. Program in Cybersecurity Law and Policy does not accept transfer credits. The program may accept transfer credits earned in another program offered by an ABA-Accredited Law School. Applicants for admission to the LLM program should request a review of their transcript during the application process.

A maximum of 6 transfer credits may be transferred to the LLM degree, subject to the following conditions:

- All transfer credits are awarded at the sole discretion of the program faculty and the number of transfer credits accepted and applied will be provided in writing prior to enrollment at St. Thomas University.
- All transfer credits must be for courses relevant and appropriate to the LL.M. Program in Cybersecurity Law and Policy.
- The grade earned in each course must have been a B or better.
- Pass/Fail courses are not eligible for transfer credit.
- The credit(s) sought to be transferred must not have counted toward the completion and award of the JD degree.

- The applicant must submit an official transcript and description of each course sought to be transferred.
- Transfer credits must have been earned within 3 years of application for admission to the LLM program.
- Grades for transfer credits will not be reflected in the student's GPA in the LLM program.

### **Interruption of Studies and Readmission**

LL.M. students who interrupt their studies may return to continue the program within a maximum period of two years. After that period has expired, their LL.M. student status is terminated. Such students may apply for readmission and may receive credit for their prior studies in the LL.M. program, but only up to a maximum of 12 credits.

### **Administration**

*Professor Roy Balleste* is Professor of Law and the Director of the Graduate Program in Cybersecurity Law and Policy. He can be reached by e-mail at [rballeste@stu.edu](mailto:rballeste@stu.edu), by phone at (305) 623-2341, and by fax at (305) 623-2337.

## **REQUIRED COURSES**

### **Aviation Cybersecurity**

LLM 301      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course will examine cybersecurity risk in the aviation industry, as well as current, ongoing and proposed response strategies to mitigate such risk. Cybersecurity in respect of the aviation industry encompasses all areas of cybersecurity law from protection of data to the security of systems and networks. The advent and proliferation of so-called e-enabled aircraft—that is aircraft with networked systems—as well as the introduction of NextGen technology to manage the US national airspace system have produced a complex and rapidly changing cybersecurity environment. The bottom line is that the aviation industry, which already relies heavily on computer systems, is moving swiftly to adopt even more integrated and networked systems that— while enhancing efficiency and safety—create a multitude of new risk paradigms. Indeed, a recent PwC survey found that 85% of airline CEOs expressed concern over cybersecurity risk, compared to just 61% of CEOs on other industries; a risk that industry observers see as not being adequately addressed at this point in time. This course will look at all threat characteristics from aircraft development and construction to aircraft control, airline information services, passenger information and entertainment services and navigation and air traffic control. It will review and analyze strategic responses to these threats as proposed and promulgated by international and national governments, government agencies, regulators and trade groups including the US, the UK, the EU, the FAA, IATA and ICAO. The course will also examine legal strategies for prevention, mitigation, detection and reaction, as well as the role of the government and its relationship with other key stakeholders.

*Professor Michelle Hanlon, Associate Director, National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi School of Law*

### **Cybercrime Law**

LLM 302      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course will examine the legal and policy issues related to cybersecurity, including the history and complex nature of computer-related crime and how societies have attempted to respond. Students will discuss the different types of cyber-criminals, including motives, rationale, and methods of attack. The course will evaluate the technology landscape in this dynamic area and will provide students with opportunities to discuss cutting-edge issues at the intersection of law, technology, and policy. Students will be presented with the challenge of a fast pace technological environment to highlight the tools necessary to identify problems in the world arising from the existing and perceived vulnerabilities. At the end of this course, participants should be able to, and offer informed opinions and potential solutions.

*Professor Dr. Roy Balleste, Director, LL.M. Program in Cybersecurity Law & Policy, St. Thomas University*

### **Cybersecurity Corporate Practices**

LLM 303      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course discusses the various impacts of information security risks on corporate practices, preparing students for tomorrow's market as legal counsels or other similar business advising position. Specifically, this course is divided into three parts which can be simplified as the *what*, *who*, and *how* of cybersecurity corporate practices as it relates to their legal aspects. The *what* covers the sources of legal obligations and/or concerns for corporations; the *who* discusses the entities and individuals that are held accountable; and the *how* articulates the notions reviewed in this course into a specific case study. This course will feature prominent guest speakers discussing top of the market technologies and methodologies, while providing real-life examples from their practices.

*Professor Vanessa Henri, Lawyer, Emerging Tech, Fasken, a global law firm, Montreal, Canada*

### **Cybersecurity Law & Policy**

LLM 300      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course will examine the social and legal processes developed by governments, the private sector, and civil society to secure the Internet. The course is intended to introduce students to an evolving area of the law. Our society depends on a stable and safe Internet, and there is growing concern about the misuse of cyberspace. News of large-scale cybersecurity threats and cyber-attacks overshadow the daily life of governments, corporations, and individuals. The challenge at hand is one that threatens the peaceful utilization of cyberspace. With the increasing proliferation of mobile technologies and the growing real-time border-less exchange of information, cybersecurity has become a vital subject with international connotations that requires a global approach to find a solution. Cyber-attacks are a personal threat to all users of cyberspace, and impose great dangers to nation-states. The course will also examine the role played by nation-states and other stakeholders. The seminar will also consider the concept of cyber-power and cyber-war.

*Professor Dr. Roy Balleste, Director, LL.M. Program in Cybersecurity Law & Policy, St. Thomas University*

### **International Law**

LLM 700      3 credits

This course offers a study of the role of authority in the decision-making processes of the world community, including both the basic constitutive process by which international law is made and applied and the public order established. Consideration is given to formal prescription and effective practice with respect to the participants in such processes (nation-states, international

governmental organizations, multinational enterprises, and other private associations and individuals), arenas of interaction, bases of power (control over people, resources and institutions), practices, outcomes and effects. The principal emphasis is on the many roles of the nation-state.

*Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati, Professor of Law and Executive Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights; Director, Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University*

### **International Privacy Law**

LLM 304      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course will provide a general overview of international privacy law. It will start with a reference to human rights law and provide a background on the history of privacy as reflected in international treaties. It will then reflect the distinction between privacy and personal data protection, emphasizing the evolution of international lawmaking and regional jurisprudence. It will cover the work of the OECD, Council of Europe, and European Union. Particular emphasis will be put on trans-boundary data flows between Europe and the United States, as per the original Safe Harbor Agreement and, most recently, the Privacy Shield arrangement. The course will also cover references to extraterritorial effects of European data protection laws, in particular the General Data Protection Regulation impact on China and other non-European states. With a view of the program's policy focus, the course will also include references to extralegal effects of privacy laws and the challenges posed by the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance with the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers and Facebook as examples.

*Professor Dr. Joanna Kulesza, Assistant Professor of International Law and Internet Governance University of Lodz, Poland*

### **National Security & Space Strategy**

LLM 305      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The course will examine national security through the lens of cyber operations, outer space, and military conflict. The course is intended to introduce students to an evolving area of the law that is significantly impacted by technology, and to the new legal issues advanced technology presents in the realm of international conflict. State national security increasingly relies on outer space and cyberspace, and this course seeks to give students an understanding of emerging legal issues springing from that reliance. In addition to providing a background understanding of the sources and application of national security-related international law, topics will cover the major points of dispute in national security-related outer space law and how cyber interacts with those points of dispute.

*Professor Ross Brown, Chief of International, Space, and Operations Law, U.S. Air Force, Vandenberg Air Force Base*

### **Satellite & Space Security**

LLM 306      3 credits

This is a graduate-level distance-learning course. The objective is to provide students with a comprehensive appreciation of the multi-disciplinary nature of satellite and space security: satellite operations, national security applications, space-cybersecurity law and space policy. The course will provide a foundational knowledge of the building blocks of space security, under the principle that a comprehensive understanding of space security law and policy issues requires a basic understanding of space operations, military applications and the increasingly critical role that satellites play in national security. Firstly the course will offer a general non-

engineering description of the space environment and the applications of satellite systems, prioritizing national security roles. The course will introduce international space law, including satellite telecommunications law, as well as some aspects of national space law, with a particular emphasis on national security and military activities. Cybersecurity law and policy, as they relate to the space domain, will be addressed, since cybersecurity is an increasingly important component of satellite and space security. Finally, emerging legal and policy challenges of space security and cybersecurity for space operations will be presented. This course should be seen as a springboard to more focused studies on space law, cybersecurity law or international security studies.

*Professor Gilles Doucet, Independent Space Security Consultant, President, Spectrum Space Security Inc.*

### **Seminar Elective(s) 2 credits**

Students will have seminar electives from which to choose for their remaining 2 credits. For purposes of the LL.M., the seminar will require a scholarly research paper of at least 30-pages. Qualifying seminars have to be approved ahead of their offering by the Program Director as consonant with the LL.M. Program.

## **LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights**

Anchored in the mission of St. Thomas University and its Law School, the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights is designed to provide students with top-level knowledge and expertise in the conception, prescription and application of human rights from an intercultural perspective. Means to achieve this goal are (1) a curriculum encompassing foundational courses such as international law in policy-oriented perspective, introduction to human rights law and its ethical moorings, human rights and religion, as well as specialized classes in all areas of human rights law, ranging from universal civil and political rights to economic and social rights, the rights of particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees, issues such as international economic law and human rights, international environmental law and human rights, international criminal law, humanitarian law, human rights and terrorism, human rights lawyering, and the theory and practice of established regional human rights systems in Europe, the Americas and Africa; (2) a global faculty of highest scholarly renown and practical expertise in the field, often hailing from intergovernmental human rights decision-making bodies both at the United Nations and regional levels; and (3) hands-on practical experience in the form of internships.

The program offers 12 courses in human rights specifically developed for the LL.M. program. Most of these courses are concentrated into one week of intensive classes in four evening sessions. Students can also choose from a rich variety of courses in the J.D. curriculum. The LL.M. degree is generally earned in one academic year. It requires completion of 24 academic credits. For details of curriculum, faculty, course calendar as well as program requirements, application forms and procedures, see the program's website at [www.stu.edu/humanrights](http://www.stu.edu/humanrights).

### **Entrance Requirements**

Enrollment for the LL.M. degree is open to holders of a J.D. degree or similar foreign qualifications in the field of law.

On a highly selective basis, admission may also be granted to holders of a bachelor's degree or its foreign equivalent, who have shown an outstanding commitment to the cause of human

rights and human dignity. Non-lawyers participating in this program are advised that the program does not prepare or qualify its students to engage in the practice of law.

The option of taking twelve elective credits from a variety of domestic law courses offered in the J.D. curriculum as recognized by the Program allows particularly foreign lawyer students to prepare themselves to sit for the bar in various jurisdictions of the U.S.

### **Application Requirements**

Applications require a completed application form, including a personal statement; a resume or curriculum vitae; previous American college and university transcripts and/or certified copies of foreign transcripts, diplomas or certificates; and two letters of recommendation, preferably from a recent professor or employer; and the application fee.

### **English Language Proficiency**

Regardless of citizenship, applicants whose first language is not English must take a TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE exam and meet the minimum scores indicated below.

Exceptions to this policy will be granted to applicants who:

1. Hold a first degree in law from an institution where English is the language of instruction and an official language of the country in which the university is located is English (see complete list of countries eligible for exception below), or
2. Hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from an institution that is accredited by a U.S. regional accrediting agency.

English language test scores may not be more than two years old. Please visit the sites below to arrange for a test date or to request scores to be sent to St. Thomas University School of Law:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The institution code for St. Thomas University School of Law is 5076 and the department code is 03.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Pearsons Test of English (PTE)

### **English Language Minimum Scores**

To be considered for admission, the minimum required scores are as follows:

- TOEFL 84 ibt or 563 paper based
- IELTS 6.5
- PTE Academic 56

Please note: The scores above are the minimum scores for admissions consideration. Meeting the minimum score requirement does not guarantee admission to the program.

Countries Eligible for Exception from the above listed requirements:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Cameroon\*, Canada\*, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Micronesia, Montserrat, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria. Pakistan, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint

Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe

*\*Applies to applicants whose post-secondary degree is from a university in which English is the language of instruction.*

### **Costs**

Tuition is \$27,936 per year, equaling \$1,164 per credit. Annual fees for books and materials total \$1,200. Other fixed fees, including the library and student services, total \$500 per year.

Government-subsidized student loans are available to qualifying U.S. persons, and private loans are available to non-U.S. persons who have a qualifying U.S. loan-guarantor. Limited scholarships are available.

### **Student Status**

#### *a. Full-time Students*

A full-time student is defined as one who is enrolled in at least six credits in any one semester. Usually, students will be admitted as full-time students in order to complete the program in one academic year.

#### *b. Part-time Students*

Applicants may be admitted to the program as part-time students. Upon consultation with, and approval by, the Program Director, they may select their courses and complete them over a period of up to four years. Extensions of this period may be granted in exceptional cases by the Dean of the School of Law. If changes to the curriculum occur during this period of time, the Program Director will determine, in consultation with the student, which classes of the amended LL.M. curriculum the student will have to enroll in order to attain the full complement of 24 academic credits. In order to apply for financial aid, part-time students must enroll in at least four credits in any one semester.

#### *c. International Students*

International students are defined as students in need of a student visa, i.e. not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. International students have to fulfill the same admissions criteria as U.S. students. In addition, they have to receive an I-20 document from the Office of International Student & Scholar Services, in general, have to obtain proper student visa status prior to entering the country. They may work at the University for a time not exceeding 20 hours a week and are eligible to apply for optional practical training subsequent to completion of their studies in the LL.M. program. Students interested in this option are advised to apply for government approval with the Director of the University's Office of International Students.

### **Attendance**

The School of Law's attendance policy applies to all courses of the LL.M. Program. The Director of the Program may, in his discretion, excuse non-attendance for compelling reasons.

### **Examinations and Grading**

Required courses of the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights are generally tested via take-home examinations. The text of final examinations is handed out to the students by the

end of each class, and each student has to return the completed examination by a date and time certain. Individual faculty retains the right to require in-class examinations.

Professors may give students a paper option in lieu of the examination, or they may allocate a certain percentage of the grade for a paper written in the course. Professors may upgrade students by half a grade-point for outstanding classroom performance.

The School of Law's grading curve for electives applies; thus the average of grades for each required class in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights must range between 2.5 and 3.25.

All other law school regulations regarding examinations apply unless inconsistent with the procedures mentioned above.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Graduation from the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights requires the completion of 24 academic credits in the LL.M. course of study, including all the required courses, and needed elective courses. The student needs to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to graduate. If the student's cumulative GPA falls below that standard at the time of graduation, he/she may take classes related to the program as indicated by the Program Director and try to obtain the cumulative grade point average of 2.0, but only within a maximum period of two academic years starting from the date of his/her initial enrollment in the program.

The Law School's Grade Replacement Policy also applies to LL.M. students. In addition to this option, if the student has received an "F" in any required course, the student may write a paper in substitution of the failed course requirement, carrying the same number of credits as the failed course. In substance and format, this paper has to fulfill the standards of an independent research project under the supervision of either the Program Director or Executive Director or the instructor of the class in which the student received the failing grade. This paper is graded by the supervising professor; it is not subject to approval by the Curriculum Committee or the Dean.

There are 11 required credits of course work. Additionally, students have to write a paper in a qualifying seminar offered by the School of Law (2 credits) and enroll in up to 8 credits of LL.M. core electives or up to 12 credits of other courses offered by the School of Law to reach the minimum of 24 academic credits overall to earn the LL.M. degree. Qualifying seminars and courses have to be approved ahead of their offering by the Program Director as consonant with the LL.M. Program.

Instead of the seminar, qualified students may write a thesis specifically for the LL.M. Program. For three credits, the student who chooses to prepare a LL.M. IHR Thesis must write a significant analytical paper in the field of human rights consisting of at least 15,000 words, and reflecting substantial legal research, original thought, proper writing style, and correct citation form. The paper should satisfy the above-mentioned criteria and earn a passing grade. A full-time student must finish and submit the LL.M. IHR Thesis to his/her supervisor within the deadline established by the program administration, in the same academic year he or she started.



### **Honors**

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 will receive the LL.M. degree *cum laude* (with honors); students with a cumulative GPA of 3.4 will receive the LL.M. degree *magna cum laude* (with high honors); and students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 will receive the LL.M. degree *summa cum laude* (with highest honors).

### **Transfer of Credit**

Students who enrolled in classes of the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights as part of St. Thomas University's J.D. program will receive credit for their classes in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights with full quality points. The Program Director may allow other pertinent classes of the St. Thomas Law curriculum to be recognized this way as well. In any event, no more than 12 credits will be given for any classes taken prior to matriculation into the LL.M. program, from academic institutions inside or outside St. Thomas University.

If an LL.M. student successfully satisfies the writing requirement for the LL.M. program in one of the approved seminar classes and then *subsequently* gets admitted into the J.D. program, when the transfer credits from the LL.M. Program are accepted towards the J.D. program, the student will also be considered to have satisfied the "Intensive Writing Requirement" for the J.D. program. He or she will not be required to take another seminar.

To the extent allowed by ABA standards, rules, and policy, any successfully completed course taken as part of this program as a J.D. or LL.M. student will be accepted by St. Thomas University School of Law for credit toward the J.D. degree.

### **Interruption of Studies and Readmission**

LL.M. students who interrupt their studies may return to continue the program within a maximum period of two years. After that period has expired, their LL.M. student status is terminated. Such students may apply for readmission and may receive credit for their prior studies in the LL.M. program, but only up to a maximum of 12 credits.

### **Administration**

*Professor Siegfried Wiessner* is Professor of Law and the Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. He also serves as the Academic Director of the St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute. He can be reached by e-mail at [swiessner@stu.edu](mailto:swiessner@stu.edu), by phone at (305) 623-2305, and by fax at (305) 474-2413.

*Professor Roza Pati* is Professor of Law and the Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. She is also the Director of the Human Trafficking Academy. Professor Pati administers the LL.M. Program from admission until after graduation. She can be reached by e-mail at [rpati@stu.edu](mailto:rpati@stu.edu), by phone at (305) 474-2447, and by fax at (305) 474-2413.

*Mrs. Haydee Gonzalez* is the Program Manager of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. She provides administrative support for all functions of the program, including interaction with students from the stages of inquiry and application to acceptance, education and graduation, as well as record-keeping and interdepartmental coordination. She also serves as liaison with the Administration and with the Office of International Student & Scholar Services. She can be reached by e-mail at [hgonzalez@stu.edu](mailto:hgonzalez@stu.edu), by phone at (305) 474-2403, and by fax at (305) 474-2413.

## Curriculum

The Master of Laws in Intercultural Human Rights degree program is completed in 24 credits over two semesters, and offers a wide variety of courses for students to choose from. Four required LL.M. courses comprise eleven of these 24 credits; eight other elective one-week courses were developed specifically for the LL.M. program. In addition, students have to fulfill a writing requirement generally completed by enrolling in a related J.D. seminar, and they may take up to twelve elective credits from a variety of international and domestic law courses offered in the J.D. curriculum as recognized by the Program, allowing foreign lawyer students, if they so desire, to prepare themselves to sit for the bar in various jurisdictions of the U.S.

### FALL 2019 REQUIRED COURSES

#### **International Law**

LLM 700 (LAW 700) 3 Credits

This is a general course in public international law. It focuses on the process of making and implementing lawful international decisions. The emphasis is on the sources of international law – treaties, customary international law and general principles of law -- and the many roles of the nation-state, its establishment, transformation and termination, as well as the regulation of protection and control of resources, as well as persons, via the mechanisms of nationality and human rights. The subject-matter of this course will be delivered through lectures *ex cathedra* and applications of the Socratic style, power point presentations and practice exercises. International law is too vast a field to cover comprehensively in one course, but this class will familiarize you with the basic concepts of international law and will serve as springboard for those who, later, will need or might wish to explore in greater depth areas such as international criminal law, international environmental law, international corporate practice, the law of the sea, etc. It is a dynamic field that intersects ever more with other fields of law. Living in an increasingly inter-connected world, whether your career goals include working for the government, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, or being a local prosecutor, a corporate attorney or a civil rights activist, you must have a thorough grounding in international law. This course will help you identify the concepts and acquire the skills necessary for influencing future decisions in the range of arenas in which international lawyers must operate--parliamentary, diplomatic, business, criminal and civil litigation, judicial and arbitral practice -- nationally and internationally.

*Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati, Professor of Law and Executive Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights; Director, Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University*

#### **The International Bill of Rights**

LLM 411A (LAW 411A) 3 Credits

This introductory course on the International Law of Human Rights provides an overview of the standards, structures, and procedures designed to effectuate the international protection of human rights. The course primarily addresses the sources and processes of making international human rights law, encompassing universal and regional legal systems of human rights protection. The International Bill of Rights is commonly defined as encompassing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the twin Covenants on Civil and Political Rights as well as Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966. Starting from this normative framework, the scope of the Covenant rights as well as the duties of the States parties will be discussed. The course will also analyze the distinction between United Nations treaty bodies entrusted with monitoring and enforcing human rights obligations under various conventions, and United Nations Charter bodies, including the Human Rights Council, with its procedure of

universal periodic review, as well as the Security Council and the issue of humanitarian intervention. An overview will be given of international criminal law, humanitarian law and their crossroads with the international law of human rights as well as the roles played by nation-state governments, non-governmental organizations and individual actors.

*Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner, Professor of Law and Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights, St. Thomas University*

*His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Fathalla, Chair, United Nations Human Rights Committee\*\* (The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)*

*The Honorable Virginia Brás Gomes, Chair, United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2018)\*\* (The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)*

## FALL 2019 LL.M. CORE ELECTIVES

### **Ethical Moorings: Philosophical and Religious Foundations**

LLM 420 (LAW 420) 1 Credit

This course explores the religious and philosophical roots of the development of human rights, ranging from natural law in the Aristotelian, Thomist and Kantian tradition to more pragmatic philosophies designed to bring about a public order of human dignity.

*Professor Emeritus John Makdisi, S.J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Law, St. Thomas University*

### **The Protection of Refugees**

LLM 414 (LAW 414) 1 Credit

This course will start with an introduction to the phenomenon of the increasingly large movement of refugees and migrants, often consisting of persons seeking asylum. The concept of international legal protection of refugees will be discussed and the basics of international refugee law examined, including the definition of a refugee as a basis for the determination of refugee status as well as its cessation and exclusion from it. The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 New York Protocol will be analyzed as well as regional instruments. Other themes will include: the mandate and work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; refugee protection and human rights; the principle of family unity; complementary protection; *non-refoulement*; the Global Compact on Refugees; asylum policies in Europe and the U.S.; and the international protection of migrants via the 1990 UN Convention on Migrant Workers and the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

*Professor Lauren Gilbert, Professor of Law, St. Thomas University*

### **Human Rights Lawyering {S}**

LLM 423 (LAW 423) 1 Credit

This course will provide students with hands-on instruction in the representation of victims of human rights abuses, the litigation of pertinent issues, and the public advocacy and litigation of human rights concerns.

*Professor Elsa Meany, Senior Program Officer, Center for Justice and International Law, Washington, DC*

### **Human Rights and Religion**

LLM 401 (LAW 401) 1 Credit

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\* Guest Lecturer

\* Guest Lecturer

This course will explore the parameters of the essential norms of religious human rights -- liberty of conscience, religious pluralism and equality, free exercise of religion, nondiscrimination on religious grounds, autonomy for religious groups. Individual religious rights include the right to change one's religion, to proselytize, and to reject one's religion; allied rights include freedom of speech, association, and travel. While these are civil and political in nature, the rights of religious minorities are social and cultural (and possibly economic). These norms will be explored from various religious and nonreligious perspectives with a view to understanding the religious rights of men, women and children individually as well as the rights of religious groups in the formation and protection of a cultural heritage.

*Professor Gordon Butler, Professor of Law, St. Thomas University*

## SPRING 2020 REQUIRED COURSES

### **Armed Conflict and Individual Liability**

LLM 416A (LAW 416A) 2 Credits

This course explores issues of humanitarian law, i.e. the law of armed conflict, faced by professionals of war, relief workers, humanitarian organizations and others working in complex emergencies. Students will explore and analyze emerging and controversial aspects of law and policy. With the proliferation of conflicts around the globe, humanitarian organizations are being forced into new and unfamiliar territory. Increasingly, humanitarian professionals are attempting to provide relief in settings of diminished security and are grappling with the growing involvement of non-state actors - from rebel groups to private corporations to humanitarian organizations themselves - in situations of armed conflict.

This course also explores novel issues of criminal liability under international law, resulting from war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and the crimes of aggression. It examines substantive elements of such crimes; jurisdictional elements of domestic and international law over international criminal activities; the implications of international cooperation in criminal matters, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance; and the history, practice, and impact of international war crimes tribunals, including the International Criminal Court under the Statute of Rome.

*Professor Toni Pfanner, Ph.D. (Econ.),\* Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium; former Chief Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross;*

*Professor Dr. Fausto Pocar,\* Professor of International Law, University of Milan, Italy; Member, Appeals Chamber, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (since 2000); President, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (2005-2008); Member, United Nations Human Rights Committee (1984-2000)*

*Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati, Professor of Law and Executive Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights; Director, Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University*

### **Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection**

LLM 421 (LAW 421) 3 Credits

This course will provide students with an introduction to the substantive norms of human rights in the inter-American, the European and the African systems of human rights protection, the main theoretical issues concerning the nature and scope of rights that appear in conventional instruments, and the diverse procedures available at the regional level for defense and protection of human rights.

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\* Guest Lecturer

\* Guest Lecturer

### ***a) The Inter-American System of Human Rights Protection***

This part of the course will provide students with an introduction to the substantive norms of human rights in the Inter-American system, the main theoretical issues concerning the nature and scope of rights that appear in conventional instruments, the diverse procedures available at the regional level for defense and protection of human rights, and the ways in which policymakers in the countries of the Western Hemisphere attempt to reconcile the demand for enforcement of human rights with current foreign policy objectives.

*Professor Viviana Krstičević, Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law, Washington, D.C.*

### ***b) The European System of Human Rights Protection***

This part of the course will give an overview of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights and its procedural as well as substantive guarantees. The Convention is applied by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. In the last half-century the Court has developed its own rich jurisprudence. Its doctrines cover the right to life, the prohibition of torture, slavery and forced labor, criminal procedure and the principle of legality, privacy and family law issues, freedoms of speech, of press, of assembly and association, equal protection, right to property, prohibition of death penalty, right to free elections, etc.

*Professor Federico Lenzerini,\*\* Professor of Law, University of Siena, Italy, and Consultant to UNESCO, Paris*

### ***c) The African System of Human Rights Protection***

This part of the course will examine the practice of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) regarding the review of individual and NGOs complaints, with a case study of the implementation of the right to a fair trial, since it has developed an important case law on this guarantee. The course will also deal with the development of in-site investigations and thematic procedures, especially those relating to the mandates and work of the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary and arbitrary executions and of the Special Rapporteur on the conditions of prisons in Africa. The course will conclude with an evaluation of the work done by the ACHPR under its protective mandate and a consideration on its future role in the context of the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

*Professor Tiyanjana Maluwa, Ph.D. (Cantab.), H. Laddie Montague Chair in Law & Associate Dean for International Affairs, Pennsylvania State University – Dickinson School of Law*

## **SPRING 2020 LL.M. CORE ELECTIVES**

### **Human Rights and the Environment**

LLM 418 (LAW 418) 1 Credit

This course looks at the linkages between human rights and the environment, how such linkages can assist efforts to protect both human rights and the environment, and what further collaboration between these two fields might be pursued. This includes discussion of specific

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\* Guest Lecturer

human rights that implicate the environment and the cases interpreting such rights, the use of the United Nations and regional human rights systems, as well as national courts, for enforcing human rights to protect environmental interests, and how human rights may be applied directly to corporations to protect the environment.

*Professor Alfred R. Light, Ph.D., Professor of Law & Director, Graduate Program in Environmental Sustainability, St. Thomas University*

### **International Economic Law and Human Rights**

LLM 405 (LAW 405) 1 Credit

The principal objective of this course is to analyze the process of transformation of international economic law and to assess what has been achieved in light of ever more important concerns relating to the effective protection of human rights. Special emphasis will be put on the WTO, the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD, and the EU. Economic freedom such as freedom of establishment, movement of persons, goods, services, and capital will be discussed, just as the content and impact of economic, social, labor as well as civil and political rights and environmental concerns.

*Professor Dr. iur. Markus Krajewski, Professor of Law and Chair, Centre for Human Rights, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany\**

*Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner, Professor of Law and Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights, St. Thomas University*

### **Human Rights and Terrorism**

LLM 416 (LAW 416) 1 Credit

This course seeks to explore and critically analyze the continuum of terror violence, its goals, its means, its perpetrators, and its intersection with all aspects of human rights. The goal of terror violence is to make society feel vulnerable and unprotected, simultaneously simple and complex in the same instant. It is the nature and severity of terror-induced harm that generally determines society's efforts to develop appropriate control, prevention, and punishment mechanisms. Especially after September 11, legal systems both domestic and international have responded to this unprecedented attack with a concerted global effort; this course will closely scrutinize the international legal issues arising in this context.

*Professor Mark Kielsgard, J.S.D., J.D. Programme Director and Associate Director, Human Rights Law and Policy Forum (HRLF), City University of Hong Kong*

### **Women's Rights and the Rights of the Child**

LLM 422 (LAW 422) 1 Credit

This course explores issues arising from the universal and regional legal instruments designed to protect the rights of women and the rights of the child, including, but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as their various protocols.

#### ***a) Women's Human Rights***

While human rights law has become a staple in legal discourse, women's human rights still lack this universal recognition. Human rights violations of women tend to be recognized only if such violations resemble those of men. Women who are tortured for their political beliefs are granted the same protections as men in the same position. However, if the abuse takes other, gender-specific forms, such as rape and forced impregnation, involves non-political, i.e., social and economic rights, or is inflicted by private rather than governmental actors, human rights protections are being disregarded.

In part this is a function of the universal subjugation of women; in part it is a function of the current human rights system which values male-identified rights, i.e., political rights, above others and focuses on abuses by governmental actors. Because of the general disregard of women's rights it is important to highlight the particular issues women face which involve violations of human rights. Such violations occur in the United States as well as internationally. In some cases women are treated differently even though there is no justifiable gender-based reason; in others women are treated the same as men even though unequal treatment would be more appropriate; in a third group of cases women are treated (un)equally because of a perceived gender difference.

### ***b) Human Rights of the Child***

This part of the course will consider issues and problems affecting children in light of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and related protocols, its background, and its normative policy dimensions. It considers the identification of the child as the holder of certain rights, with the grant of procedural status to assert these rights in appropriate domestic judicial and administrative proceedings. It treats the substance of the Convention alongside implementation of its provisions and the guiding principles of interpretation and construction of the child's "best interests", the "evolving capacities of the child", and equality in treatment (non-discrimination). It also addresses a variety of situations identified by the human rights community as making children especially defenseless, and discusses the child's means of international protection.

*Professor Nora V. Demleitner, former Dean and Roy L. Steinheimer, Jr. Professor of Law, Washington & Lee University School of Law*

### **LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights Thesis**

LLM 424      3 Credits

Instead of taking a two-credit seminar, students may write a three-credit thesis specifically for the LL.M. Program, on a topic of his or her choice in the field of human rights. The thesis should consist of a minimum of 15,000 words. Students arrange the supervision of their papers with one of the members of the law faculty who have indicated their willingness to serve as supervisors.

### **LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights Externship**

LLM 425      3 Credits

This is a single semester externship which, in 12 hours per week, provides opportunities for students of the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights to observe and participate in the activities of organizations dedicated to the fostering of human rights. Typical placements are NGOs, other organizations, or university or state and local governmental entities set up to promote the public interest. Participation in this program will provide students with the opportunity to contribute directly to making a positive social impact in disadvantaged communities and for vulnerable people. Students will work either directly in educational programming, or in operations of the organization. Supervision is provided by experienced attorneys in the field, who will also measure and grade the student's performance.

For the course calendar and other information, please visit the program's website at <http://www.stu.edu/humanrights>; or contact the Program Manager by e-mail at [humanrights@stu.edu](mailto:humanrights@stu.edu), by phone at (305) 474-2403, or by fax at (305) 474-2413.

## **J.S.D. IN INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

The J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights aims at providing a premier opportunity for promising human rights scholars to make a lasting contribution to the dynamic and action-oriented field of human rights through researching, analyzing and offering solutions to pertinent cutting-edge issues both globally and domestically. In particular, the J.S.D. program will be a powerful tool in meeting the diverse interests and career aims of the top quality students.

As any thesis-based doctoral degree, the J.S.D. in Intercultural Human Rights is the capstone academic achievement indicating ultimate academic specialization and original contribution in the chosen field. Its emphasis is on the imparting, analysis, elaboration and dissemination of knowledge about human rights in the world social process, and the development of recommended solutions to societal problems through interdisciplinary, problem- and policy-oriented research. Intercultural dialogue facilitates this research; it is enhanced by the diversity conspicuous not only in the student body, but also the program faculty as established in the residential LL.M. IHR Program.

### **Eligibility**

Students must have graduated with honors from St. Thomas University's LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights, i.e. with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. In rare cases, outstanding scholars from other institutions who hold an LL.M. degree in the field may be admitted as well, conditional upon enrollment in, and completion of, certain specified courses of the LL.M. IHR program. Candidates for the J.S.D. program need to prove to the School of Law's J.S.D. Committee that they are outstanding scholars at or near the top of their class who are capable of producing a publishable thesis that adds to the knowledge in the field, and who are capable of doing so within the time frame of the J.S.D. program.

At least two terms of work must be spent in residence at the School. This requirement may be satisfied by residence as an LL.M. candidate. In these cases, at least two additional years must be devoted to the preparation and revision of the dissertation. These additional years may be passed in residence or off campus, including outside of the United States. J.S.D. students admitted from other institutions have to spend at least one academic year in residence at St. Thomas University School of Law, and they have to enroll in, and pass, a minimum of twelve (12) credits, up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) credits, from among the required classes of the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights.

The J.S.D. degree in Intercultural Human Rights is conferred upon successful completion of a dissertation, the passing of the *rigorosum*, and proof of publication of the dissertation.

### **Admissions Process**

Applicants for admission to the J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights need to submit the following documents:

- (1) Completed J.S.D. Application Form
- (2) For St. Thomas LL.M. Graduates: LL.M. IHR Transcript
- (3) For non-St. Thomas LL.M. Graduates: Official transcripts from all college/university and/or certified foreign diplomas or certificates are to be sent directly from the issuing



institution to St. Thomas University School of Law, LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. All foreign diplomas and transcripts should be translated into English and certified or notarized. All foreign credentials must be evaluated by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) [www.NACES.org](http://www.naces.org) or the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC), at:

<http://www.lsac.org/jd/applying-to-law-school/cas> .

- (4) Writing Sample (e.g. LL.M. thesis, seminar paper)
- (5) Doctoral Dissertation Proposal consisting of:
  - a. Outline of the chosen topic; issues to be explored
  - b. An articulation of the topic's novelty
  - c. An initial bibliography
  - d. Methodology to be employed
  - e. A time frame for the stages and places of research as well as the estimated date of completion of the manuscript
  - f. Length: at least five (5) pages
- (6) Letter of Acceptance of Candidate and Topic by Supervising Faculty Member

Note:

- a. it is the applicant's responsibility to find and contact the potential supervisor, either one from the list we have provided or another scholar with expertise in the field of student's dissertation topic, and who has already earned a doctorate degree him- or herself. The supervisor's doctorate can be a J.S.D., S.J.D., Ph.D., Dr. iur. or equivalent.
  - b. The potential supervisor must have approved the topic and the dissertation proposal, before it can be submitted to the J.S.D. Committee.
- (7) One Letter of Recommendation
  - (8) \$100 Non-Refundable Application Fee

The Director of the Program reviews all the completed applications. All eligible applications will be submitted for decision to a four-member J.S.D. Committee formed by the Director and the Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights and two other members of the St. Thomas University School of Law faculty who hold a J.S.D., S.J.D., or Ph.D. degree or their foreign equivalent, such as the Dr. iur.

### **Additional Requirement for Non-St. Thomas Applicants**

In the case of non-St. Thomas applicants, the potential applicant is expected to consult with the Director of the Program, in person or telephonically, prior to submitting his/her application, to determine whether the program meets the applicant's needs, whether the nature of the program fits the applicant's profile, and whether the applicant's academic background and experience fit the program's requirements.

### **Admissions Decisions**

The applicants with the most original proposals, strongest academic records and promise of achievement are admitted to the Program.

Upon the decision of the J.S.D. Committee, an admission letter signed by the Director of the Program is mailed to the admitted students. Students who are not admitted to the program receive a letter denying their admission.

## **Enrollment Process**

A student who has been advised of his/her admission receives a Registration Form. Information regarding requirements to establish and maintain J.S.D. student status, deadlines for registration, and deadlines for pertinent payments is also included in this communication.

## **Students**

A J.S.D. student is defined as one who is enrolled in a J.S.D. thesis course for a minimum of two (2) years, and a maximum of five (5) years. In exceptional cases, the Director of the Program can extend this period to six (6) years; for an extension beyond six years, the approval by both the Director of the Program and the Dean of the School of Law is needed.

## **Registration**

J.S.D. students with no outstanding balance from the previous semester are automatically registered in the following semester, upon certification by the supervisor that the student has made sufficient progress toward completing the thesis.

It is the student's responsibility each end of semester:

- 1. to obtain the certification of progress by the supervisor*
- 2. to make sure they have cleared any and all financial obligations to St. Thomas University.*

Failure to enroll continuously in this program at any time and in any semester before its completion will be deemed a resignation from the J.S.D. program. Leaves of absence are not to be granted.

The J.S.D. thesis course is valued at nine (9) credits per semester (fall and spring only). This course is pass/fail. In order to receive a passing grade in this class, the thesis supervisor needs to submit a statement to the Registrar's Office that the J.S.D. IHR student has made sufficient progress toward completion of his/her thesis. Insufficient progress will result in student's dismissal from the program.

## **Termination and Withdrawal**

A student intending to resign from the program must express such intent in writing before the semester starts, by submitting a letter of withdrawal to the Program Director. Failure to submit the resignation request before the semester starts does not remove the student's financial responsibility for that semester.

Students who have failed to obtain the declaration of progress by their supervisor or who have failed to clear their financial obligations to St. Thomas University by the end of the semester are automatically excluded from registration for the subsequent semester, and their student status is terminated.

Should a student be terminated on the above grounds, the student will have to re-apply for admission to the J.S.D. program, and if admitted will be subject to all rules and policies as a first-time admitted student would.

## **Tuition and Fees**

The application fee is \$100. The program's tuition has been fixed at \$3,742 and its fees at \$250 per semester. Once their thesis is completed and submitted, students are charged a submission fee of \$3,000 designed to cover the costs of the two opinions on the thesis as well as the *rigorosum*. Students are responsible for the publication of the dissertation, as well as the costs thereof, in a format and venue approved by the J.S.D. Admissions Committee. If the student submits the dissertation after a semester has started, the regular semester charges will apply, and the submission fee of \$3,000 will be charged to the student's account in the semester immediately following the submission of the dissertation.

### Academic Evaluation

Towards completion of the requirements, the J.S.D. candidate has to submit a publishable manuscript of no less than 75,000 words on his/her chosen topic (the dissertation) to his or her supervisor. The format of this paper should be in Times New Roman font, size 12, and 1.5 spacing, with one inch space left on both left and right margins. Upon approval of the draft by the supervisor as final, the student will submit two bound copies of the manuscript to the Director of the Program.

**First Evaluation:** The supervisor will submit a substantive report on the dissertation, including the determination of a grade from a slate ranging from *summa cum laude* (highest honors), to *magna cum laude* (high honors), to *cum laude* (honors), to *rite* (pass), and *insufficenter* (fail). Upon completion of the review, the supervisor will forward his/her evaluation and the dissertation to the Director of the J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights.

**Second Evaluation:** Upon consultation with the J.S.D. Committee, the Director of the J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights will appoint a second evaluator who will appraise the thesis on its academic merit, submit a substantive evaluation report, and assign a grade from the range of *summa cum laude* to *insufficenter*. The supervising professor, the second grader of the dissertation as well as the members of the *rigorosum* committee should hold the academic equivalent of a J.S.D., S.J.D., Dr. iur. or Ph.D. degree.

The substantive reports of both the first and the second evaluator should point out concretely the degree of mastery of the subject-matter by the student, the exhaustiveness *vel non* of his/her research, his/her analytical depth, his/her style, but most importantly, the novelty of the contribution made by the dissertation to the knowledge in the field.

**Rigorosum:** Upon receipt of the second opinion, and both evaluators agreeing that the thesis merits at least a passing grade, the J.S.D. Committee will schedule a *rigorosum*. The *rigorosum* is about one-hour defense of the thesis before a committee of three qualifying faculty. In this defense, not just issues pertaining to the topic of the dissertation, but all issues relating to the field of human rights law and policy constitute legitimate subject-matters of questioning. The *rigorosum* committee, in its discretion, may extend the time of questioning beyond one hour. The *rigorosum* committee will determine the *rigorosum* grade from the range of *summa cum laude* to *insufficenter*.

The grades of the first and the second evaluator as well as the *rigorosum* must all be *rite* (pass) or above. They each count one-third toward the final grade, i.e. the grades of each of the three parts of the evaluation will be added up and divided by three to arrive at the final grade for the J.S.D. degree. To facilitate this count, the J.S.D. grades are given the following numerical values:

<i>summa cum laude</i>	=	5.0	(denoting an exceptional academic performance)
<i>magna cum laude</i>	=	4.0	(denoting a very good performance)
<i>cum laude</i>	=	3.0	(denoting an above average performance)
<i>rite</i>	=	2.0	(denoting a passing performance)
<i>insufficenter</i>	=	0.0	(denoting a failing performance)

In line with the J.D. program, grades can only be changed by the Dean or Associate Dean of the School of Law in case of arithmetical error by a faculty member, upon that faculty member's request.

**Timeframe:** The Evaluation Process may take up to two semesters from the semester when the student has submitted the dissertation as final, and the supervisor has accepted it as such.

### Readmission

The J.S.D. candidate has to enroll in a J.S.D. thesis course for a minimum of two (2) years, and a maximum of five (5) years. Failure to enroll in this continuing course at any time and in any semester before the completion of the program, *OR* receipt of a failing grade in any semester due to lack of sufficient progress toward the completion of the thesis *OR* the unauthorized failure to fulfill the financial obligations toward St. Thomas University before the end of the semester in which they are currently enrolled will be deemed a resignation from the J.S.D. program. Once such a resignation has occurred, the candidate may reapply for admission, which will be decided upon by the J.S.D. Admissions Committee. If admitted, the student will be bound by the two year minimum/five year maximum rule, as all newly admitted students.

### Graduation Requirements

- (a) The candidate must pass the two evaluations as well as the *rigorosum* and have a final grade.
- (b) The dissertation must be published. In order of preference, the best venue of publication is a recognized academic publisher or a university press with global or national reputation and distribution. The next venue would be publication by a commercial press. The least preferable venue would be ProQuest or a similar recognized academic venue which would microfilm the manuscript, save it digitally, and create a PDF version, but manufacture copies only upon prepayment or on demand.
- (c) The J.S.D. Committee has to approve a candidate's planned publication venue prior to its being chosen. If that prior approval is not secured, the degree may not be granted.
- (d) Upon approval of the publication venue, and in the case of publication with a recognized academic publishing house, a university press, a commercial publisher, or ProQuest, publication is considered proven by the submission of a signed and binding publication contract.
- (e) The final publication must contain a reference to St. Thomas University in the first page at "Acknowledgments." The suggested language is as follows: "*This book is an edited and updated version of my J.S.D. thesis in Intercultural Human Rights at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.*" This acknowledgment constitutes a condition on the publication attached to the granting of the J.S.D. degree, and if violated, the J.S.D. Committee may revoke the degree.

- (f) Regardless of what publication venue is being chosen, candidates have to submit, within two months of publication, five printed copies of the published book to the J.S.D. Committee. If this condition is violated, the J.S.D. Committee may revoke the degree.

### **Teaching and Research Methodology**

Every student admitted to the J.S.D. program will be supervised by a qualifying faculty member, who agrees, in advance, to this assignment. The supervising professor should hold the academic equivalent of a J.S.D., S.J.D., Dr. iur. or Ph.D. degree him- or herself. The supervising professors will be either qualifying St. Thomas University School of Law professors or select faculty outside of St. Thomas University willing to serve, if appropriate, as supervisors/graders of J.S.D. theses in Intercultural Human Rights.

In-house professors will be available as supervisors as agreed upon with J.S.D. candidates. Outside professor-supervisors will come to Miami at least once a year, as they often teach in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights, enabling students in Miami to get in touch with them at our place of instruction. As the usual time of completion of thesis is three years, the students would thus meet personally with their supervisor at least three times. Also, modern means of communication such as e-mail, Internet chat, fax, and telephone allow for constant and even instantaneous academic exchanges. The crowning task of the doctoral candidate will be the defense of his/her thesis against the challenges of a three-member faculty committee, including the supervisor, in a one-hour oral interchange, i.e. the *rigorosum*. The *rigorosum* may also test the candidate on his knowledge of the general field of human rights law and policy.

The law library with its extensive holdings in the fields of international law and human rights is available for use by the students. With regard to materials needed to be online for the benefit of graduate IHR students, St. Thomas University School of Law has made arrangements to provide access to the electronic databases that are normally used in its J.D. program.

### **Administrative Oversight**

In terms of University structure, the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights is a program of the School of Law and its faculty. The J.S.D. program is one component of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights.

The Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights, **Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner** oversees and implements the program, aided by the Executive Director, **Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati**. A full-time Program Manager, **Mrs. Haydee Gonzalez**, complements the administration.

### **Faculty**

The Faculty of the J.S.D. program has been carefully chosen for its unique combination of academic credentials and expertise with the practical experience in the field. Every student admitted to the J.S.D. program will be supervised by a qualifying faculty member, who has to agree, in advance, to this assignment. As far as qualifying faculty is concerned, the core of it is the faculty and guest lecturers of the LL.M. program. The supervising professor should hold the academic equivalent of a J.S.D., Dr. iur., or Ph.D. degree him- or herself.

**Professor W. Michael Reisman**, Myres S. McDougal Professor of Law at the Yale Law School, distinguished scholar of international law and jurisprudence, has published more than 20 books

and more than 200 articles. He is one of the co-founders of the policy-oriented approach to law, which inspires this program. Professor Reisman has also served as President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. He has given overall guidance and will provide continued support to the J.S.D. program.

*Key faculty and potential supervisors include:*

**Professor Emeritus Dr. iur. Eckart Klein** of the University of Potsdam, Germany law faculty, is the leading German scholar in the field of human rights and a past member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

**His Excellency Judge Dr. Fausto Pocar** is Professor of International Law Emeritus, University of Milan, Italy and a former Member of the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He also served as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2005-2008) and Chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (1984-2000). He is the Guest Lecturer on *International Criminal Law* within the class on *Armed Conflict and Individual Liability*.

**Professor Toni Pfanner, Ph.D. (Econ.)**, Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium, is the former Chief Legal Advisor to the ICRC, a key actor in the implementation of international humanitarian law, and the former Editor of the International Review of the Red Cross. He has, inter alia, taught courses in the UN/UNITAR International Law Fellowship Programme at The Hague. He is the Guest Lecturer on *Humanitarian Law* within the class on *Armed Conflict and Individual Liability*.

**Professor Dr. iur. Markus Krajewski** is Chair of Public Law and International Law at the Friedrich Alexander University Faculty of Law and Economics in Erlangen, Germany. Prof. Krajewski is one of the programme directors of the MA in Human Rights and chairperson of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN). He also chairs the Board of Trustees of the German Institute for Human Rights and is Secretary-General of the German Branch of the International Law Association. He is the Guest Lecturer in the class on *International Economic Law and Human Rights*.

**Professor Tiyanjana Maluwa, Ph.D. (Cantab.)** is the H. Laddie Montague Chair in Law & Associate Dean for International Affairs, Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. He previously worked as the legal counsel of the OAU (now African Union) and, subsequently, as Legal Adviser to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. He teaches the class on *The African System of Human Rights Protection*.

**Professor Adeno Addis, J.S.D.** is the W. Ray Forrester Professor of Public and Constitutional Law at Tulane Law School. He has widely published in the fields of international law and legal theory.

**Professor John Makdisi, S.J.D., Ph.D.** is Emeritus Professor of Law and the former Dean of St. Thomas University, under whose direction the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights was established. He has written extensively on Islamic law and American property law. His book-length article on *The Islamic Origins of the Common Law*, 77 N. CAR. L. REV. 1635 (1999), offers a startling new theory for connections between Islam and the West. He also has an expertise in moral theology. His Ph.D. dissertation on THE OBJECT OF THE MORAL ACT:

UNDERSTANDING ST. THOMAS AQUINAS THROUGH THE WORK OF STEVEN LONG AND MARTIN RHONHEIMER (Proquest 2017) offers new insights into moral action theory. Professor Makdisi served as dean of The University of Tulsa College of Law (1991-1994), Loyola University New Orleans School of Law (1996-1999), and St. Thomas University School of Law (1999-2003). He teaches the class on *Ethical Moorings*.

**Professor Alfred Light, Ph.D.** is a Professor of Law at St. Thomas University and the Director of its LL.M. Program in Environmental Sustainability. He has published numerous books and articles in the areas of federalism and intergovernmental relations, constitutional law, and environmental law. He is active in various bar associations and currently serves as the liaison of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources to its Standing Committee on Specialization. He teaches *Civil Procedure, Environmental Law and Human Rights and the Environment*.

**Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati** is a Professor of Law at St. Thomas University School of Law, Executive Director of its LL.M./J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights, and Director of its Human Trafficking Academy. She is a former Member of Parliament and Cabinet Member -- Secretary of State for Youth and Women -- in the Government of Albania, and is the only U.S. Member of the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace at the Vatican. She has written in the field of international law, international criminal law, human rights law and human trafficking law. She teaches *International Law, Human Trafficking Law & Policy, and Human Rights Law*.

**Professor Amy Ronner, Ph.D.** is a Professor Emerita of Law at St. Thomas University. She is the creator, and has been, till 1999, also the Director of the St. Thomas University School of Law's Appellate Litigation Clinic. She is well-published in her field with several books and articles.

**Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner** is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. He has published widely in the fields of international law, constitutional law and jurisprudence; he lectured in the UN/UNITAR International Law Fellowship Programmes at The Hague and Tehran. With W. Michael Reisman, he has published the leading casebook on INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE (Foundation Press, 2004). Recently, he published GENERAL THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (BRILL-Nijhoff 2017). He teaches *Constitutional Law, The International Bill of Rights* and seminars on the *Rule of Law and International Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

### **Other Potential Faculty**

Applicants also have the right to choose a supervisor from outside the list provided above. The chosen supervising professor must be a scholar and expert in the field of applicant's topic of dissertation, and he/she should hold the academic equivalent of a J.S.D. or Ph.D. degree him- or herself. The J.S.D. Committee must approve the chosen supervisor. The applicant must submit a C.V. of the potential supervisor, his/her declaration of acceptance of supervision, and his/her contact information.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE**

In 1988, the President of St. Thomas University proposed the creation of an International Human Rights Institute at the University, as a demonstration of its "willingness to transform its values and beliefs into action and service to the world community."

The “St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute” was created in November of 1991; it was launched formally on March 18, 1992, with the critical help of financial support received from the Metro-Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.

The mission of the St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute is to promote the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death through research and education on human rights issues, social advocacy, and direct service to individuals and families whose human rights are threatened or have been violated.

From its founding, the Institute has conducted immigration policy analysis. In 1994, based on research conducted in previous years, and supported by local (and later state, county, and other) grants, the Institute began to provide free (*pro bono*) direct legal services to immigrants and indigent members of the community. Since that time, the Institute has served over 100,000 individuals. Throughout its existence, the Institute has conducted research and consultancies for both government and non-governmental organizations in South Florida and beyond. The Institute also provides placement for students in the *pro bono* component of the Juris Doctor program. Currently, the Institute is expanding the scope of its work to include other areas, such as anti-trafficking and anti-slavery efforts.

The Institute often receives support from partners in the community to fulfill its mission. Current and past community partners include the American Friends Service Committee, the Black Lawyers Association, the Coalition of Florida Farmworkers Organizations, the Florida and Dade County Bar Associations, Legal Services of Greater Miami, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Immigration Law Center, Sant La-Haitian Neighborhood Center, the Sovereign Order of Malta, and the Yale Law School Lowenstein Human Rights Clinic.

In 1997, the Institute was awarded the first legal services contract funded by the State of Florida. It has received grants from many community and government organizations including the Dade Community Foundation, the Miami-Dade County Government, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families. It also has received in-kind support from the National Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Institute has won many awards for its service. In 1995, it received the “Peace and Unity Award” from the St. Martín de Porres Association. In 2001, it received the ARETE Award from the Miami-Dade County Commission of Ethics and Public Trust as the “Program of the Year.” In 2003, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners proclaimed December 10<sup>th</sup> as “St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute Day.”

For more information, contact Christine Reis, Esq., Director of the Human Rights Institute, at telephone (866) 491-6737.

## **LAW LIBRARY**

Law students will spend much of their academic days in the law library – studying, engaging in group study, or researching for papers or classes. St. Thomas is deservedly proud of its Law



Library and its facility houses over 325,000 volumes and volume equivalents, with seating for 500. The Law Library seating is a mixture of study carrels and tables, and study rooms are available to students on a reservation basis. During the academic year, the Library is open more than one hundred hours a week and the First Floor Reading Rooms are open for student use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Since its inception, the Library has integrated the use of online resources into its legal collection in addition to its traditional printed materials. The Law Library is integral to the School's efforts to promote faculty and student scholarship. It is a student-centered research and information environment, and an active and responsive force in the Programs of the School of Law.

The collection combines traditional hard copy and microform publications with online resources such as HeinOnline, Bloomberg Law, Wolters Kluwer/CCH, Oxford, ProQuest Congressional, Westlaw, LexisNexis, EBSCOhost e-books, West Academic Study Aids and Wolters Kluwer Study Library Aids Collection along with full text online access to interdisciplinary journals. The hard-copy collection includes basic materials such as court reporters, statutes, selected law reviews and other journals, treatises, and texts. Historical and less frequently used materials are available in microform, if not in hard copy. Students have unlimited access to the Law Library online resources, both on and off campus.

The Law Library aims to maintain a collection of materials from Florida and Federal jurisdictions, first for the use of the students, faculty and patrons of the School's Clinical Programs, and next for the use of alumni and members of the practicing bar in this jurisdiction. The Law Library provides instruction and personal assistance in conducting library research, and traditional reference services. The University Library, adjacent to the Law Library, is a selective federal depository that makes available many government documents, and also provides convenient access to non-legal interdisciplinary materials.

## **ALUMNI RELATIONS**

The St. Thomas Law Office for Alumni Relations works to support the mutually beneficial relationship between its broad network of alumni(ae) and the School of Law. The office assists in the implementation of programs and events for the benefit of current students and thousands of J.D. and LL.M. graduates in Florida, across the United States, and around the world. The St. Thomas Law Alumni Association, formed after the first class graduated in 1987, contributes to the success and development of the law school by creating and building upon the bonds between the school and its graduates, as well as the network between fellow alumni(ae). The Office of Alumni Relations maintains the official alumni website found at <https://lawalumni.stu.edu>. All alumni are encouraged to register on the website where one can connect and network with other STU Law alumni, view and register for upcoming alumni-related events, view career opportunities, view pictures from past alumni events, and much more.

St. Thomas Law's J.D. and LL.M. graduates become members of the Alumni Association immediately upon graduation. In partnership with the School of Law, the Association maintains a connection to the school, its students, faculty and staff, and the legal community. Every department within the law school is available to all alumni(ae), whether for job placement, networking, or opportunities to serve the community and the school.

As St. Thomas Law prospers into its fourth decade, the alumni(ae) base has grown to over 5,000 graduates who are succeeding in the legal arena, the business world, and in public service. St. Thomas Law's alumni(ae) exemplify the school's credo: Leaders Have the Courage and Compassion to Make a Difference.

## **SOLO AND SMALL PRACTICE PROGRAM**

Established in June 2016, the St. Thomas Law Solo and Small Firm Practice Program offers a select group of entrepreneurial-minded, Florida-Bar licensed, recent St. Thomas Law graduates ongoing training and valuable networking experiences to help build their professional careers as small firm/solo practitioners. For the most part, the law school graduate is equipped with a wide body of legal knowledge, but he/she often lacks both the practical experience to represent clients effectively, and also the business experience to open and operate a law firm successfully. The St. Thomas Law Solo and Small Firm Practice Program bridges this gap between knowledge and experience by offering practical training, ethical guidance, and networking support.

Designed to accelerate the successful development of newly admitted lawyers through an "incubator" concept, the Solo and Small Firm Practice Program encourages and supports its graduates by providing substantive and skills training workshops, coaching in marketing and business development, financial support, mentoring support, and networking opportunities. Per the program's requirements and in spirit with the mission of St. Thomas University, the attorneys give back to the community by satisfying a requisite amount of 50 pro bono hours.

The Solo and Small Firm Practice Program will provide to the attorneys multiple training sessions on how to build and operate a successful law practice. These sessions will take place either at St. Thomas Law or at a law firm convenient for all participants. In the sessions, experienced attorneys-including alumni and other members of the legal community -will discuss and present on various topics pertinent to starting a successful law practice. Upon completion of the program, attorneys will transition to growing their law firms on their own, and will in turn become graduates of the incubator program. As they "graduate" from the program (sometime between 12 and 18 months), they will become well-trained and well-prepared practitioners who proudly represent St. Thomas Law and give back to their respective communities.

Solo and Small Firm Practice Program attorneys will receive a structured education in the ethical practice of law and law practice management. Solo and Small Firm Practice Program attorneys also will expand their use of technology within the law office setting and develop cutting-edge methods of law practice that result in the efficient delivery of legal services to an expanding client base. In turn, clients who receive legal representation through the Solo and Small Firm Practice Program obtain affordable legal services.

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

The Office for Career Development assists St. Thomas students and alumni in obtaining law-related experiences, securing employment, and realizing their professional goals. Among other things, Career Development:

- develops, cultivates and maintains relationships with employers;

- coordinates on-campus interviews with law firms, public interest agencies, and government agencies seeking to employ St. Thomas Law students;
- arranges student participation in job fairs;
- provides individual counseling to assist students in career planning, assessing employment options, and creating strategic job searches;
- reviews and revises resumes, cover letters, and other materials relevant to the job search process;
- conducts informative programs, mock interviews, and interactive workshops involving members of the South Florida and national legal communities;
- maintains a web-based job posting service; and
- maintains a resource center for job-related resources.

## **REGISTRATION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

Each student is required to meet with the Office for Career Development at least once each academic year.

Each 1L and 2L student must meet with Career Development prior to February 28 (in the spring term) in order to be cleared for registration for classes in the following year.

Each 3L student must meet with Career Development in their last semester, to be cleared to receive their diploma.

Students will be notified as to the dates for these meetings via email each year.

For more information, regarding Career Development please visit the St. Thomas Law website under "Students" or contact the Office for Career Development at (305) 623-2351.

## **ON-CAMPUS HOUSING**

Law students have the opportunity to reserve housing at the Villanova Hall graduate floor, which offers private rooms with private baths. Students who live in the residence halls have the flexibility of paying for on-campus housing with a meal plan or choose to opt out of the meal plan and pay less. Meals are available in the cafeteria, buffet-style, and the Rathskeller, which offers a variety of sandwiches and grilled foods. Recreational facilities are also available at the convenience of the students when living on-campus. These facilities include basketball and tennis courts, a pool area, and weight room. Students interested in on-campus housing are advised to apply early for the limited spaces available. For more information, please contact the Residential Life Office directly at Office of Residential Life & Housing, St. Thomas University, 16401 N.W. 37th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33054, (305) 628-6554, e-mail: [reslife@stu.edu](mailto:reslife@stu.edu).

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The **Student Health Center** is dedicated to promoting health and well-being from the foundation of Catholic Identity guidelines for University communities. Our work is based upon the principles of Catholic Social Teachings and Catholic Health Care: the care and dignity of the individual, attending the needs of the marginalized and disenfranchised, respect for workers, care of the environment, and the promotion of peace and nonviolence in our world. At St. Thomas University, we have the unique advantage of providing an intimate, family education model, aimed at *'developing leaders for life.'* The Student Health Center staff generally holds a master (or above) level certification, in addition to contracted health care services provided by Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Student Health Center aims to promote the physical, emotional, behavioral, and mental health of students in a personalized, supportive, and professional manner as they prepare to become *leaders for life* in our global community.

**Location:** Building 9, Student Center.

### SERVICES

Mental health counseling and acute medical care for the St. Thomas community, and if unable to help you directly, Center staff will assist you in searching for resources.

- **Mental Health Counseling:** The Student Health Center provides students with assistance in addressing mental, emotional and behavioral concerns. Professional staff provides a variety of assessment, treatment and psycho-educational services. Services typically include brief psychotherapy, crisis intervention, referral programs, and psycho-educational resource materials. Through our comprehensive educational wellness programs, students may engage in “hands on” learning opportunities on special integrative wellness topics. The center also offers consultation services for faculty and staff to contribute to the overall goal of student success. Confidentiality is a foundational principle supporting our services.
- **Acute Medical Care:** To support the well-being of our students and in conjunction with our mission, services provided by a Registered Nurse and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner - through our contractual agreement with the Jessie Trice Community Health Center, Inc. - include: emergency first aid, nutrition counseling, screenings (e.g., HIV, vision, breast exam), chronic disease management (e.g., diabetes, high blood pressure), medication prescriptions. Individuals with medical concerns that require specialized diagnosis and treatment, or more comprehensive care are referred to a physician, clinic or hospital. Medical services received as a result of a referral are generally at the student's expense and based upon insurance provisions. Emergency medical care is obtained at Urgent Care Centers or hospitals. Transportation to these centers is usually provided by ambulances or, in less severe cases, students may arrange for their own transportation. Emergency and urgent care medical services are partially covered by students' health insurance. This includes ambulance services. For more information, please visit our web pages, <https://www.stu.edu/students/student-affairs/student-health-center/student-health-insurance/>.

**Contact:** For non-emergency questions regarding student health insurance, general health care, or to make an appointment in the University clinic, contact the center’s front desk at (305) 628-6690. To make an appointment for counseling services, call (305) 628-6695 or e-mail Maria Bedoya at [Mgaravito@stu.edu](mailto:Mgaravito@stu.edu) For emergencies, call 911.

**Hours:**

Clinic:	Monday - Friday.....	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Counseling:	Monday - Friday.....	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nurse Practitioner:	Tuesday & Thursday.....	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

**Student Insurance:** All full-time undergraduate, international, and law students are required to have adequate health insurance. This policy is in place for the sole purpose of safeguarding the well-being of students. There are no exceptions to this policy. If you do not have personal health insurance, an affordable health insurance plan is available for students of St. Thomas University. All full-time undergraduates, international, and law students are automatically enrolled in this insurance plan for the 2019-2020 academic year unless proof of comparable health coverage is provided online by the waiver deadline date. The Student Health Center communicates to students through St. Thomas University e-mail accounts, this includes the waive/enroll insurance information and deadline. Please be very careful to check your STU email regularly for updates on verifying existing health insurance, enrolling for student health insurance, and for all applicable deadlines. It is each student’s sole responsibility to assure full cooperation with the guidelines for health insurance enrollment every calendar year. Each student is required to submit proof of health insurance. Active insurance status will be checked for accuracy. Both enrollment for the insurance and providing proof of alternative insurance must be done entirely online during the period of July 1st through September 9, 2019.

For complete details of the plan benefits, enrollment and waiver deadlines, please visit: <https://www.stu.edu/students/student-affairs/student-health-center/student-health-insurance/>

**Health Record Requirements:** All incoming first year students must submit immunization records and physical forms prior to starting the semester. All first-year students residing on campus must show proof of a recent meningitis immunization. Check the Student Health Center webpage for information and University Immunization Guidelines and for health forms. <https://www.stu.edu/students/student-affairs/student-health-center/insurance-and-forms/> You may submit your health forms via e-mail at [studenthealth@stu.edu](mailto:studenthealth@stu.edu), via mail, or in person at the student health center (building 9). Students who reside on-campus may give their health forms to their Resident Advisors or Housing Officers when checking in. Health forms are maintained by the Student Health Center in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

At St. Thomas University, the Student Health Center reminds you that *“Health is a Unity of Mind, Body and Spirit.”*

## DISABILITY SUPPORT

Disabled students are directed to contact the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in order to request reasonable accommodations upon submission of adequate documentation of the disability. The school may require that the student be tested, at his or her expense, by a qualified professional. Students seeking accommodations for classroom or examination conditions should consult the Disability Guidelines Handbook available from the Office of Student Affairs and also available online on the St. Thomas Law website under "Students." Students must make a request for accommodations and provide documentation in a timely manner.

Any student who has previously received special accommodations in an educational setting and or on standardized testing (e.g., the L.S.A.T) should consult with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs about the policies and procedures regarding special accommodations. Generally, professors are not consulted, advised, or informed of a student's request for accommodations and consultations remain confidential.

Any student suffering from a physical injury or illness that may impact his or her ability to take examinations under ordinary circumstances should consult the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs as soon as practical to address the potential need for accommodations.

Students are provided special accommodations within the parameters of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students taking examinations with accommodation must check with the Registrar to verify the time and place of their examinations. A student's failure to arrive timely for his or her examination may lead to a termination of accommodations.

## TUITION & FEES SCHEDULE

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

#### J.D. PROGRAM

Tuition	\$19,950.00 per semester
Registration Fee	60.00 per semester
Student Activities Fee	25.00 per semester
Parking Fee	25.00 per semester
Library Fee	150.00 per semester
Materials Fee	180.00 per semester
University Service Fee	180.00 per semester
Administrative Fee	525.00 per semester
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,095.00 per semester</b>

Health Insurance (Annual) Fee*	1,555.00 per year
Health Insurance (Fall)	622.00 fall semester
Health Insurance (Spring/Summer)	933 spring semester
Supplemental Health Insurance Fee**	105.00 semester
Late Registration Fee	150.00 (after 1 <sup>st</sup> week)

Any (Fall or Spring) semester in which a J.D. student is authorized to take less than 12 credit hours \$1,663.00 per credit

Summer 2019 Tuition	\$1,588.00 per credit
Student Service Fee	250.00 per semester

**JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS (2LS & 3LS)**

Tuition – Law courses (Fall & Spring)	\$1, 663.00 per credit
Tuition – Graduate courses	782.00 per credit
Health Insurance Fee*	1,392.00 per year
Student Service Fee	1,145.00 per semester

**LL.M. IN INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Tuition	\$1164.00 per credit
Student Service	250.00 per semester
Book Fee	600.00 per semester
Late Registration Fee	150.00 (after 1 <sup>st</sup> week)

**J.S.D. IN INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

Tuition	\$3, 742.00 per semester
Student Service Fee	250.00 per semester

**LL.M. IN CYBER SECURITY**

Tuition	\$1164.00 per credit
Student Service	250.00 per semester
Late Registration Fee	150.00 (after 1st week)
Technology Fee	150.00 per semester

**ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**

*\*The health insurance fee will be waived upon timely submission of proof of private coverage prior to the end of the deadline established for submitting said documentation.*

*\*\*Minimum health insurance required of all students (will not be waived).*

**REFUNDS**

The effective date of withdrawal is the date on which a completed official withdrawal form is received by the Office of the Law School Registrar; the percentage of credit will be determined by this date. The term begins on the first day of classes for that session, not the student’s first day of attendance. Refunds for students who have withdrawn are based on tuition only. *Fees and deposits are non-refundable.* If a student has been awarded financial aid, the financial aid programs from which the funds were disbursed will be refunded in accordance with the formula required by federal law. Tuition refunds are calculated as follows:

<b>Fall &amp; Spring Term</b>	<b>% Deducted From Account</b>	<b>% You Owe</b>
Up to the 8 <sup>th</sup> day of term	100%	0%
9 <sup>th</sup> day of term	90%	10%
10 <sup>th</sup> day of term	50%	50%
No refunds after the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of term	0%	100%

  

<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>% Deducted From Account</b>	<b>% You Owe</b>
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Up to the 1 <sup>st</sup> class day of term	100%	0%
No refunds after 1 <sup>st</sup> class meeting	0%	100%

Refunds will be processed within 14 business days after credit appears on student accounts pursuant to the Federal Department of Education regulations. Students are required to enroll in direct deposit. If the student does not have a bank account or does not provide bank account information, he/she will be issued a debit card, as checks will no longer be an option. Refunds via direct deposit are directly deposited to students' checking or savings accounts. During high volume refund periods, refunds will be processed according to the schedule provided by the Business Office.

Refunds of room and board charges for resident students who withdraw (or are dismissed) from the law school are calculated by the Office of Residential Life. Unused portions of security deposits will be refunded upon the approval of the Housing Office. If the student owes a balance to the University, the deposit will be applied to the outstanding balance.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The law school has an in-house Director of Law Student Financial Services. His office is located in the Student Affairs suite on the first floor of the law school, across from the Law School Registrar's counter. The guidelines for Federal Financial Aid are set out below. The Director of Law Student Financial Services processes all law student loan applications, provides on-going training and information sessions regarding the financial aid process, financial aid planning and financial literacy programs. Please note that disbursements are made from the University Business Office, therefore it is essential that students timely complete all financial aid forms and provide all needed information to allow for timely payment of tuition and receipt of disbursements.

To assist students with the cost of their education, St. Thomas University School of Law offers financial assistance to eligible law students in the form of scholarships, federal student loans and part-time employment. A law student at St. Thomas may receive a financial assistance packet combining aid from more than one of these sources. Aid from all sources may not exceed the cost of attendance.

St. Thomas University School of Law has a program that provides merit scholarships to incoming students based upon admissions criteria established by the Dean. Students may earn a merit scholarship in their second and/or third year based upon their class ranking.

In addition to merit scholarships there are a number of scholarships made available due to the generosity of donors and alumni. These scholarships are competitive and selection is based on criteria established by the donor.

Inquiries regarding law school scholarships should be made to the Law School Office of Admissions. Inquiries regarding other financial aid programs should be directed to the Director of Law Student Financial Services. The guidelines for Federal Financial Assistance are set out below.

### **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID**

To be considered for Federal Financial Assistance programs, a student must:



- Be a citizen, national or eligible non-citizen of the United States.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Be Registered with Selective Service (if required by law).
- Be accepted and enrolled in the JD program at least half-time (6 credits fall/spring; 3 credits summer).
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as determined by the law school and the Financial Aid Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress).
- Not owe a refund or be in default of any Title IV funds.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and all other required forms within designated deadlines.

### APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students interested in applying for federal student aid may do so only after they have submitted their application for admission to St. Thomas University School of Law. A student may complete financial aid forms prior to being accepted to the Law School at St. Thomas University. However, no offer of financial aid will be awarded until the student has been officially accepted for admission to the law school and all required financial aid documents have been received. **Financial aid is not available for audited or minimester courses.**

To be considered for federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Direct Student Loan Programs, the student must:

1. **Request a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID)** at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). FSA ID is used to electronically apply for federal student aid and access your federal student aid records online. Your FSA ID serves as your electronic signature. Be sure to keep your FSA ID in a safe place.
2. **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** each year at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The result of your FAFSA is called the Student Aid Report (SAR) and it summarizes the data you reported on your application. You will receive your SAR via e-mail confirmation. Please be sure to read and review this information carefully for accuracy. Should you need to make corrections you may do so electronically by submitting a FAFSA correction online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). **St. Thomas University's Federal School Code is 001468.**
3. **Complete Loan Entrance Counseling** online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Federal regulations governing the borrowing of Federal Student Loans require that all students receiving a Federal Direct Student Loan complete a Loan Entrance Counseling. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford or Graduate PLUS Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete an Entrance Counseling before your loans can be disbursed. You will only be required to complete the Loan Entrance Counseling once.
4. **Complete a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Master Promissory Note (MPN)** online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete a Stafford Unsubsidized MPN before your loans can be processed. You may be eligible to borrow up to \$20,500 per academic year through the Stafford Loan

program. These loans are unsubsidized so interest will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 6.08%\*. This loan is subject to a 1.062%\* federal loan fee deducted at the time of disbursement. There is no credit check required and no payments are required while you are in school at least half-time. Several repayment options are available.

5. **Complete a Direct PLUS Loan MPN for Graduate/Professional Students.** In some cases, it may be necessary for you to request more than the maximum loan limit under the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. The Direct PLUS Loan program may allow you to borrow up to your cost of attendance minus all other forms of financial aid you will be receiving. This loan is subject to credit approval by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Interest on this loan will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 7.08%\* and a 4.248%\* federal loan fee will be deducted at disbursement. Although the Direct PLUS Loan enters repayment immediately after the loan is fully disbursed, you are not required to make payments while you are in school at least half-time. To apply for a Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students you must complete a Grad PLUS MPN online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. This loan is subject to credit approval based on criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education. If your application is declined due to adverse credit, you may be given the option to appeal the credit decision or apply with an endorser. Should your loan be approved, with a successful appeal or obtaining a credit-worthy endorser, you will be required to complete a **PLUS Loan Counseling** session at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) prior to your loan being disbursed. To learn if your loan will be approved for credit, you may complete the "Apply for a Direct PLUS Loan" Process (this is a credit check) online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

In addition to the items listed above, you may be required to submit other forms of documentation such as: proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, income verification, copies of a valid Driver's License or Social Security Card, proof of Selective Service Registration, and/or proof of non-default. Be sure to review your Student Aid Report (SAR) carefully to determine if you should submit any additional documentation to the Office of Law Student Financial Affairs. Your financial aid file can only be processed once you have submitted all required documents.

**Please be sure to read all documents carefully and complete each item in its entirety. Incomplete applications will delay the processing of your Financial Aid file.**

*\*Rates and Fees are subject to change. For more information on the Federal Direct Student Loan Programs please visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).*

**For more information on the Federal Direct Student Loan Programs please visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).**

## **VIEWING AND ACCEPTING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD**

**A student can check on the status of his or her award, and accept, decline, or reduce the award online via your STU MyBobcat Account's Financial Aid Self-Service portal.** Once St. Thomas University's Office of Financial Aid receives and reviews the results of the FAFSA and all required documents are submitted to process the file, an estimated Financial Aid Award notification will be prepared for you based on full-time enrollment. The award may include

Scholarships awarded by the School of Law as well as a Direct Stafford *Unsubsidized* Loan, Direct Graduate PLUS Loan and/or a Private Loan. **Keep in mind this is only an estimated award notice, final eligibility for loans will be determined by the Financial Aid Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, or the lender.** By accepting a loan as part of a financial aid package, you will incur a binding obligation to repay the loan in full, including interest and any applicable fees. It is essential when a student plans their educational costs that they also plan for future repayment of any amounts borrowed.

## DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REFUNDS

Any funds applied to your student account in excess of your tuition, fees, and other direct costs will be refunded to you via Direct Deposit to your personal bank account within 14 business days of the funds being received by the University's Student Accounts Office. If you are requesting financial aid funds in excess of your anticipated costs, you will be required to complete a Direct Deposit Form at least 15 business days in advance of receiving your refund. To complete the Direct Deposit Form, please go to [www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid/forms](http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid/forms). You will need to provide the name of your financial institution, along with their routing number and your personal account number. Should your bank information change, you will need to submit updated Direct Deposit information to the University by submitting a new Direct Deposit Form. For further information or assistance, please contact the University's Student Accounts Office at (305) 474-6977.

## STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

### Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program

As a law student you may be eligible to borrow up to \$20,500 per academic year (Fall-Spring) through the Stafford Loan program, if you are a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen, and meet all other eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid. These loans have a fixed interest rate of 6.08%\* and interest will begin accruing at disbursement. This loan is also subject to a 1.062%\* federal loan fee deducted at the time of disbursement. There is no credit check required and you will not be required to make payments on this loan while you are in school at least half-time. Your total aggregate borrowing limit under the Stafford Loan program is \$138,500 (including undergraduate loans).

### Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Program for Graduate/Professional Students

In addition to the Stafford Loan, law students needing to borrow more than \$20,500 per academic year (Fall-Spring) may be eligible to borrow additional funds through the Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan program. The Direct Grad PLUS Loan may allow you to borrow up to your Cost of Attendance minus all other forms of financial aid you will be receiving. Interest on this loan will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 7.08%\* and a 4.28%\* federal loan fee will be deducted at disbursement. Although the Direct PLUS Loan enters repayment immediately after the loan is fully disbursed, you are not required to make payments while you are in school at least half-time. This loan is subject to credit approval based on criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education. If your application is declined due to adverse credit, you may be given the option to appeal the credit decision or apply with an endorser. Should your loan be approved, with a successful appeal or obtaining a credit-worthy endorser, you will be required to complete a **PLUS Loan Counseling** session at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) prior to your loan being disbursed. To learn if your loan will be approved for credit, you may complete the "Apply for a Direct PLUS Loan" Process (this is a credit check) online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) after May 1, 2019.

*\*Rates and Fees are subject to change. For more information on the Federal Direct Student Loan Programs please visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).*

### **Private Loans**

Private or Alternative Loans are non-federal student loans typically borrowed by students who are not eligible for Federal student loans, or otherwise chose not to borrow from the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Direct Student Loan Program. Private loans are subject to credit approval by your lender of choice. In some cases, you may be required to apply with a credit-worthy cosigner. Although the private loan may allow you to borrow up to your total Cost of Attendance (COA), you should borrow only what you need. In most cases, these loans have variable interest rates and repayment terms may vary between lenders. International students may be required to apply with a credit-worthy United States citizen as a co-signer/borrower. In some cases, the lender may require that you submit additional information along with your application such as, proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of income. It is strongly suggested that students consider borrowing through the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Direct Student Loan Programs before pursuing any private or alternative loan programs. If your total COA has been met by other forms of assistance (scholarships, grants, federal loans, etc.) you will not be eligible for a private/alternative loan. Private loans cannot be consolidated with your federal loans, and repayment options and incentives may vary from those offered by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Bar Study Loans**

Bar Study Loans are credit-based private loans (not a federal loan) which may be borrowed to assist law school graduates with costs related to the Bar Exam. Students may apply for a Bar Study Loan in their last year of law school. The funds from the Bar Study Loan are disbursed directly to the student from their lender of choice. Most Bar Study Loans have variable interest rates and the borrower benefits may vary between lenders. Because Bar Study Loans are private loans they cannot be consolidated with your federal loans, and repayment options and incentives may vary from those offered by the U.S. Department of Education. In most cases, lenders will require the school to certify your graduation date before funds can be disbursed.

## **FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN EXIT COUNSELING**

In accordance with federal regulations, all students who have received a Federal Stafford and/or Grad PLUS Loan while attending the University must complete **Loan Exit Counseling** prior to leaving the University or graduating, whichever comes first. The purpose of the Loan Exit Counseling is to advise the borrower of the amount of indebtedness, deferment, forbearance, and consolidation provisions related to loan repayment. The student can complete the Loan Exit Counseling online by visiting the U.S. Department of Education's website at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

## **HOW TO BORROW WISELY**

- Don't borrow without looking into alternate methods of financing your education (i.e. scholarships, fellowships, savings, family assistance, etc.)
- If you must borrow a private loan, carefully compare loan terms, including interest rates, loan fees, and repayment incentives.
- Repay your debts as soon as possible, the longer you owe, the more you will pay.
- To help secure your financial future, don't borrow more than what you will be able to afford to repay.

- Try to borrow as little as possible. **Borrow ONLY what you need.**

## STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The federal regulations governing the student financial assistance programs stipulate that in order to continue to be eligible for Title IV funds (i.e. Direct Stafford Loans, Direct PLUS Loan, Federal Perkins Loans, and Federal Work Study) students must maintain satisfactory academic progress towards a degree. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will be reviewed at the end of each semester. To maintain satisfactory academic progress, students must achieve both a minimum grade point average (GPA) and complete a minimum number of credit hours as defined below.

### Qualitative Measure (GPA):

All Law students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

### Quantitative Measure (PACE):

All law students are required to complete a minimum of 67% of all credit hours attempted.

### Maximum Time Frame:

Law students are eligible to receive financial aid up to 50% over and above the maximum number of credit hours required to obtain his/her law degree as defined in the University's Catalog.

Additional information regarding the Financial Aid Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress may be found online at [www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid](http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid).

**Merit Scholarships and other Institutional Awards** may be subject to other measures of Satisfactory Academic Progress determined by the School of Law.

## DEFICIENCIES/PREREQUISITES

Students who are admitted with deficiencies and/or prerequisites will have those credits added to their minimum degree requirements.

## TREATMENT OF PUNITIVE AND NONPUNITIVE GRADES AND COURSES

All courses with a grade of F, I, W, UW and repeated courses will be considered in the calculation of credit hours attempted and will be subject to the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress. Audited courses are not considered in awarding financial aid; therefore, they will not be counted in the determination of satisfactory academic progress. Incomplete (I) grades will be calculated as failing grades in regard to Credit Hour Completion until the course has been satisfactorily completed. For the purposes of Federal Financial Assistance, students granted Academic Amnesty will have ALL credits attempted and grades earned prior to Re-starting at the Law School included in the calculation of Satisfactory Academic Progress.

## NOTIFICATION OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STATUS

Before issuing an award, the Director of Law Student Financial Services will review the applicant's eligibility based on the student's academic performance at the end of each semester. Students who have not met the minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress will be

placed on **Financial Aid Warning** for one semester. Students who have not met the minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress at the end of two consecutive semesters will be placed on **Financial Aid Suspension**. Students placed on Financial Aid Suspension will not be eligible to receive additional federal student aid funding (including federal loans).

### **REINSTATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY**

A student may regain eligibility by:

- Achieving the required GPA and Credit Hour Completion as outlined above.
- Appealing the financial aid decision as described below.

### **APPEAL PROCESS**

A law student who does not meet satisfactory academic progress standards and is able to document extenuating circumstances may appeal the suspension or termination of financial aid eligibility.

1. To appeal, the student must submit the Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form (available on line at [www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid/forms](http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid/forms)) with proper documentation to the Director of Law Student Financial Services.
2. Provide in writing a one page “academic plan” on how he or she plans to regain satisfactory academic standards.
3. The student will be notified of the decision within 15 business days of the receipt date.

More information on the Federal Financial Aid Appeal Process is available online at [www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid](http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid).

**Note: All charges incurred during any period of time for which a student’s aid is denied/suspended are the sole responsibility of the student.**

### **DROPPING/WITHDRAWING**

Federal student aid is subject to the U.S. Department of Education’s Return of Title IV funds policy which states that when a student completely drops or withdraws from school during a semester in which he/she received federal student aid (including loans), the school must calculate, according to formulas defined by the U.S. Department of Education, the portion of aid the student earned for the time he/she was enrolled in school. If a student completely drops or withdraws from school prior to completing at least 60% of the semester, you (the student) and/or the school may be required to return all or a portion of the aid awarded to you, and you may incur a balance with the University. To avoid any unnecessary financial hardship, you should consult with the Director of Law Student Financial Services prior to dropping or withdrawing.

Financial aid is refunded based on the date of withdrawal from St. Thomas University. Refunds to the federal student financial aid programs must be made prior to issuing a refund to the student. The order of distribution of refunds is as follow:

1. Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
2. Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan

3. Federal Perkins Loan
4. Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students
5. Other Title IV Programs
6. Other non-federal financial aid
7. Student

**Your ability to drop or withdraw from a class and the procedures for doing so, are set out in the section of the Handbook entitled “Withdrawals”.**

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **As a Student you have the Right to:**

- Information regarding application procedures, cost of attendance, aid availability, financial need, awarding criteria, and disbursement information.
- Information regarding tuition and fees as well as refund policies and procedures (available in the Business Office Handbook).
- Information regarding the terms and conditions of student loans (provided by your student loan lender).
- Information regarding how academic progress is determined (available in the school’s catalog or website).
- Make Inquiries regarding the status of your financial aid application.
- Accept or decline all or any portion of the financial aid being offered to you.

### **As a Student you are Responsible for:**

- Submitting valid financial aid applications in a timely manner for each academic year for which you are seeking financial assistance.
- Providing all documentation, verification information and corrections as requested by the Office of Financial Aid, Federal Processor, or your lender/servicer.
- Reading and responding, if necessary, to all materials sent to you from the Office of Financial Aid, Federal Processor or your lender/servicer.
- Knowing and complying with rules governing the aid you are receiving including enrollment requirements and satisfactory academic progress.
- Knowing the conditions and repayment terms of any loans you borrow as well as completing the **Loan Entrance Counseling** prior to receiving any disbursements of a Direct Stafford or Direct Grad PLUS Loan.
- Completing a **Loan Exit Counseling** prior to graduation or separation from school.
- Paying any tuition, fees, room and board, or other expenses not covered by your financial aid.

## **WORK STUDY PROGRAMS**

### **LEGAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS**

Students who have completed the first year of law school may be eligible for positions as research assistants. Research assistants work a maximum of 20 hours per week. Research assistants are selected by faculty members and are generally students who have demonstrated strong research and scholastic abilities.

## **WORK STUDY**

This is a limited need-based program providing on-campus jobs for second and third year students. The application process is similar to that for federal financial aid. The average work study award is \$2,000 per semester. For more information on these programs, contact the Mariela Torres in the Faculty Suites.

## **VETERAN BENEFITS**

St. Thomas University is approved for undergraduate, graduate, and law school educational benefits for veterans and eligible dependents under current public law. Students who may be eligible for educational benefits under any Veterans Administration program should contact:

Veterans Administration Regional Office

PO Box 100022

Decatur, GA 30031-7022

(800) 827-1000

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

### **Chapter 33 Yellow Ribbon**

St. Thomas University School of Law is proud to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program established by the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008. Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, students who are eligible for Chapter 33 benefits at the 100% rate will receive up to \$24,476.79 and up to an additional \$10,000 in Yellow Ribbon Match per academic year (August 1-July 31) in education benefits to cover tuition and fees. Depending on your years of service, you may also be eligible for housing and book allowances payable by VA. Your veteran's educational benefit is determined by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Before St. Thomas University School of Law can submit your enrollment certification to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs you will be required to provide the following documents to the School's Certifying Official for VA Benefits.

1. Copy of your Application For VA Education Benefits (VA 22-1990)
2. Copy of your DD214
3. Copy of your Certificate of Eligibility Letter

For more information, or to apply for Veteran's Educational Benefits, eligible students **MUST** contact the VA Regional Office at least one semester in advance of the date of their intended enrollment in the law school and submit all required documents.

### **VA Pending Payment Compliance**

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA.

This school will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;



- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

## **SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

Scholarships, fellowships, and awards are administered through the School of Law Office of Student and Alumni Relations, unless otherwise noted, and are awarded on an annual basis subject to the availability of funds. Applications are available in the Office of Student Services.

### **LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **SCHOOL OF LAW MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are available to qualified J.D. students based on scholastic achievement and the availability of funds. For entering first-year students, eligibility is based on the LSAT and undergraduate GPA. Eligibility for second- and third-year students is based on class rank and law school GPA. Consideration for merit scholarships is automatically given to all students; no formal application is required. All awards are made on a yearly basis. Transfer students are considered after they complete a full year at St. Thomas. For additional information on specific award criteria, contact the Office of Admissions.

### **DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **JACQUELINE ALLEE SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship was established in honor of former St. Thomas University School of Law Dean Jacqueline Allee Smith. It continues to be funded today with contributions from faculty and friends. The award is presented annually to a J.D. student on the basis of academic performance and financial need.

#### **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS - FLORIDA CHAPTER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

An award is presented annually by the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers to the outstanding student in family law. The purpose of the scholarship, established in 1991, is to underline the significance of family law in the law school curriculum and to support those J.D. students interested in pursuing family law as both a course of study and a course of practice.

#### **AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES**

An award is presented annually by the Miami Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) to a student who exemplifies professionalism and civility in advocacy practice and competition. The student is nominated by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and selected with input from the St. Thomas Law advocacy coaches.

### **C. CLYDE ATKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Established in 1999 with proceeds from a Dade County Bar Association tribute honoring Judge Atkins, as well as with ongoing gifts from family members and friends, this endowed, need-based scholarship is awarded annually to a St. Thomas J.D. student. Judge Atkins, long recognized as a champion of civil rights and a staunch defender of the homeless and refugees, served on the School of Law Board of Advisors since its founding in the early 1980s.

### **ATTORNEYS' TITLE INSURANCE FUND AWARD**

This award is presented annually to a top J.D. student who has contributed significantly to the advancement or analysis of issues related to real property law or legal education. Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc., Florida's leading title insurance underwriter and title information provider, seeks to preserve and facilitate the real estate practices of its members and their protection of the public.

### **BENVENUTI-MULVEY SCHOLARSHIP**

Generous benefactors Adrienne R. and Edward J. Mulvey established this scholarship in memory of their parents through a planned gift in the early 1990s. The scholarship was endowed in 2002 following Mr. Mulvey's passing. This need-based scholarship, which assists St. Thomas Law students with their legal education, stands as a lasting tribute to the generosity of Edward and Adrienne Mulvey, and to their values and those of their parents. The Mulveys have established several scholarships for St. Thomas students at both the School of Law and the greater University.

### **BROWARD COUNTY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship, matched by St. Thomas University School of Law, is presented annually to one or more Hispanic St. Thomas J.D. students preferably residing in Broward County and demonstrating scholarship, leadership, and financial need. This scholarship may vary in amount from year to year and be either merit- or need-based, or both merit- and need-based, as determined by the particular corporate sponsor providing the award for presentation through the BCHBA. The recipients are selected in late spring and recognized at the annual BCHBA Installation and Scholarship Banquet held in early summer.

### **CANTENS FAMILY FOUNDATION LAW SCHOLARSHIP**

The Cantens Family Foundation Law Scholarship was established by alumni(ae) Gaston Cantens '93 from the law school and his wife Ana Tejada Cantens '93 from the main campus in 2007. This endowed scholarship is to be award to a J.D. student with financial need.

### **TAMARA L. CROUCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is awarded in loving memory of Tamara L. Crouch, a former criminal lawyer, a defender of human rights, and a great friend of the LL.M./J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. It was her wish to facilitate the education, training, and scholarship of human rights advocates, activists, educators, and students in the LL.M. program. This competitive scholarship consists of \$1,000 to assist a student enrolled in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights with the cost of tuition, fees, and, if necessary, housing expenses.

### **CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is awarded to a Cuban American J.D. student who has demonstrated distinction in academics, or public service, or both, *or* to any student who has demonstrated

distinction in one or more of the following: research, writing, community service, or other activities of importance to the Cuban-American community. Formal application to CABA is required. CABA selects the recipient in early summer and recognizes the recipient at a CABA event the following fall.

#### **JOSE ANGEL ESPINO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jose Angel Espino '88 was an engaging member of the St. Thomas University School of Law Charter Class who passed away shortly after graduating from law school. He is remembered for his tireless effort throughout law school despite his illness. This scholarship, awarded to a Hispanic student based on merit and need, was established in his memory by his aunt, Josefina I. Espino, and his sister, Maria Dolores "Loly" Espino, a professor of economics at St. Thomas University.

#### **KENNETH FELDMAN *PRO BONO* SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This scholarship is awarded to a 3L student with financial need who has provided exemplary *pro bono* service while a student at St. Thomas University School of Law. There is no application process for this scholarship; rather, the recipient is selected by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs based upon the number of hours of *pro bono* service reported at the time of the selection and indicia of financial need evidenced by the financial aid documents submitted by the student to the University.

#### **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS SCHOLARSHIP**

Each year FAWL presents one or more scholarships to a student or students the association selects from a pool of candidates identified by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The students must have financial need and be active in community and school activities. FAWL scholarships are awarded at the annual FAWL Judicial Luncheon each spring.

#### **THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION IOTA PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS**

These public interest fellowships are made available to St. Thomas law students through The Florida Bar Foundation's IOTA Program. Students can apply through the School of Law's Office of Career Services.

#### **THE FLORIDA BAR LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is awarded to a J.D. student who demonstrates outstanding performance in labor and employment law courses.

#### **HAROLD W. "BUTCH" GABEL III ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD**

This award is presented annually to a second- or third-year J.D. student "who courageously promotes the integration of morality within the fabric of the law." Harold W. "Butch" Gabel III was a second-year law student when he died tragically in a motorcycle accident. Ranked in the top 5% of his class, Butch served as a Dean's Fellow who exemplified love of the law. He was a founding member of the law school's St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society because of his concern that morals and ethics be an integral part of legal decision-making, and of the Federalist Society because of his fervor and passion for the law and the culture it guides.

#### **THOMAS HARGIS ANDERSON LAW SCHOLARSHIP**

The Thomas Hargis Anderson Law Scholarship was established by his family. Mr. Anderson dropped out of college during his freshmen year to help his family; he worked as a banker during the day and studied at night. Mr. Anderson was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1925. He

practiced law predominantly in Dade County for 50 years; he also served as Dade County Bar Library, president. This scholarship will be awarded to a J.D. student with financial need.

#### **JAMES "JAMIE" HARKINS SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship was established in 1999 by the family of Jamie Harkins, who died of cancer during the spring semester of his second year of law school. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Catholic J.D. student who is actively involved in projects or programs to benefit the School of Law and who demonstrates financial need.

#### **RICHARD A. & JEANNETTE F. HAUSLER SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship was established in 1999 by Richard and Jeannette Hausler, renowned legal educators in South Florida, he as a professor for more than 50 years and she as Associate Dean and Dean of Students at the University of Miami School of Law. Their commitment to the values of Catholic education impelled them to play an instrumental role in the founding of St. Thomas University School of Law. Professor Hausler, who taught in the law school's Summer in Spain program, passed away in March 2000. Dean Hausler continues to serve as chair emeritus of the School of Law Board of Advisors. The scholarship is awarded to a J.D. student in good standing and in financial need.

#### **DAVID HARVAN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The David Harvan Legal Scholarship was established by David Harvan '96 alumni in 2012 and his contributions were matched by his employer, Bank of America. This scholarship will be awarded to a J.D. student with financial need.

#### **NEW HOPE CHARITIES SCHOLARSHIP**

The New Hope Charities Scholarship was established in 2006 through the efforts of the former president of St. Thomas University and founder of the School of Law, the Rev. Father Pat O'Neill, the president of Hew Hope Charities. This award is presented to a J.D. student on the bases of academic performance and financial need.

#### **ARYA LAGHAIE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHT SCHOLARSHIP**

This educational scholarship is established in memory of Arya Laghaie by his family and friends, as well as alumni and faculty of St. Thomas University Law School. An alumnus of the Master of Laws Program in Intercultural Human Rights, Arya Laghaie was a young man who tragically lost his life in a hit and run accident, in the town where he was volunteering to assist indigenous peoples. The purpose of this scholarship is to carry on Arya's work in providing services to indigenous communities and his aspiration for indigenous peoples' rights. It is awarded annually to a graduate student currently enrolled in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights at St. Thomas University School of Law, who demonstrates outstanding knowledge of and commitment to the cause of indigenous peoples' rights, or who has already provided substantial support to indigenous communities. The scholarship consists of \$1,500. Detailed information available on the website: [www.stu.edu/humanrights](http://www.stu.edu/humanrights).

#### **PROFESSOR MARVIN KLEIN AND FAMILY LAW SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This scholarship was established by Professor Marvin Klein and his family to benefit current and future JD students through annual scholarships for: ethnic minority students, preference being given to African-Americans or other under-represented ethnic minorities at the Law School. The criteria will emphasize demonstrated character with potential to become a role model for their minority group.

### **JOHN & JUNE MARY MAKDISI HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is established by Professor John Makdisi and Professor June Mary Makdisi to help students, who are presently enrolled in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights and are experiencing financial difficulties. This scholarship consists of \$5,000 and it aims to support one or more meritorious students in financial need, and who are interested in giving back to the society. The scholarship is distributed at the discretion of the program directors.

### **THE VITORE MARKU RIGHT TO HEALTH AWARD**

The *Vitore Marku Right to Health Award* is established by Professor Roza Pati in memory of her mother, and is awarded to a student enrolled full-time in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. The scholarship consists of \$500 and it will be awarded annually on the basis of a short essay, which applies the right to health as a human right to a particular fact situation or health issue, and a short personal statement evidencing financial need.

### **DARRYL G. MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship fund was established in memory of Darryl G. Menzies, a 1999 graduate of St. Thomas University School of Law. Darryl was a young, aspiring attorney who, before his untimely death in December 2000, inspired others to embrace life and serve their communities. Established by family members, friends, and law school classmates and faculty, this scholarship is awarded to a St. Thomas law student who actively engages in the life of the law school and in helping fellow students.

### **THE HONORABLE PETER R. PALERMO SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship was established with proceeds provided by United States Magistrate Judge Peter R. Palermo. Judge Palermo was one of the first United States Magistrate Judges and has been a loyal friend and supporter of St. Thomas University School of Law. The scholarship will be awarded annually to three St. Thomas J.D. students. Each student will receive \$2,000. This scholarship is awarded to students who show a commitment to the ideals of civility, ethics and professionalism.

To apply students should submit the following information: Name, current law school class designation (1L, 2L, 3L), current grade point average and undergraduate institution. The applicant should also include a short statement (1 or 2 pages) of how he or she meets and demonstrates a commitment to the ideals of civility, ethics and professionalism.

### **THE PATINO FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Established by Ralph G. Patino, a member of the School of Law 1987 Charter Class, this need-based scholarship is awarded to a working second- or third-year J.D. student who has made a career change to study law. While working as a baggage handler for Delta Airlines, Ralph put himself through undergraduate school and then law school at St. Thomas University.

### **EDWARD RICCI & MARY LUPO PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS**

Law School Board of Advisors member Edward M. Ricci, Esq., and his wife, The Honorable Mary E. Lupo, annually fund a limited number of fellowships providing stipends for students dedicated to and working in public interest law. Other friends of St. Thomas occasionally contribute to these fellowships as well. Stipends are awarded to students who have satisfied their *pro bono* requirements and have secured unpaid summer public interest law internships with public interest agencies, including but not limited to Legal Aid, public defender offices,

and certain court programs and public interest organizations. For detailed application and award information, students may contact the Office of Career Services.

#### **PROFESSOR DR. AMY RONNER AND DR. MICHAEL PACIN THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE AWARD**

Professor Dr. Amy Ronner and Dr. Michael Pacin have established this award to provide financial assistance to meritorious and needy students enrolled in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. Applicants to this award have to show evidence of helping solve problems of society and of individuals in line with principles of therapeutic jurisprudence and social justice. Awards will be given on the basis of an essay contest and a statement evidencing financial need. Qualifying essays must show an understanding of the therapeutic jurisprudence and address issues evidencing students' contribution and service before and/or after their enrollment in the LL.M. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. The *Professor Dr. Amy Rooner and Dr. Pacin Therapeutic Jurisprudence Award* consists of three prizes: The First Prize Winner receives an award in the amount of \$2,500; and \$1,500 and \$1,000 awards will be made for second- and third-prize winning essays, respectively. Detailed information available on the website: [www.stu.edu/humanrights](http://www.stu.edu/humanrights).

#### **RUBENSTEIN LAW SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN TORTS**

The Rubenstein Law Scholarship for Excellence in Torts was established by personal injury attorney Robert Rubenstein. The Scholarship was funded in 2018 by Robert Rubenstein one of South Florida's premier personal injury attorney. This scholarship will be award to a law student with financial need and who also has earned at least a B+ in Torts.

### **MARY RUSSOMANNO SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN**

Herman Russomanno, a past president of The Florida Bar and chair emeritus of the School of Law Board of Advisors, established this scholarship in memory of his mother. This need-based scholarship is awarded to a female African-American, Pan-African, or Hispanic law student.

### **GEORGE H. SHELDON - BEST FOOT FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP**

The George H. Sheldon - Best Foot Forward scholarship was renamed in 2018 to add the name of our former Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Services, George H. Sheldon. He dedicated his career to the educational success of youth, particularly those who had confronted family and personal obstacles. The scholarship was established in 2015 by St. Thomas Law to honor the Best Foot Forward Foundation, which is the only nonprofit organization in Palm Beach County dedicated to the educational success of youth who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and have entered the foster care system. By empowering children in foster care, Best Foot Forward helps avoid the all-too-common negative outcomes many experience. To recognize Dean Sheldon's career in helping disadvantaged youth and Best Foot Forward's ongoing efforts to support youth from the foster care system, the scholarship is presented to a law student who was in foster care, and or has advocated on behalf of children in Foster Care through advocacy or tutoring.

### **PROFESSOR SIEGFRIED WIESSNER INTERCULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY AWARD**

The Siegfried Wiessner Intercultural Human Rights Essay Award is funded anonymously by alumni and friends of the graduate program in Intercultural Human Rights in honor of its founder, Professor Siegfried Wiessner. It consists of three awards made to the three students in the LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights program who have produced the most meritorious scholarly essays on issues relating to human rights, using the intellectual framework of policy-oriented jurisprudence. A \$2,500 award will be made for the winning essay, one deemed publishable; \$1,500 and \$1,000 awards will be made for second- and third-prize winning essays, respectively. For additional information on specific award criteria, inquiries may be directed to the executive director of the graduate program in Intercultural Human Rights. Detailed information available on the website: [www.stu.edu/humanrights](http://www.stu.edu/humanrights).

### **PROFESSOR MARK J. WOLFF TAX SCHOLARSHIP**

This annual scholarship was established and is currently funded by Professor Mark J. Wolff and St. Thomas University School of Law Tax Program alumni and friends. The scholarship, both merit- and need-based, rewards demonstrated excellence in and dedication to scholarship, research, and practice in tax law.

### **JOSE A. YANEZ SCHOLARSHIP**

The Jose A. Yanez Scholarship was created in 2014 by Jose A. Yanez, in honor of the Dean of St. Thomas University School of Law, Alfredo Garcia. This scholarship is to be award to a J.D. student with financial need.

## **PUBLIC INTEREST LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

*The Equal Access to Justice Loan Repayment Assistance Program at St. Thomas University School of Law was established in 2001 to provide need-based financial assistance to St. Thomas Law graduates committed to working in public interest law.*

### **JOHN & JUNE MARY MAKDISI LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND**

This endowed loan repayment assistance fund was established in 1999 by former St. Thomas University School of Law Dean, Professor John Makdisi, and Professor June Mary Makdisi to assist St. Thomas Law graduates practicing public interest law.

#### **MR. & MRS. STANLEY G. TATE LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND**

This endowed loan repayment assistance fund was established by Stanley Tate, a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University. The annual award is designed to relieve some of the loan indebtedness of those St. Thomas Law graduates practicing public interest law.

### **PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT**

First-year students and any student taking more than nine credits are strongly discouraged from any outside employment during the academic year. First-year students are not authorized for work study, to be research assistants, or other university sponsored employment.

### **ACADEMIC SUCCESS FELLOWS**

Upper level law students who have demonstrated excellence in their academic careers may be selected to serve as Academic Success Fellows. Academic Success Fellows work a maximum of twenty hours per week.

### **STUDENT COMPLAINTS**

Students wishing to lodge a formal complaint should access the “Student Complaint Procedure” portal on the Website. This can be found at [www.stu.edu/law/students/studentcomplaintprocedure](http://www.stu.edu/law/students/studentcomplaintprocedure). That portal then provides instructions for filing a complaint. If the complaint concerns any matter, other than a complaint with regard to the Office of Student Affairs or personally regarding the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, then the complaint is handled by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. If the complaint concerns the Office of Student Affairs or personally addresses the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, then the complaint is handled by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. If the student who filed the complaint is not satisfied once he or she receives notice of the disposition, then he or she can file an appeal with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (if the complaint was handled by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs); or the Dean of the Law School (if the complaint was handled by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs). The appeal must be made in a timely manner. Timeliness will be determined by the office that considers the appeal. The appeal is considered *de novo* and disposition of the appeal will be communicated in writing to the student within 30 days of acceptance of the appeal (unless notice of an extension is provided. The disposition as determined in the appeal is final.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

A number of states require that a law student who intends to sit for the bar examination register with the appropriate state agencies prior to or during his or her legal studies. Students who desire admission to the bar of a particular state should contact that state’s Board of Bar Examiners to learn more about the state’s requirements for admission to the bar. It is important that this be done upon entering law school to prevent delaying admission to the bar.



Admission to The Florida Bar is administered by The Florida Board of Bar Examiners. The requirements for admission are contained in the "Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Bar." In summary, these rules require that a prospective applicant to the bar possess the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence from a school that is approved by the American Bar Association. An applicant must also possess a Bachelor's degree from a college or university approved by a regional accrediting association or the Florida Supreme Court. The latter requirement may be waived for those applicants possessing a foreign law degree. Additional requirements relating to the character of the applicant must be met in order to be admitted to The Florida Bar.

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

For a full explanation, refer to the "Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Bar." Individuals with specific questions may contact the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, 1891 Eider Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1750, (850) 487-1292.

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<b>Alfredo Garcia</b> <i>Acting Provost/Dean and Professor of Law</i>	<b>Terry O'Connor</b> <i>Vice President for Administrative Affairs/ Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer</i>
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Frank Silva  
Samuel Zeskind  
Joseph I. Zumpano

## SCHOOL OF LAW ADMINISTRATION

### DEANS

#### **Tamara F. Lawson**

*Dean and Professor of Law*  
B.A., 1992, Claremont McKenna College  
J.D., 1995, University of San Francisco  
LL.M., 2003, Georgetown University

#### **Patricia W. Moore**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law*  
B.A., 1980, Northwestern University  
J.D., 1983, University of Chicago

#### **Cecile L. Dykas**

*Associate Dean of Administration and Clinical Programs and Visiting Associate Professor of Law*  
B.A., 1983, Catholic University  
J.D., 1990, Catholic University

#### **Barbara Singer**

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A.B., 1972, Indiana University  
J.D., 1976, Indiana University at Bloomington  
LL.B., 1978, Cambridge University

### DIRECTORS

#### **Siegfried Wiessner**

*Director, Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights and Professor of Law*

#### **John F. Hernandez**

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B.S., 1978, University of Florida  
J.D., 1981, Georgetown University Law Center  
LL.M., 1984, University of Florida

#### **Jessica Fonseca-Nader**

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B.S., 1994, Nova Southeastern University  
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B.S., 1999, Barry University  
J.D., 2002, St. Thomas University School of Law

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J.D. (Equivalent), 1977, University of Tübingen, Germany  
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Dr.iur., 1989, University of Tübingen,  
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*Law Library Director, LL.M. Cybersecurity Law  
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Marvin Klein	

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*Director of Admissions*

**Adriana De Leon**  
*Assistant Director of Admissions*

**Garnet Eccles**  
*Admissions Specialist*

**Jocelyn Loo**  
*Admissions Recruiting Coordinator & Financial Services Assistant*

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*Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator*

### BUDGET

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*Business Manager*

**Ann Marrero**  
*Assistant Budget Manager and Event Coordinator*

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**Lizet Perdomo-Ramirez**  
*Recruitment Coordinator and Clinical Administrator*

**Sherea Randle**  
*Public Sector Career Counselor*

**Laura J. Varela**  
*Private Sector Career Counselor*

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*Executive Assistant*

**Mickey McMahon**

*Executive Assistant*

**Kendra Parker**

*Communications Manager*

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*Assistant Coordinator*

**Maite Rodriguez**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Mariela Torres**

*Faculty Office and Program Manager*

**FINANCIAL AID**

**Andres Marrero**

*Director of Law Student Financial Services*

**IMMIGRATION CLINIC**

**Yanick Laroche**

*Immigration Clinic Coordinator*

**LL.M./J.S.D. in INTERCULTURAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Karla Garcia**

*Executive Assistant*

**Haydee Gonzalez**

*Administrative Assistant*

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**Macarena Alcala**

*Associate Registrar*

**Christina Fernandez**

*Data Specialist*

**Delores Hollis-Hall**

*Registrar Support Specialist*

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Carrol Hartley**

*Student Affairs and Information Coordinator*

**SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION**

**Roy Balleste**

*Law Library Director, LL.M. Cybersecurity Law & Policy Director, and Professor of Law*

*B.A., 1994, Jacksonville University*

*J.D., 1997, St. Thomas University*

*M.L.S., 2002, University of South Florida*

*LL.M., 2003, St. Thomas University*

*J.S.D., 2011, St. Thomas University*

*LL.M., 2018, McGill University*

**Sonia Luna-Lamas**

*Associate Director and Head of Technical Services*

*B.A., 1986, University of Miami*

*M.L.S., 1991, University of South Florida*

**SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY STAFF**

**Richard Andre**

*Reference Assistant*

**Jonathan Coleman**

*AV Services Administrator*

**Rosario Cruz**

*Serials/Continuations Specialist*

**Max Ford**

*Circulation Assistant*



**Elias Royal**  
*Technical Services Librarian*

**Jacob Hurst**  
*Assistant Director for Public Services and  
Adjunct Professor of Law*

**Amado Lugo**  
*Multimedia/Stack Maintenance Specialist*

**Juan Matos**

*Audio-Visual Support/Multi-Media Production*

**John O'Donnell**  
*Reference and Faculty Services Librarian*

**Judith Peguero**  
*Accounting Operations Specialist*

**Elias Royal**  
*Technical Services Librarian*

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*Director*

**Alexei Carmenate-Oquendo**  
*Office Clerk*

**Denise Cruz**  
*Caseworker*

**Christie Anne Daniels, Esq.**  
*Senior Attorney*

**Jean Wesly Derosier**  
*Data Entry Specialist*

**Digna Diaz**  
*Caseworker*

**Miriam Johana García**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Miriam V. Gracia**  
*Receptionist*

**Omaris Garrido**  
*Receptionist*

**Samarie Gonzalez**  
*Data Entry Specialist*

**Nancy E. Lledes**  
*Caseworker*

**Norma Martinez-Polier**  
*Caseworker*

**Jean Sony Placide**  
*Caseworker*

**Edilia Romeu**  
*Budget Manager*

**Marcia Sánchez-Aballi**  
*File Clerk*

**Antonio Valdes Viqueira**  
*Caseworker*

**Caridad Valdivia**  
*Caseworker*

## DIRECTORY

**St. Thomas University School of Law**  
16401 N.W. 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054  
(305) 623-2321  
[www.stu.edu/law](http://www.stu.edu/law)

NOTE: The entrance to St. Thomas University School of Law is located on N.W. 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue just south of State Road 826 (Palmetto Expressway).

For information about admission to St. Thomas University School of Law contact:

### **Office of Admissions**

St. Thomas University School of Law  
16401 NW 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054  
Telephone: (305) 623-2310; (800) 245-4569  
Fax: (305) 623-2357  
Email: [admitme@stu.edu](mailto:admitme@stu.edu)  
[www.stu.edu/law/Admissions](http://www.stu.edu/law/Admissions)

For information about financial aid contact:

### **LS Financial Aid Office**

Andres Marrero  
St. Thomas University School of Law  
16401 NW 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054  
Telephone: (305) 474-2406  
[www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid](http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid)

For information about student records contact:

### **Office of the Registrar**

St. Thomas University School of Law  
16401 NW 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054  
Telephone:  
(305) 623-2360  
Fax: (305) 623-2344  
[www.stu.edu/law/Registrar](http://www.stu.edu/law/Registrar)

Law School Transcripts are provided by:  
National Students Clearinghouse  
[www.studentclearinghouse.org](http://www.studentclearinghouse.org) (transcript request)  
(703) 742-4200

For information about student services:

### **Office of Student Affairs**

St. Thomas University School of Law  
16401 NW 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33054  
Telephone: (305) 623-2301  
Fax: (305) 628-2391  
[www.stu.edu/Law/StudentAffairs](http://www.stu.edu/Law/StudentAffairs)

## ACCREDITATION

St. Thomas University School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

St. Thomas University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Bachelor, Master, Juris Doctor, Master of Law and Doctorate Degrees (PhD, EdD, and JSD). Contact the SACSCOC at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4501 for questions about the accreditation of St. Thomas University.

## POLICIES

### PRIVACY ACT

St. Thomas University School of Law adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (known as the Buckley Amendment), which assures the confidentiality of students' educational records and addresses students' rights with regard to educational records maintained by the School of Law and the University.

Upon written request, students are permitted to review their educational records for accuracy in the presence of the Registrar. Students may challenge the content of records considered to be inaccurate and may control disclosures from their records with certain exceptions.

Please note that transcripts, letters of good standing, certificates of completion, diplomas, and leaves of absence will not be granted to any student until all financial obligations to the School of Law, or the University, or both, have been met.

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St. Thomas University School of Law is an equal opportunity institution of higher education. The School of Law conforms to all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination and is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, race, color, disability, religious affiliation, national origin, ancestry, or social condition in its educational programs, admission policies, employment policies, financial aid, or other school-administered programs and activities. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs is designated as the person to handle inquiries regarding this policy and can be contacted at (305) 623-2358.

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The school's policies on creating a drug free work place, sexual and discriminatory harassment, and stalking can be found in the law school Student Handbook or on the law school Website.

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