

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW



WELCOME HOME!



ST. THOMAS
UNIVERSITY
College of Law



BEST LAW SCHOOLS

#1 GREATEST RESOURCES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

#7 GREATEST RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS LAW!

Congratulations! This is an exciting time for all of us at St. Thomas University College of Law as we welcome you to our family.

We know you are anxiously awaiting the start of your legal studies and perhaps wondering what you should be doing before you arrive at St. Thomas Law.

This newsletter will provide information that will be useful as you prepare for the start of your law school experience. The newsletter also includes a checklist with information you must provide or update before classes start.

As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact us at admitme@stu.edu.

Again, welcome and congratulations!

Jessica Fonseca-Nader
Assistant Dean for Enrollment & Scholarships

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Introduction to Legal Studies

Orientation: Friday, July 22, 2022 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Week 1: Monday, July 25, 2022-Friday, July 29, 2022

Week 2: Monday, August 1, 2022-Friday, August 5, 2022

Mandatory 1L Orientation

Tuesday, August 9, 2022- Friday, August 12, 2022

Study and Prepare for Week 1

Saturday, August 13, 2022- Sunday, August 14, 2022

First Day of 1L Classes

Monday, August 15, 2022

THE TEAM

Jessica Fonseca-Nader

Assistant Dean for Enrollment & Scholarships
Associate Professor of Legal Writing
jfnader@stu.edu

Nadia Castriota

Director of Admissions
ncastriota@stu.edu

Andres Marrero

Director of Law Student Financial Services
amarrero@stu.edu

Garnet Eccles

Admissions Specialist
geccles@stu.edu



MEET THE DEAN TAMARA F. LAWSON

Dean Tamara F. Lawson joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004, and is the first woman of color to serve as Dean. She 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 these groups who have historically been underrepresented in the legal profession.

As a first-generation college and law school graduate herself, Dean Lawson particularly connected to the College of Law's mission.

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

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.

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) and the Law School Admissions Counsel (LSAC). Dean Lawson is also active with various Bar Associations, and serves as the Board Member at Large and Chair of the Law School Division for the National Bar Association.

Dean Lawson has co-authored two casebooks, and has 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. Where 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.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES

ILS Orientation

Friday, July 22, 2022
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Week 1

Monday, July 25-Friday, July 29, 2022

Week 2

Monday, August 1-Friday, August 5, 2022



Core Grammar is a component of your Legal Research and Writing course. To allow students the opportunity to reap the benefits of the program, and get a head start on the Legal Writing requirements, students will receive their passcode once they reserve their seat.

Visit www.CoreGrammarForLawyers.com to take your practice test today.

Introduction to Legal Studies is a non-credit program offered to all admitted students. The program offers an introduction to the study of law, which allows students to gain a head start on acquiring skills essential to succeed in law school.

ILS will expose students to learning methods, preparation and study skills necessary for success in law school. Students will learn to prepare for class, including reading and briefing cases, how to engage in active learning strategies during class, and how to outline class notes to effectively study for exams.

ILS is designed to help students become more effective and productive in their law school studies.

Cost: No Cost to Participate!



J.D. PROGRAM FIRST YEAR COURSES

Fall 2022:

Civil Procedure (4 credits)
Contracts (4 credits)
Torts (4 credits)
Legal Research & Writing (3 credits)
Legal Skills (.5 credits)

Spring 2023:

Constitutional Law (4 credits)
Property (4 credits)
Criminal Law (3 credits)
Advanced Legal Research and Writing (3 credits)
Legal Skills (.5 credits)

DEVELOP INTO THE LAWYER YOU WANT TO BE

87%
**Employment
Placement***

Class of 2020

*Percent of class employed or pursuing an advanced degree 10 months after graduation



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Admiralty and Maritime Law
Business Law
Criminal Litigation
Elder Law
Environmental Sustainability
Immigration Practice
Intellectual Property Law
Intercultural Human Rights
Real Estate Law
Tax Law

ON-CAMPUS CLINICS

Appellate Litigation Clinic
Immigration Clinic
Tax Clinic

INTERNSHIPS

Bankruptcy Externship
Civil Practice Externship
Criminal Practice Externship
Elder Law Externship
Florida Supreme Court Internship
Judicial Internship
United Nations Internship (New York)

JOINT DEGREE OPTIONS

J.D./M.A. in Criminal Justice
J.D./M.B.A. in International Business
J.D./M.B.A. in Sports Administration
J.D./M.S. in Sports Administration

2021 CLASS PROFILE

Median LSAT: 152
Median GPA: 3.32
75th% LSAT: 155
75th% GPA: 3.51
25th% LSAT: 150
25th% GPA: 2.91

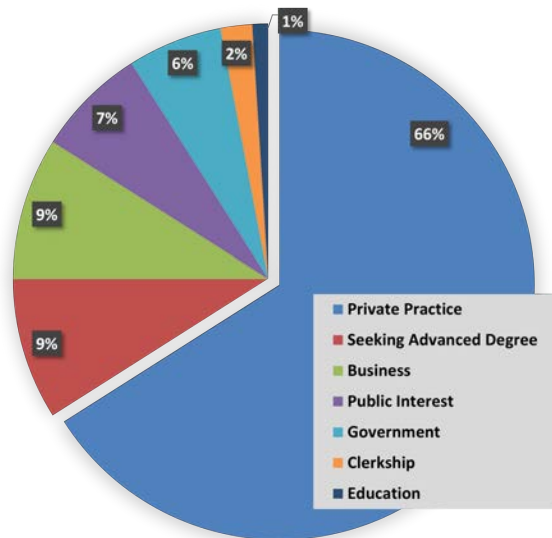
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Female: 52%
Male: 48.1%
Minority: 81%
Average Age: 26

UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS:

90

Employers By Practice Area 2020



GET INVOLVED

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

American Bar Association/Law Student Division (ABA/LSD)
Asian American Law Student Association (AALSA)
Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
Business Law Society
Caribbean Law Students Association (CLSA)
Children and Family Law Society
Criminal Law Society
Cuban American Student Bar Association (CASBA)
Elder Law Society
Entertainment and Sports Law Society
Fashion Law Society
Federal Bar Association Student Division (FBA)
Federalist Society
Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL)
Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Hispanic American Law Student Association (HALSA)
Immigration Law Students Association (ILSA)
Intellectual Property and Cyber Law Society
International Law Society
Jewish Law Students Association
Lambda Law Society
Maritime Law Society
Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court
Phi Alpha Delta – Soia Mentschikoff Chapter (PAD)
Phi Delta Phi – Spellman Inn
Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Society (RPPTL)
St. Thomas More Catholic Law Society
Student Bar Association (SBA)
Tax Law Society
Tort Law Society
Veteran Students of America
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

St. Thomas Law Review
Intercultural Human Rights Law Review
The St. Thomas Journal of Complex Litigation

STUDY ABROAD

Summer in Spain (El Escorial)

AWARD-WINNING ADVOCACY TEAMS

Moot Court Board
Trial Team



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. THOMAS LAW

BENJAMIN L. CRUMP CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Benjamin L. Crump Center for Social Justice at the St. Thomas University College of Law will provide innovative programming, symposia, and training to catalyze the next generation of social justice engineers.



FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE CANADY SHARES HALLMARKS OF PROFESSIONALISM

Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady presented on the Hallmarks of Professionalism and shared his wisdom with the St. Thomas University College of Law community.



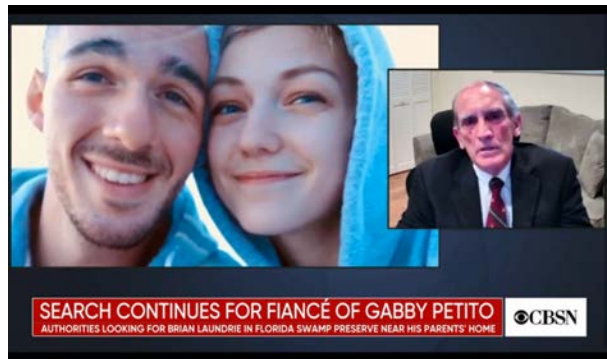
APPELLATE LITIGATION CLINIC STUDENTS ARGUE BEFORE THE COURT

St. Thomas Law Appellate Litigation Clinic students participate in oral argument before the Third District Court of Appeal.



STU LAW PROFESSOR, ALFREDO GARCIA, PROVIDES EXPERT OPINION

Professor Al Garcia provided his expert opinion to local and national media on the Gabby Petito case.



CNN Comes to Campus



Investiture of STU Law Alumna Judge Lody Jean



Dr. Roza Pati Receives Inaugural Gillen-Massey Award

FINANCIAL AID

Congratulations on your acceptance to St. Thomas University College of Law. As the start of your law school career approaches, now is a good time to review your finances, build up your personal savings, apply for scholarships, and develop a budget plan.



If you have not already done so, now is the time to complete the U.S. Department of Education's Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. St. Thomas University's Federal School Code is **001468**.

Now is also a good time to check your credit report for accuracy. Some forms of financial aid, including the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, will require that you are in good credit standing. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com for a copy of your credit report.

Merit scholarships are awarded as part of the Admissions decision and are included in your acceptance letter. St. Thomas Law also provides various Donor Scholarships administered through the Office of Student Affairs. These scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of eligibility criteria and availability of funds. Applications for Donor Scholarships are available in November. All scholarships awarded to you by St. Thomas University are based on full-time enrollment and may only be applied to Fall and Spring tuition costs incurred at St. Thomas University College of Law.

Before you borrow, remember loans must be repaid and you should borrow only what you need to assist you with your educational expenses. The two primary federal loan programs available to law students are the Federal Direct Stafford Loan and Federal Direct Graduate Plus Loan Program. For more information on Federal Loans visit StudentAid.gov.

Make sure you keep copies of all award notification letters and correspondence you receive from your school, lender, or loan servicer readily available and organized.

St. Thomas Law encourages you to sign up with MAX by AccessLex, a FREE financial literacy program designed specifically for law students. Students may sign up at AccessLex.org/MAXonline.

Sincerely,

Andres Marrero
Director of Law Student Financial Services
St. Thomas University College of Law



For more information on financial aid, please visit www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid call **Andres Marrero** at **(305) 474-2409**, or email at lsfinaid@stu.edu

2022-2023 COST OF ATTENDANCE*

*Off-Campus Full-time J.D. Students

Tuition & Fees:	\$44,620
Room & Board:	\$17,600
Books & Supplies:	\$ 1,800
Loan Fees:	\$ 1,500
Transportation:	\$ 3,888
Personal & Misc. Expenses:	\$ 4,702

Payment plans are available.

There is a \$40 fee to enroll.

- ✓ 5 month payment plan- first payment due July 15
- ✓ 4 month payment plan- first payment due August 15

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN CAN I REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES?

First year students are assigned to a section. Students will be able to access schedules, syllabi, and book requirements through the University self-service portal after July. We will communicate when schedules and syllabi are available.

WHEN IS ORIENTATION?

Orientation is mandatory and is scheduled from Tuesday, August 9 through Friday, August 12, 2022. Additional information about Orientation will be emailed to you as it becomes available.

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Students may complete their FAFSA and apply for loans after they have submitted an application to St. Thomas Law.

DOES ST. THOMAS LAW OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS? HOW DO I APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Admitted students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships when they apply to St. Thomas Law. Scholarship awards are sent as part of your official acceptance letter. St. Thomas Law also has a competitive upper-level scholarship program, which evaluates student performance at the end of the first year. Students in the top 20% of the class at the end of the first year are automatically considered for scholarships.

Other scholarship opportunities include donor and community scholarships. Through the generosity of donors, St. Thomas Law also offers several scholarships of varying amounts to students. Criteria vary and can include need, leadership, and service activities. From time to time, St. Thomas Law receives information from sources outside of the University regarding scholarship opportunities. These opportunities are shared with our students via email and in our weekly newsletter as they become available.

CAN STUDENTS WORK DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL?

Students should expect to dedicate approximately seventy hours per week to prepare for classes and review after class. Students, with the exception of Flex students, are discouraged from working during their first year of law school.

MAY STUDENTS DEFER ACCEPTANCE? IS THE SCHOLARSHIP OFFER STILL VALID IF DEFERRAL IS GRANTED?

Accepted candidates may request a deferral for the next academic year with a paid seat deposit. The scholarship initially offered to the student is not guaranteed.

HOW DOES THE LAW SCHOOL ASSIST STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY?

St. Thomas Law is committed to helping our students reach their academic goals in a caring and supportive environment. The Academic Success Program helps students develop the academic skills necessary to succeed in law school. This program includes Academic Support Workshops and labs in the first year, individual advising throughout your legal studies, bar exam preparation courses and support, and mentorship programs.

WHAT KIND OF BAR PREP SUPPORT DOES ST. THOMAS LAW OFFER?

St. Thomas Law offers each of its students a commercial bar prep course at no cost to the students and a formal supplemental bar preparatory program, which includes lectures, mentors, and opportunities to practice essay exams. Additionally, St. Thomas Law offers a number of pre-bar prep courses as part of its curriculum.

SUGGESTED READING

Many admitted students have inquired about what they can do to prepare for law school. In reality, the best thing you can do is read, read a little more, and continue reading. Read newspapers and news magazines about current local and world events, read books, including novels and biographies. Also, numerous books offer advice and strategies for navigating law school; these books offer insight and advice into the first year of law school and beyond. Here are a few we recommend:

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

- **John Makdisi and Michael Makdisi-** *Introduction to the Study of Law: Cases and Materials*
- **Benjamin N. Cardozo-** *The Nature of the Judicial Process*
- **Jay M. Feinman-** *Law 101: Everything you Need to Know About the American Legal System*
- **H.L.A Hart-** *The Concept of Law*

DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR LAW STUDENTS AND LAWYERS

- **Andrew McClurg-** *1L of a Ride: A Well-Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School*
- **Ruta Stropas and Charlotte Taylor-** *Bridging the Gap Between College and Law School: Strategies for Success*
- **Richard Michael Fischl and Jeremy Paul-** *Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams*
- **David Hricik-** *Law School Basics: A Preview of Law School and Legal Reasoning*
- **Hon. Ruggero J. Aldisert-** *Logic for Lawyers: A Guide to Clear Legal Thinking*
- **Richard C. Wydick-** *Plain English for Lawyers*
- **Alan Dershowitz-** *Letters to a Young Lawyer*
- **Ward Farnsworth-** *The Legal Analyst: A Toolkit for Thinking about the Law*
- **Ruth Ann McKinney-** *Reading Like a Lawyer: Time-Saving Strategies for Reading Like a Layer (2nd Edition)*

FOR FUN

- **Karl N. Llewellyn-** *The Bramble Bush*
- **Franz Kafka-** *The Trial*
- **Caterine Mckinnon-** *Women's Lives, Men's Laws*
- **Fyodor Dostoyevsky-** *Crime and Punishment*
- **Jonathan Harr-** *A Civil Action*
- **Lenora Ledwon-** *Harry Potter and the Law (2010)*
- **Bryan Stevenson-** *Just Cause*



HISPANIC OUTLOOK
ON EDUCATION
MAGAZINE™

TOP LAW SCHOOL
FOR HISPANICS

#1

LAW DEGREES
AWARDED TO
HISPANICS

- ✓ **SECURE YOUR SEAT.** To guarantee your seat in the incoming class, you must submit your seat deposit. Submitting a seat deposit reserves your seat & secures your financial award. Your seat deposit is credited to your first semester tuition.
- ✓ **TRANSCRIPT(S).** Students must submit final, official transcripts, indicating a baccalaureate degree has been conferred to LSAC. Students may not continue their studies if the official transcript indicating the degree has been conferred is not received by October 5th.
- ✓ **COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID.** Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. St. Thomas University's federal school code is: **001468**. Instructions on how to apply for financial aid can be found at: <http://www.stu.edu/law/financial-aid>.
- ✓ **IMMUNIZATION REPORT & PHYSICAL EXAM.** All new students are required to show proof of vaccinations and provide proof of physical from a physician. Immunization records are available from either your doctor or, in some cases, your undergraduate institution. **Important:** Students may not attend classes or move into their residence halls until they comply with these health guidelines. Health forms are available at: <https://www.stu.edu/students/student-affairs/student-health-center/insurance-and-forms/>.
- ✓ **PROOF OF INSURANCE.** All students are required to carry health insurance. Student Health Insurance is automatically provided to all St. Thomas University College of Law students. If you already have health insurance, you may opt out of the student health insurance once you are registered for classes. Additional information will be sent throughout the summer.
- ✓ **ACCESSING MYBOBCAT & EMAIL ACCOUNT.** Once you reserve your seat, you will receive an email from St. Thomas University to the email address you provided when you applied, asking that you reset your password so that you may access the University Student portal and STU email. You may also reset your STU email and Student Self Service passwords at www.STU.edu/law. Click on "STUDENTS" then select STU Email. Once on the page, click on Create/Reset Password and follow the instructions. **IMPORTANT:** All official university communications are made to your St. Thomas student email account. It is important that you regularly check your St. Thomas University account.
- ✓ **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD.** The student ID card is the official St. Thomas University on-campus student identification card. ID cards will be issued during ILS and Orientation. Please submit a professional photo, taken from the chest up and against a light background, in JPEG (.jpg) format to admitme@stu.edu.
- ✓ **PARKING DECAL.** Students must display the University Parking Decal on vehicles at all times. You may apply for your decal at: www.stu.edu/parkingapp or from MyBobcat. Parking decals will be distributed during Orientation. You must present a driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance card, and proof of program registration.
- ✓ **HOUSING.** On-Campus housing is available on a first-come basis. To secure on-campus housing, contact Matthew Roche at (305) 628-6648 or Mattroche@stu.edu. Students interested in off-campus housing may consider Miami Lakes, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, North Miami Beach, Hialeah, Aventura, Hollywood, Midtown, Miami Shores, Sunny Isles, and North Miami.
- ✓ **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS.** Students with a disability that may affect any aspect of the student's ability to participate in the law school environment and/or the student's academic performance should meet with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, John Hernandez (jhernandez@stu.edu). For examination accommodations there are deadlines by which the student must make a request prior to the actual administration of the examination.
The Guidelines for Special Accommodation and a link to additional information of the required documents for students seeking accommodation for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.D./A.D.H.D.) can be found at: <https://www.stu.edu/law/students/disability-accommodations.html>. Matters of accommodations should not be discussed with individual professors.
- ✓ Students who intend to practice law should be aware that admission to the Bar in all states involves character, fitness, and other qualifications. Students are encouraged to determine what those requirements are in the state(s) in which they intend to practice by consulting the website of the National Conference of Bar Examiners at <http://www.ncbex.org/>.
- ✓ You have a continuing obligation to update your application to St. Thomas University College of Law. Students may update their law school application by submitting an email to the Law School Admissions Office, explaining the conduct, the date it occurred, the facts relating to the event, and provide supporting documentation, including any charging/arrest documents and disposition forms.



St. Thomas University College of Law

Office of Admissions
16401 NW 37th Avenue, Miami, FL 33054

305-623-2310 | admitme@stu.edu | www.stu.edu/law