

# WASHINGTON, DC



THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA



Columbus School of Law

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## LAW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Stephen C. Payne	Dean and Knights of Columbus Professor of Law
Marin Scordato	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research
Georgia Niedzielko	Assistant Dean for Administration
Katherine G. Crowley	Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Stuart Schept	Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Registrar
Shani J. P. Butts	Assistant Dean for Admissions
Tonya Gaskins	Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development
Louise Lydon	Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations

## UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

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Aaron Dominguez	Provost
J. Steven Brown	Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
Robert M. Specter	Vice President for Finance and Treasurer
Lawrence J. Morris	Chief of Staff and Counsellor to the President
Judi Biggs Garbuio	Vice President for Student Affairs
Christopher P. Lydon	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing
Scott P. Rembold	Vice President for University Advancement

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

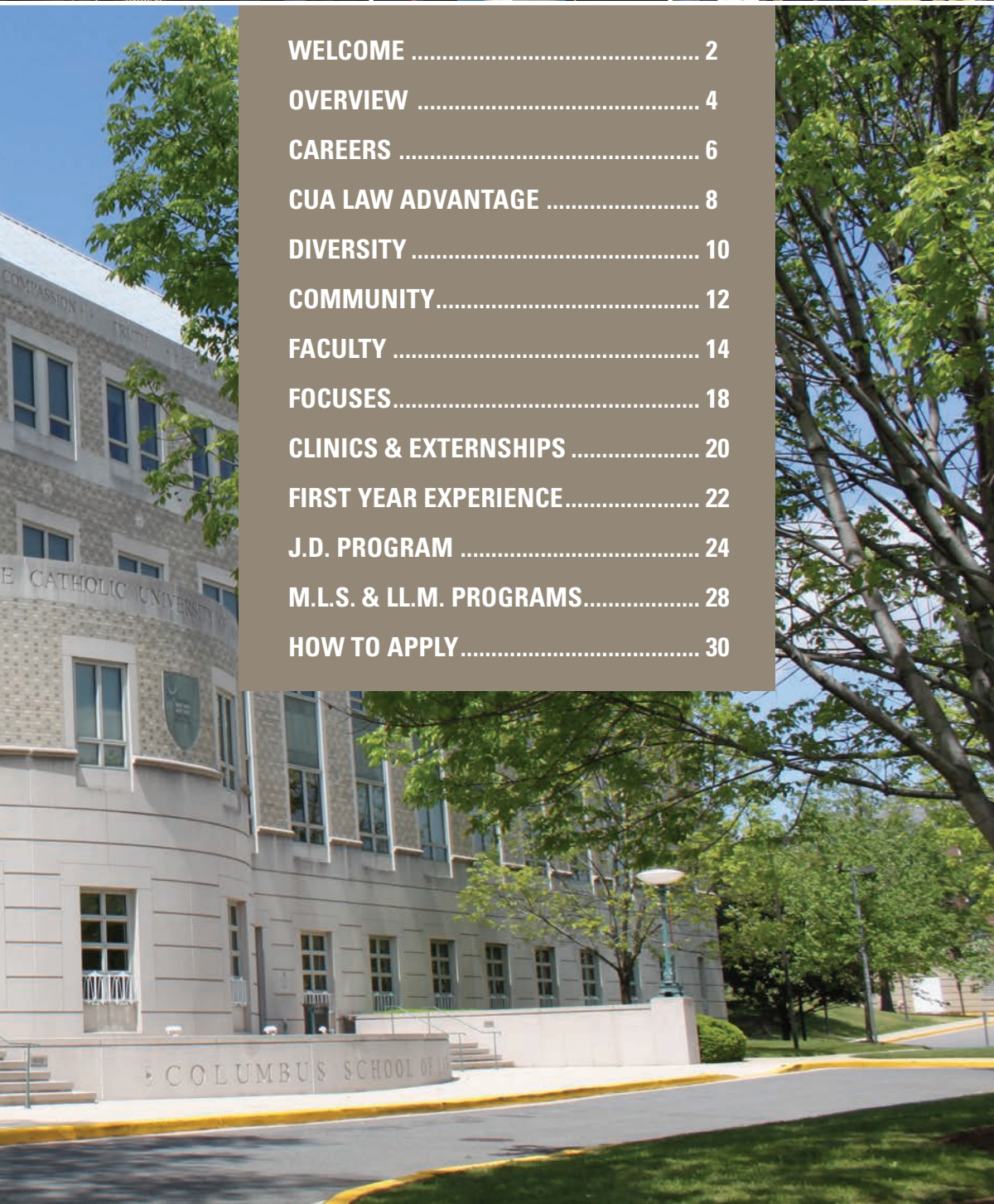
The Catholic University of America  
Columbus School of Law  
Office of Admissions  
Washington, DC 20064  
Phone: 202-319-5151  
Fax: 202-319-4462  
Email: [admissions@law.edu](mailto:admissions@law.edu)  
Web: [law.edu](http://law.edu)







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# WELCOME

## *A message from the Dean*

Dear Prospective Law Student,



Catholic Law has been a leader in legal education for more than 120 years. We have an outstanding educational program, an authentic Catholic identity that is welcoming to students of all faiths, and a mission that encourages everyone in our community to learn to *serve and flourish*: to serve others, especially the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, but also clients in business and other endeavors; and to flourish ourselves as human beings, as we learn what it means to be lawyers and how to be fully engaged in our work and in meaningful relationships.

We are delivering a top-notch legal education in the midst of a global pandemic. We pivoted quickly online last spring and received course evaluations from our students that were better than ever (and they are always good!). We have implemented thorough health and safety protocols to enable us to be the only law school in Washington, D.C. providing in-person instruction this fall to our first-year law students (in combination with some online offerings). Despite the challenges of the pandemic, this is a great time to plan to study at Catholic Law.

We are known for our small and caring community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Our students work together to help each other succeed—an extraordinary dynamic for legal education, which I'm sure you know is notoriously competitive. Among our faculty are top scholars in their fields, outstanding teachers, and former leaders in government, private industry, and law firm practice.

Faculty and staff members make tremendous efforts to get to know students and to give them the support they need, and many strong alumni are deeply engaged in our students' success. Law study and practice are hard. Here at Catholic, we care about one another's well-being and deploy rich resources to support it.

Catholic Law understands its mission to include an ethic of instilling in students the desire and capability to serve others, and the school is known for preparing many students for, and sending them into, some form of public service—whether the Judge Advocate General's Corps of one of the military services, a prosecutor or public defender's office, a Congressional staff position, or a job in some other federal or state agency. We prepare practical lawyers with grit and a strong work ethic, who also succeed in trial practice, large and small law firms, and many careers that are not typically considered traditional for lawyers, such as financial services. The Law School boasts phenomenally successful alumni in diverse fields, and you will get to know many of them through our mentoring programs if you join us.

Our student advocacy programs have long been competitive, and we recently boasted the #1 student trial team in the nation, as they won the National Trial Team Championship in 2019. In addition, the Law School hosts the premier moot court competition focusing on First Amendment issues, which draws a large, competitive field of teams as well as many prominent judges.



We have robust opportunities for students to participate in centers and institutes and to explore specialties, including certificates that students can earn in Securities Law; Compliance, Investigations, and Corporate Responsibility; Comparative and International Law; Law and Public Policy; and Law and Technology (including Communications Law, Intellectual Property, and Privacy Law). The Law School also recently opened its Center for Religious Liberty and has several other important initiatives in the works, including a Lawyers of Faith Leadership Program, which you could help shape.

We have study abroad programs in Rome and Poland, and excellent opportunities for students to receive experiential learning through our externship program and clinics, including clinics that serve immigrants, veterans, and the poor. Legal education in this country got started with apprenticeships, and the opportunity to work side-by-side with experienced experts while you are in law school is still excellent training and a great way for you to get a better sense of the career path that is right for you.

Catholic Law is housed in a beautiful building that recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. We are located in Washington, D.C.—the seat of our nation's government and the premier legal market for almost everything—just down the road from the Capitol, and particularly close to a DC Metro Red Line stop. I hope that you will visit us—whether virtually or, when possible, in person—to learn what the Catholic Law experience is all about. I hope to meet you soon!

All the best,

Steve Payne

Stephen C. Payne  
Dean, Columbus School of Law  
Knights of Columbus Professor of Law



## TRIAL ADVOCACY

Catholic Law's National Trial Team has been recognized as among the best in the nation. The 2019 National Trial Competition Champions were Catholic Law evening students, Vania Smith '20 and Jennifer Brooker '20. The two were coached by National Trial Team directors John N. Sharifi and Lindsey Cloud.



# OVERVIEW

## *The Start of a Life-Changing Journey*



The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law is located in Washington, D.C., the heart of America's legal, political, and judicial system. The University's verdant 176-acre campus, located just north of Capitol Hill, allows students easy access to the wide range of educational, cultural, and political opportunities that Washington, D.C., has to offer.

Where else can you benefit from a superbly crafted legal curriculum, a supportive and community-oriented learning environment, and also enjoy access to an astonishing range of externships that will provide a competitive edge in your future career?

Catholic University law students supplement rigorous classroom learning with opportunities to observe and experience firsthand the formation and application of law in a variety of settings: in Congress, at the Supreme Court, at the White House, at federal government agencies and courts, at some of the nation's best-known law firms, and at corporations and nonprofit organizations.

Our students graduate practice-ready. The law school will help you to obtain the kind of experiential opportunities that will allow you to respond to a prospective employer's question, "Can you develop the skills to handle this job?" with the honest answer, "I already have."

Our network of accomplished alumni — many of whom live and practice in the greater Washington, D.C., region — stands ready to assist newer members of the Catholic Law community when the time comes to establish their careers.

As a student here, you will become a part of more than 100 years of a proud tradition of excellence in legal education. You will leave equipped with practice skills, friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime.

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## Alumni say, *"Why did I choose Catholic Law?"*

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### **Willistine Tarsha Harris, J.D., 2020**

*Trial Attorney, Attorney General's Honors Program, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division*

*"I was not in a position to give up my career, that I had worked so hard to build, so I was specifically looking for an institution that could cater to my needs as an evening student...when I made my decision, it just felt right."*



*Since its founding in the 19th century, The Catholic University of America's law school has provided an able and diverse student body of men and women with a professional education of genuine excellence and an appreciation for justice, truth, integrity, and service.*

## A LAW SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

- Located at the heart of America's legal system in Washington, D.C., one of the world's most stimulating cities (just three metro stops from Union Station).
- A diverse faculty and student body, blending different backgrounds and faiths into one cohesive and supportive community.
- Internationally renowned certificate programs in law and technology, securities law, law and public policy, and comparative and international law.
- Practice-area concentrations that equip graduates with skills in demand by the legal marketplace.
- A clinical legal training program ranked among the best in America.
- Inclusive Catholic identity offers a natural home to all students of competence, character, and compassion.
- Flexible and supportive, part-time evening program permits students to continue to earn while they learn.

**Learn more about us at [law.edu](http://law.edu)**

# CAREERS *Our Graduates Thrive Everywhere*

Catholic Law alumni are found throughout the nation and the world. They serve as ambassadors and members of Congress. They direct highly successful law firms. They lead advocacy groups and serve as top government officials. Many have pursued careers as attorneys in the armed forces. Nearly 200 of our graduates are members of the judiciary, serving in federal and state courts and as administrative judges in agencies and special courts.

Approximately one-quarter of each graduating class finds employment in the government sector, more than twice the national average for law schools. The Law School is a primary supplier of legal talent to the federal government.

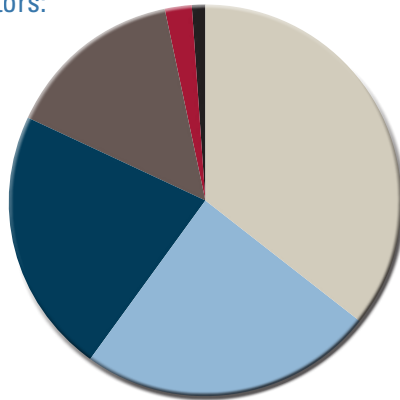


## CLASS OF 2019

92.3% of the Class of 2019 were employed 10 months after graduation.  
Those employed work in these sectors:

### Employment Sector / % of Class

- Private Practice / 35.79%
- Government / 24.21%
- Business / 22.10%
- Judicial Clerkship / 14.73%
- Public Interest / 2.10%
- Education / 1%



## THE OFFICE OF CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Columbus School of Law's Office of Career and Professional Development is dedicated to assisting students in search of internship and externship opportunities during school, employment after graduation, and career advice for the rest of their lives. Staffed by career planning professionals with advanced degrees in law, the office provides individual and group counseling, workshops, panels, instructional materials and job listings as well as activities that facilitate direct contact with prospective employers.





## HOW DO OUR GRADUATES FARE?

- The Columbus School of Law ranked a **top five** producer of lawyers who work in congress by LegBranch.org.
- The Columbus School of Law was ranked at **#6** by the American Bar Association for the school with the highest percentage of 2018 graduates in permanent, fulltime government and public interest jobs; **#29** for 2018 graduates in federal clerkships, widely regarded as the most prestigious clerkships available; and **#20** for 2018 graduates in state and local clerkships.
- The Columbus School of Law is ranked in the **top 15** nationally in a recent survey by The American Lawyer magazine of law firm associates' satisfaction with their legal educations. Respondents rated their law schools on how well they prepared them for firm life.
- Nationally, over **700 graduates** of the Columbus School of Law have been recognized as either Super Lawyers or Rising Stars, a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations.



## CONNECTED

More than 100 alumni of Catholic University's Law School have clerked for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Fifteen current sitting judges on the 61-judge court are also graduates of Catholic Law. Other jurists serving on the court have taught as adjunct instructors at the Law School.

# CUA LAW ADVANTAGE

## A COMPLETE LEGAL EDUCATION — YET SO MUCH MORE

Your legal education at Catholic University's law school offers precisely the right balance, combining vital skills that every lawyer must possess with an exhilarating degree of self-directed study. At every turn, Catholic Law's approach to legal education can be summarized with three words: Practical, Focused, and Connected, also referred to as the CUA Law Advantage. This combined with a strong sense of service and being located in the nation's capital make Catholic Law a legal education experience that will allow you to grow both professionally and as an individual.

Our innovative first-year curriculum consists of eight required courses that emphasize the doctrinal basics, giving students a solid foundation in substantive areas of the law. Notably, two of our first-year courses, Civil Procedure and Contracts, include new practicum components. In Civil Procedure, students are asked to draft motions, pleadings, or other litigation documents to integrate learning experience with legal doctrine. In Contracts, students are asked to draft or negotiate contracts or engage in other skill exercises that emphasize statutory construction.

In the upper-level curriculum, students enjoy many options for designing a coursework plan in accordance with their interests and career goals. For example, students may tailor their education within six practice-area concentrations, four certificates, or choose among course clusters that group classes by related subject matter.

For those interested in specializing at a very high level of legal study, the law school offers four certificate-issuing programs in law and technology, securities law, law and public policy, and comparative and international law. These institutes offer certification of expertise that is highly valued by future employers in these dynamic areas of law.

Our recent curricular reforms also include transition-to-practice courses that afford students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world settings in an actual law practice or complex simulated practice. This mix of tradition and innovation in legal study adds up to some of the best-prepared and most-coveted law school graduates in the nation.

There is no "you're on your own" at the Columbus School of Law. Collegial and supportive classmates, caring and committed faculty and alumni, and a city that offers unparalleled opportunities to make vital professional contacts combine to form a network that every law student can connect with.

## FOCUSED

The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law student Veda Rasheed was selected as the Mid-Atlantic Law Student of the Year by *The National Jurist* magazine in March 2017. *National Jurist* honored five students throughout the country who have excelled in the classroom and beyond in their spring 2017 magazine. An additional 20 finalists were profiled on their website.







***Supportive Catholic Law alumni  
inspire and guide the next  
generation of lawyers.***



As a student at Catholic Law you become a member of a community of supportive and collegial students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The alumni at Catholic Law volunteer, mentor, host events, and more.



# DIVERSITY *A Professionally Diverse Environment*

One of our greatest strengths is our diverse community. Our students, faculty and administration are committed to creating an enriching learning environment. We value the perspective that each student brings to the law school and we embrace diversity in its broadest forms. Our commitment to diversity does not end with our students. It is reflected in all levels of our administration and our faculty as well.

Since its inception in 1897, Catholic University's law school has established a progressive history of inclusion. Our first African-American student was enrolled in 1902; our first female student in 1922.

As Pope Francis said in an address on Oct. 31st, 2014,

*"Unity does not imply uniformity; it does not necessarily mean doing everything together or thinking in the same way. Nor does it signify a loss of identity. Unity in diversity is actually the opposite: it involves the joyful recognition and acceptance of the various gifts... It means knowing how to listen, to accept differences, and having the freedom to think differently and express oneself with complete respect towards the other who is my brother or sister. Do not be afraid of differences!"*

[Address to Catholic Fraternity of the Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowship, Oct. 31, 2014]

As a law school community, we are very aware of the importance of varying perspectives, diverse backgrounds, and contrasting experiences in the law school classroom. It is our job as a law school not only to train the students to be the best lawyers, but to provide an enriching legal education. Catholic Law strives to attain a diverse class in order to produce legal professionals of conscience and compassion. Our graduates are well prepared to resolve the most difficult legal issues due to their varied perspectives, ethical groundings, and strong community values.

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## Alumni say, *"Why did I choose Catholic Law?"*

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### **S. Jenell Trigg, Esq., 1997**

*Member and Chair of Intellectual Property and New Media  
& Technology Practice Group, Lerman Senter PLLC, Washington, D.C.*

*"I wanted to complement my previous career as an advertising and marketing executive in the television broadcasting industry with a law degree specializing in communications and entertainment law, and CUA offered the most comprehensive curriculum and externship opportunities through its renowned Institute for Communications Law Studies. CUA's evening program provided flexibility, excellent academic standards, and a nurturing environment (from the maintenance staff to the dean!)."*



## A SNAPSHOT OF THE FALL 2019 ENTERING CLASS

Students came to Catholic Law from 24 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as Argentina, Canada, China, Finland, India, Japan, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Rwanda, and Trinidad and Tobago. They represent 107 colleges and universities.

- 29% of the student body are self-identified as members of a recognized minority group.
- 17% of the incoming class holds advanced degrees in such areas as: Teaching, Economics, Arab Studies, Film and Television, Philosophy, Forensic and Legal Psychology, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, Information Systems, Finance, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Biotechnology, Sport and Recreation Studies, Environmental and Energy Management, Epidemiology.
- Class members brought an amazing range of prior experience to the Law School, including careers such as: Police Officer for the Metropolitan Police Department, International Trade Advisor, Production Assistant, Major U.S. Army, Corporal U.S. Marine Corps, Platoon Leader U.S. Army, Patent Agent, English Teacher in Rome, Italy, Liturgical Musical Composer, Actor, Seeing Eye Dog Trainer, American Sign Language Instructor, Government Relations Specialist for eBay, Director of Policy, U.S. Chambers of Commerce, Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Provider, Freelance photographer, Event coordinator - Special Olympics, American Sign Language Instructor



## SERVICE

The Law School's dedication to service is found in the Pro Bono Program. The program fosters the importance of hands-on learning opportunities to assist those in need of access to justice. Pro Bono projects enable students to apply the lessons they have learned in the classroom to real-life cases, while advancing their professional development.



# COMMUNITY *A Catholic Law School*

Catholic University's Columbus School of Law is a part of the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. Our legal curriculum is enriched by the Catholic tradition of service to the individual and the community.

We engage in intellectual and academic considerations of the intersection of justice and mercy, ethics and morality, and faith and reason in the study of law and society. Accordingly, our law school not only prepares students to be the most competent and capable attorneys for practice, but also encourages them to become lawyers of conscience and character.

You do not need to be religiously observant, or Catholic, or subscribe to a particular philosophy to excel here. We encourage students from all backgrounds to take the time, while in law school and throughout their careers, to reflect upon what it means to choose the path of legal practice and the obligation it carries to serve others.

Simply learning the tools of law isn't enough. If law is to serve a useful place in society, its practice must be marked with compassion for others and a commitment to fight the unjust.

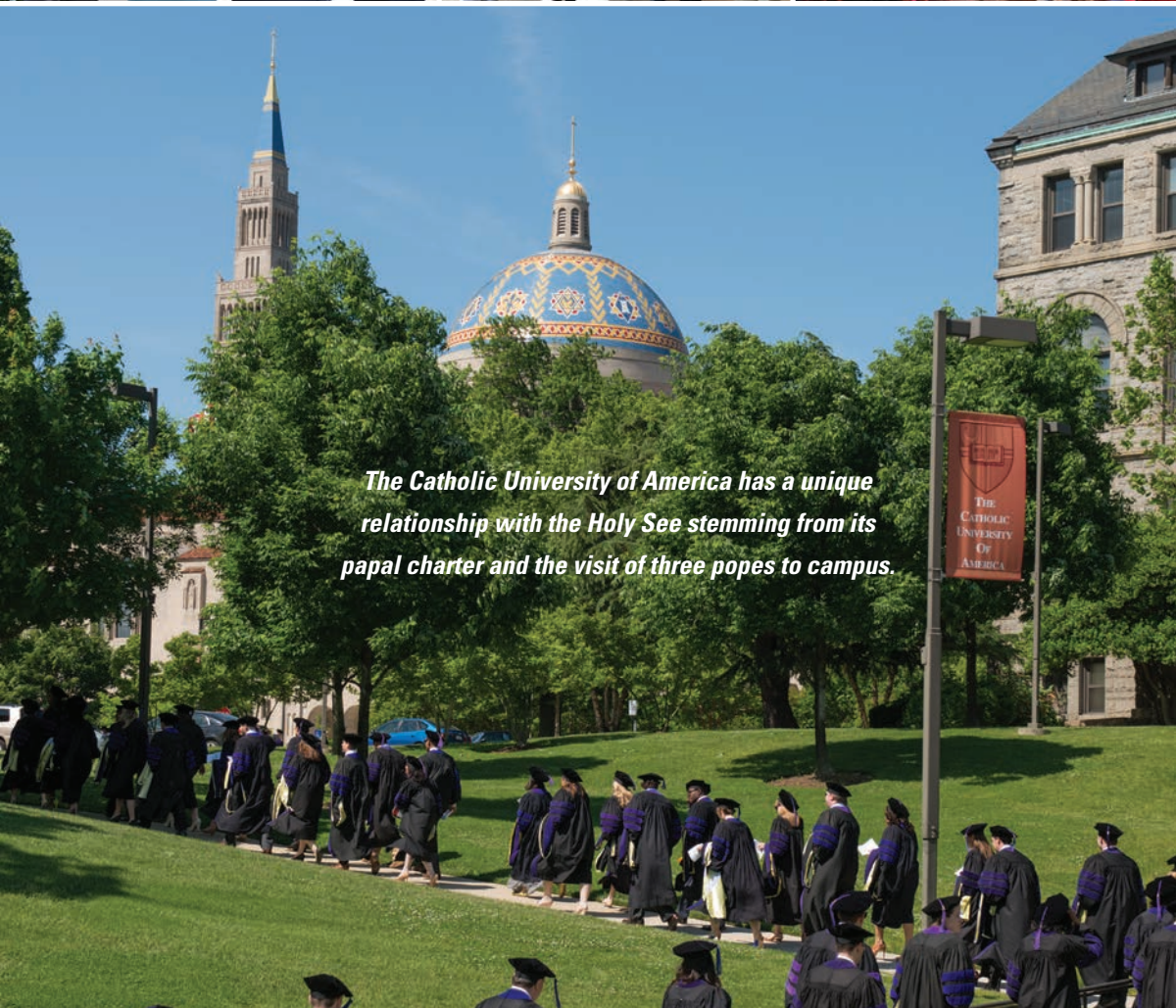
The Columbus School of Law has a unique mission of service that is exemplified by the school's dedicated to pro bono work, a commitment shared by the student body, faculty, and alumni. The Catholic Law Pro Bono Program carries out this tradition of service by providing access to justice to those in need. From the first week on campus, students are encouraged to give back to the local community through the annual Community Service Day. The Catholic Law Pro Bono Program also fosters the importance of hands-on learning opportunities to assist those in need of access to justice. Pro Bono projects enable you to apply the lessons you have learned in the classroom to real-life cases while advancing your professional development. Participation in the program is voluntary, and there is a range of diverse opportunities to take part in.

The Columbus Community Legal Services also serves the needs of the community by providing free, high-quality legal services to needy individuals and families who live in the District of Columbia Metropolitan Area. In addition to learning practical trial techniques, students must also wrestle with the ethical issues that confront lawyers and examine such critical issues as racism, sexism, and class bias in the context of the legal system.

As one of our professors puts it, "Here, you will find a school that cares, and that becomes infectious."







*The Catholic University of America has a unique relationship with the Holy See stemming from its papal charter and the visit of three popes to campus.*



In 2015 we welcomed our third Pope to campus. On September 23, 2015, Pope Francis made a historic visit to the University. No other U.S. university has hosted a pope more than once.

# FACULTY

*A Committed Faculty Devoted to Excellence*

Many of our faculty members are nationally recognized experts in their field. They are honored by peers and sought by the media to provide analysis of new legal developments. Many of our full-time professors had extensive private- or public- sector legal practice before turning to full-time teaching. They bring invaluable real-world experience into their classrooms.

Similarly, our adjunct faculty is drawn from the rich vein of legal talent in the nation's capital. Our students benefit from the insight of instructors, active practitioners, who remain on top of the latest developments in the subjects they teach. The law school's adjunct faculty represent an ideal combination: working attorneys and judges who translate their daily legal practice into knowledgeable voices of experience for students.

The doors and minds of Columbus School of Law faculty members are always open to you.

## CATHOLIC LAW FACULTY

**J. Joel Alicea**, Assistant Professor of Law  
B.A., Princeton University; J.D., Harvard Law School

**Daniel F. Attridge**, Professor  
B.A., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center

**Marshall J. Breger**, Professor  
B.A., M.A., University of Pennsylvania;  
B.Phil., Oriel College, Oxford University;  
J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School

**Stacy L. Brustin**, Professor  
B.A., Tufts University; J.D., Harvard Law School

**Roger Colinvaux**, Professor and Director, Law and Public Policy Program  
B.A., Connecticut College; M.Litt, Oxford University (Merton College); J.D., Indiana University School of Law

**Robert A. Destro**, Professor  
B.A., Miami University; J.D., University of California, Berkeley

**Cara H. Drinan**, Professor and Director of Faculty Research  
B.A., Bowdoin College; M.A., University of Oxford; J.D., Stanford Law School

**Sarah Helene Duggin**, Professor and Director of Compliance, Investigations, and Corporate Responsibility Program  
A.B., Smith College; J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School

**Elizabeth A. Edinger**, Associate Professor of Information Services and Director of the Law Library  
B.A., J.D., State University of New York at Buffalo; M.Libr., University of Washington

**Lisa A. Everhart**, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director, Lawyering Skills Program  
B.A., Georgetown University; J.D., The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

**Susanna Frederick Fischer**, Associate Professor  
A.B., Princeton University; B.A., University of Oxford (Merton College); LL.M., University of Virginia

## NOTABLE CATHOLIC LAW ALUMNI



**Robert Patrick "Bob" Casey Jr., Esq., 1988**  
*Senior United States Senator  
from Pennsylvania*



**Deborah Watson-Stokes, Esq., 1990**  
*Supervisor of the Municipal Court Unit,  
Assistant District of Attorney for the Philadelphia District of Attorney's Office*

For a list of other notable  
Catholic Law alumni visit  
[law.edu/notablealumni](http://law.edu/notablealumni)





**John Garvey**, President and Professor  
A.B., University of Notre Dame; J.D.,  
Harvard Law School

**A.G. Harmon**, Clinical Associate Professor  
B.A., University of Mississippi; M.A.,  
University of New Hampshire; J.D.,  
University of Tennessee; Ph.D.,  
The Catholic University of America

**Roger C. Hartley**, Professor  
B.S., Cornell University; J.D.,  
University of Pittsburgh; LL.M.,  
The George Washington University

**Regina T. Jefferson**, Professor  
B.S., Howard University; J.D.,  
The George Washington University Law  
School; LL.M., Georgetown University  
Law Center

**Kathryn Kelly**, Professor  
B.A., Butler University; J.D.,  
University of Notre Dame

**Jeremy Kidd**, Visiting Associate Professor  
J.D., Antonin Scalia Law School; Ph.D.,  
Utah State University

**Elizabeth Kirk**, Research Associate  
and Lecturer  
B.A., University of Missouri; J.D., Notre  
Dame Law School

**Catherine F. Klein**, Professor and Director,  
Columbus Community Legal Services  
B.A., Northwestern University; J.D.,  
University of Cincinnati

**Paul Kurth**, Director, Low Income  
Taxpayer Clinic; Managing Director,  
Columbus Community Legal Services;  
Director of Experiential Curriculum  
B.A., University of Toledo; M.S., Johns  
Hopkins University; J.D., The Catholic  
University of America Columbus  
School of Law

**Megan La Belle**, Professor  
and Co-Director, Law and  
Technology Institute  
B.A., University of California, Los  
Angeles; J.D., University of California,  
Davis, School of Law

**Mary G. Leary**, Professor  
B.A., Georgetown University; J.D.,  
Georgetown University Law Center

**Laurie A. Lewis**,  
Clinical Associate Professor  
B.A., University of New Hampshire; M.S.,  
Syracuse University; J.D., The Catholic  
University of America Columbus School  
of Law

**David A. Lipton**, Professor and Director,  
Securities Law Program  
B.A., Cornell University; M.A.,  
Columbia University; J.D.,  
University of Michigan Law School

**Michael McGonnigal**,  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
B.A., Northeastern University; J.D.,  
The Catholic University of America  
Columbus School of Law

**Veryl Victoria Miles**, Professor  
B.A., Wells College; J.D., The Catholic  
University of America Columbus School of  
Law; L.H.D., Mount St. Mary's University

**Stephen C. Payne**, Dean and  
Knights of Columbus Professor of Law  
B.S., Cornell University; J.D., Yale  
Law School

**Antonio Fidel Perez**, Professor  
A.B., Harvard College; J.D.,  
Columbia University Law School

**Mark Rienzi**, Professor and Director of  
Center for Religious Liberty  
B.A., Princeton University; J.D.,  
Harvard Law School

**Heidi Mandanis Schooner**, Professor  
B.A., Duke University; J.D., Georgetown  
University Law Center

**Marin R. Scordato**, Associate Dean  
for Academic Affairs and Research  
and Professor  
B.A., Haverford; J.D., University of  
Virginia School of Law

**Lucia Ann Silecchia**, Professor  
B.A., Queens College, CUNY; J.D.,  
Yale Law School

**Geoffrey R. Watson**, Professor  
and Director, Comparative and  
International Law Institute  
B.A., Yale College; J.D.,  
Harvard Law School

**Elizabeth Winston**, Associate  
Professor and Co-Director, Law  
and Technology Institute  
S.B., Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology; J.D., University of  
Virginia School of Law

**Frederick E. Woods**,  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
B.S., Indiana State University; M.Ed.,  
Howard University; J.D., Thurgood  
Marshall School of Law

## OTHER FACULTY

**Rett R. Ludwowski**, Professor Emeritus  
M.A., Ph.D. (Law), Ph.D. (History),  
The Jagiellonian University, Cracow,  
Poland

**George P. Smith II**, Professor Emeritus  
B.S., J.D., Indiana University; LL.M.,  
Columbia University; LL.D., Indiana  
University

**Leah Wortham**, Professor Emerita  
B.A., Macalester College; J.D.,  
Harvard University





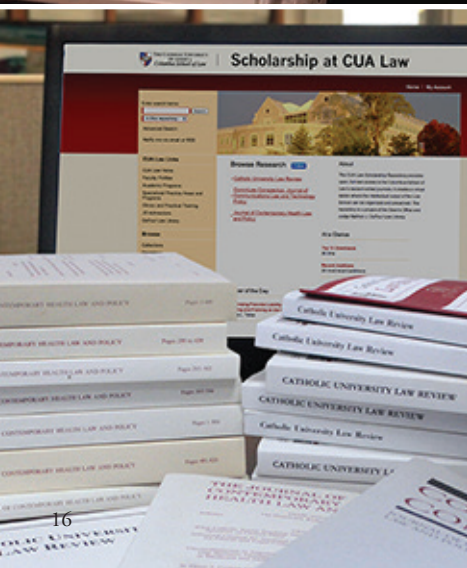


*What the Catholic Law faculty write is intended to have an impact upon legislative reform, judicial interpretation, executive policy, or the scope of legal knowledge within a particular area.*



## FACULTY & STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE

The Catholic Law Scholarship Repository ([scholarship.law.cua.edu](http://scholarship.law.cua.edu)) provides open, full-text access to the Columbus School of Law's student-edited journals and faculty scholarship, as well as providing a permanent record of the many scholarly events hosted by the Law School. It creates a virtual space where the intellectual output of the Law School can be collected, organized and preserved. The repository is a project of the Judge Kathryn J. DuFour Law Library and the Office of the Dean of the Law School.





## RECENT FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Professor Stacy Brustin received the 2019 Hall of Fame: Lifetime Legacy Award at Ayuda's Standing with Immigrants event. Standing with Immigrants is all about supporting immigrants with their dreams, desires, fortitude, and perseverance to have a share of the American dream.
- Professor Roger Colinviaux's expertise on tax law was highly sought after on numerous occasions throughout the year—speaking on topics such as the 50th Anniversary of the Tax Reform Act of 1969, tax reforms in the 21st century, and changes in charitable giving as a result of pandemic response packages.
- Professor Cara H. Drinan was elected to The American Law Institute (ALI), joining other law professors, federal and state judges, and prestigious practitioners who comprise the ALI membership.
- Professor Robert Destro was confirmed to serve as the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.
- Professor Mary Graw Leary testified before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on the *Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act (EARN IT Act)* and spoke at a Congressional Briefing focused on human trafficking victims.
- Professor Antonio Perez participated in the Annual Meeting of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIIL) which advises the State Department on U.S. participation in the United Nations Conference on International Trade Law, The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the Organization of American States, among other bodies.
- Professor Mark Rienzi won two 7-2 Supreme Court decisions in favor of religious liberty on July 8, 2020, as counsel for Our Lady of Guadalupe School (*Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*) and Little Sisters of the Poor (*Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania*).

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## Alumni say, “Why did I choose Catholic Law?”

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### Brendan Carr, Esq., 2005

*Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission*

*“CUA Law offers the perfect mix of rigorous academic and practical, real world training needed to succeed in a career— whether in the private sector or in public service. Because CUA Law is located in D.C., I gained valuable experience during law school by interning at the FCC and in Congress.”*

# FOCUSES

## *Programs, Institutes, Concentrations, and Centers*

To respond to the increased demand for specialized legal skills, Catholic Law offers five intensive certificate programs and an additional six structured concentrations in specialized areas of practice. Students who fulfill the requirements of either of these programs will graduate with enhanced expertise in a particular area of the law. Certificate programs and concentrations offer different levels of specialized legal training, but either path distinguishes graduates as especially practice-ready in their chosen area of interest.

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Certificate programs represent the most rigorous specialized legal education offered at Catholic Law. Each program has developed its own academic criteria, which supplement the general J.D. program. All of the law school's certificate programs have at least a 25-year track record of producing industry leaders within their areas of legal specialization. Their reputation, reach, and influence have grown steadily over the years, opening limitless career doors for today's students. CUA Law has recently introduced a new center and a new certificate program: the Center for Religious Liberty and the Compliance, Investigations, and Corporate Responsibility Program (CICR).

For students accepted for admission, institute certification may be earned in the following areas:

### COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE

Globalization, with its impact on trade, politics, economics, technology, and many other areas of life, brings fundamental changes in society. The Comparative and International Law Institute equips law students with the knowledge and practical skills required to address complex multinational legal issues and to advise clients on laws of more than one country. Through a rigorous curriculum and externships, students are exposed to public and private areas of international law, international business transactions, immigration, and human rights. As a supplement to the institute, summer law programs are offered in the areas of International Human Rights (Rome) and International Business and Trade (Cracow).

### COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATIONS, AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

The Columbus School of Law's Compliance, Investigations & Corporate Responsibility Program offers a unique opportunity for students and members of the bar to gain the skills necessary to work in the compliance and sustainability fields and to enhance the transparency, responsibility and sustainability of organizations in the United States and around the world.

### LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

The Law and Public Policy Program is an excellent choice for students interested in careers in the public policy arena working in government, public interest law, politics, advocacy, or law firms. Its specialized coursework and opportunities for interdisciplinary study offer training in the skills necessary for lawyers who participate in the development of law and public policy in legislative, administrative, and judicial forums. The certificate emphasizes that the holder possesses the key skills essential for lawyers working in the policy arena.





## LAW AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

The Law and Technology Institute (LTI) offers an enhanced curriculum to students interested in exploring the many important legal questions and policy debates surrounding evolving technologies. The curriculum will equip students with a well-rounded foundation, while also allowing them to pursue a particular area of interest, such as communications law, intellectual property law, or information privacy law. LTI students gain valuable practical experience through externships in government, industry, public interest organizations, and law firms.

## SECURITIES LAW PROGRAM

The Securities Law Program places its students in the top echelons of the field — including partners at major law firms, regulatory chiefs, and even commissioner on the Securities and Exchange Commission — leading positions that are a testament to the excellence of the program and its graduates. The broad and varied concentration of securities and corporate law courses, as well as the breadth of available externships, accommodate students who engage in this area of study at varied levels of intensity. The law school's D.C. location enables many of its securities offerings to be taught by senior staff from the SEC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), in addition to members of the faculty.

## CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations encourage increased academic focus within a field of interest, but do not offer certification. Catholic Law offers concentrations in the following practice areas: Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Family Law, Intellectual Property, Labor and Employment, and Securities Regulation.

## CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Center for Religious Liberty is an academic center dedicated to the study and articulation of the Catholic approach to religious liberty as a fundamental human right for all persons, regardless of faith. This right is recognized by the United States Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Church's teaching in *Dignitatis Humanae*. The Center aims to increase discussion and understanding of these issues by hosting speakers, organizing conferences, awarding writing prizes, providing educational programming, and commenting on religious liberty issues in the public square.



# CLINICS & EXTERNSHIPS

## THE CLINICAL PHILOSOPHY

The clinical approach at Catholic Law emphasizes learning by doing and reflecting. Students assume primary responsibility for their clients' cases and work under the supervision of expert faculty in our in-house and external clinical programs.

## COLUMBUS COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES (CCLS)

Founded 50 years ago, Columbus Community Legal Services (CCLS), our in-house clinical program, is widely respected as a pioneer in clinical legal education. CCLS has helped thousands of disadvantaged residents of Washington, D.C., navigate America's complicated legal system to obtain justice, protection, and relief.

CCLS encompasses four separate clinical programs. Students in the **Veterans Advocacy and Estate Planning Clinic** (taught in the evening and ideal for part-time students) advocate for the rights of those who have served our country in the armed forces and have been denied veterans' benefits. In addition, students provide estate-planning services to both veterans and non-veterans alike. Student attorneys draft wills, trusts, health care directives, and powers of attorney. In the **Families and the Law Clinic**, students represent clients before local courts and federal immigration agencies in cases involving domestic violence and family law. Students help clients obtain emergency protection orders, custody, property distribution, child support and affirmative immigration relief, including VAWA self-petitions, battered spouse waivers, and U visa applications.

Students in the **Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Clinic** (IRAC) advocate for immigrants and refugees in courts, administrative proceedings, and policy forums. Students assist low-income clients living in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland who have experienced political persecution, violence, or humanitarian crisis in their home countries. IRAC will represent clients with matters such as asylum, special immigrant visas for

## PRACTICAL

The clinic provides students with the opportunity to gain practical experience as a student attorney, while at the same time making an impact in the lives of others.

These are typical examples of what Catholic Law students achieve through their training in clinical legal education.

- Clinic students obtained special immigrant juvenile status for a Guatemalan and a Honduran client
- Clinic students track down identity thief
- The Tax Clinic prepared 498 free returns for clients





unaccompanied minors, labor trafficking, and naturalization. In addition, students may assist clients on issues that impact or relate to the client's immigration status such as child support, public benefits, or employment concerns. IRAC clients will include adults as well as unaccompanied minors. Students in the **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic** represent low-income taxpayers in controversies with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding issues such as return filing, IRS correspondence examinations and IRS face-to-face examinations, IRS collections, and appeals, and with judicial review before the United States Tax Court.

### ADDITIONAL CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES



Catholic Law's hybrid criminal clinics offer students an intensive introduction to criminal trial practice while immersing students in prosecutor's and public defender's offices. In the **Criminal Prosecution Clinic** students prosecute criminal cases in

Maryland District and Circuit Courts on behalf of the State's Attorney's Office of Montgomery County. In the **Law Students in Court Clinic** students defend indigent adults charged with misdemeanors and juveniles charged with any offense except in the case of the most serious felonies.



### LEGAL EXTERNSHIPS

The Law School also offers a robust Externship-program, which enables students to gain hands-on experience while observing the work of lawyers in a wide range of practice areas and practice types.

Our students receive academic credit for fieldwork completed on Capitol Hill at federal, state, and local courts and agencies; legal services organizations; national and local nonprofit policy organizations; trade associations and labor unions; corporate counsel's offices; and private law firms.

Catholic Law also offers excellent simulation courses in subjects including appellate advocacy; intellectual property practice; interviewing, counseling, and negotiation skills; mediation and arbitration; trial advocacy; criminal practice; and labor and employment practice.

### PRO BONO

The Catholic Law Pro Bono Program fosters the importance of hands-on learning opportunities to assist those in need of access to justice. Pro Bono projects enable you to apply the lessons you have learned in the classroom to real-life cases, while advancing your professional development.

Participation in the program is voluntary, and there is a range of diverse opportunities to take part in.

As a first-year student, you are encouraged to take part in pro bono opportunities as soon as you feel ready. The Catholic Law Pro Bono Coordinator will help you find a project that interests you and fits in with your busy academic calendar.



# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

## WHAT TO EXPECT AS A FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENT

Stay on top of your work. This sounds simple, but in law school there is often only one exam. This means your professor may move quickly from topic to topic. Start studying throughout the semester so you are prepared for final exams. There is no “you’re on your own” at Catholic Law. If you need help, ask for it early. Professors are here to help you learn and will often work around your schedule to meet for office hours.

During your first year all classes will be with your fellow 1Ls. This will allow first year students to form relationships with the other first year students. The classes for day students will run from approximately 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Fridays. Classes for those in the part-time/evening program run from approximately 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m., Monday – Thursday.



## GETTING COMFORTABLE AT LAW SCHOOL

The Law School Café on the basement level is available to grab a quick bite to eat. And just across the law school lawn at Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center (Pryz), you will find various eatery locations such as Starbucks Coffee, Fusion, Chick-fil-A, Which Which, the Student Restaurant, the P.O.D. (Provisions on Demand) Convenience Store, Murphy’s Restaurant, and more. There are also various quiet places to study inside the Pryz.

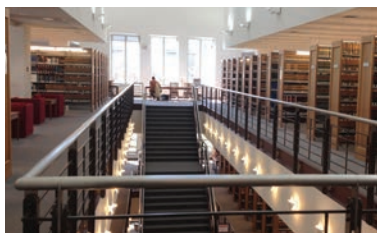
Students also have the option of various nearby off-campus dining options such as Bus Boys & Poets, BGR, Brookland Pint, Chipotle, Potbelly Sandwich Works, Starbucks, and &Pizza.

## MENTORS

One way to immerse yourself in the collegial environment is through the Law School’s various mentor programs. Having a mentor gives you the opportunity to learn the skills you need to succeed in law school from experienced students. As a student there is no better way to learn how to navigate and succeed in law school than learning from someone who has been in your shoes.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is vital during law school. You can check out the campus Kane Fitness Center or participate in a fitness class. Visit Student Health Services for your health-care needs or schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center to receive mental-health and emotional counseling.



## LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES

On the law library’s website ([www.law.edu/library](http://www.law.edu/library)) you can access previous exams that professors have released to assist students in studying for exams. It can be very helpful to see the format of real law school exams when preparing for finals. There are Reference Librarians on staff, who have the knowledge and experience to help you with all of your information and research needs.



*Enjoy the beauty of The Catholic University of America's 176-acre parklike campus, and the excitement of living in a truly global city.*



The Law School is within easy walking distance of the Brookland/CUA Metro Station, which is on the red line. This makes commuting from a job in Washington, D.C., to your evening courses manageable. For those who wish to drive, there is a parking garage attached to the Law School.



# J.D. PROGRAM

*Our Juris Doctor (J.D.) program is a comprehensive legal education designed to equip our students for a successful career wherever and however they choose to practice. An extensive course selection, professional skills training, clinical opportunities, and cocurricular activities add up to a rich, rewarding, and relevant academic program.*

To receive the J.D. degree, a student must earn at least 87 semester hours of credit while maintaining a G.P.A. of at least 2.5. Students may earn their degrees in either a six-semester, full-time day program or an eight-semester, part-time, evening program. Courses are offered in two academic year semesters and one annual summer session. Both day and evening semesters run from August to mid-December and January to mid-May.

Courses in both divisions are scheduled Monday through Friday. All students should be prepared to devote a significant amount of time to their studies. The law school maintains a smaller-than-average student:faculty ratio (approximately 10.5:1) to maximize student and faculty interchange.

## FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM

Our recently modernized first-year curriculum is prescribed for all students. Two courses, Civil Procedure and Contracts, include practicum components to facilitate integration of practical learning experiences with coverage of legal doctrine. Its eight courses are designed to develop a solid foundation and basic understanding of substantive areas of the law. The courses are:

- |                         |          |                    |          |            |          |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| ■ Civil Procedure       | (6 hrs.) | ■ Contracts        | (6 hrs.) | ■ Property | (4 hrs.) |
| ■ Constitutional Law I  | (3 hrs.) | ■ Criminal Law     | (3 hrs.) | ■ Torts    | (4 hrs.) |
| ■ Constitutional Law II | (3 hrs.) | ■ Lawyering Skills | (4 hrs.) |            |          |

## NOTABLE CATHOLIC LAW ALUMNI



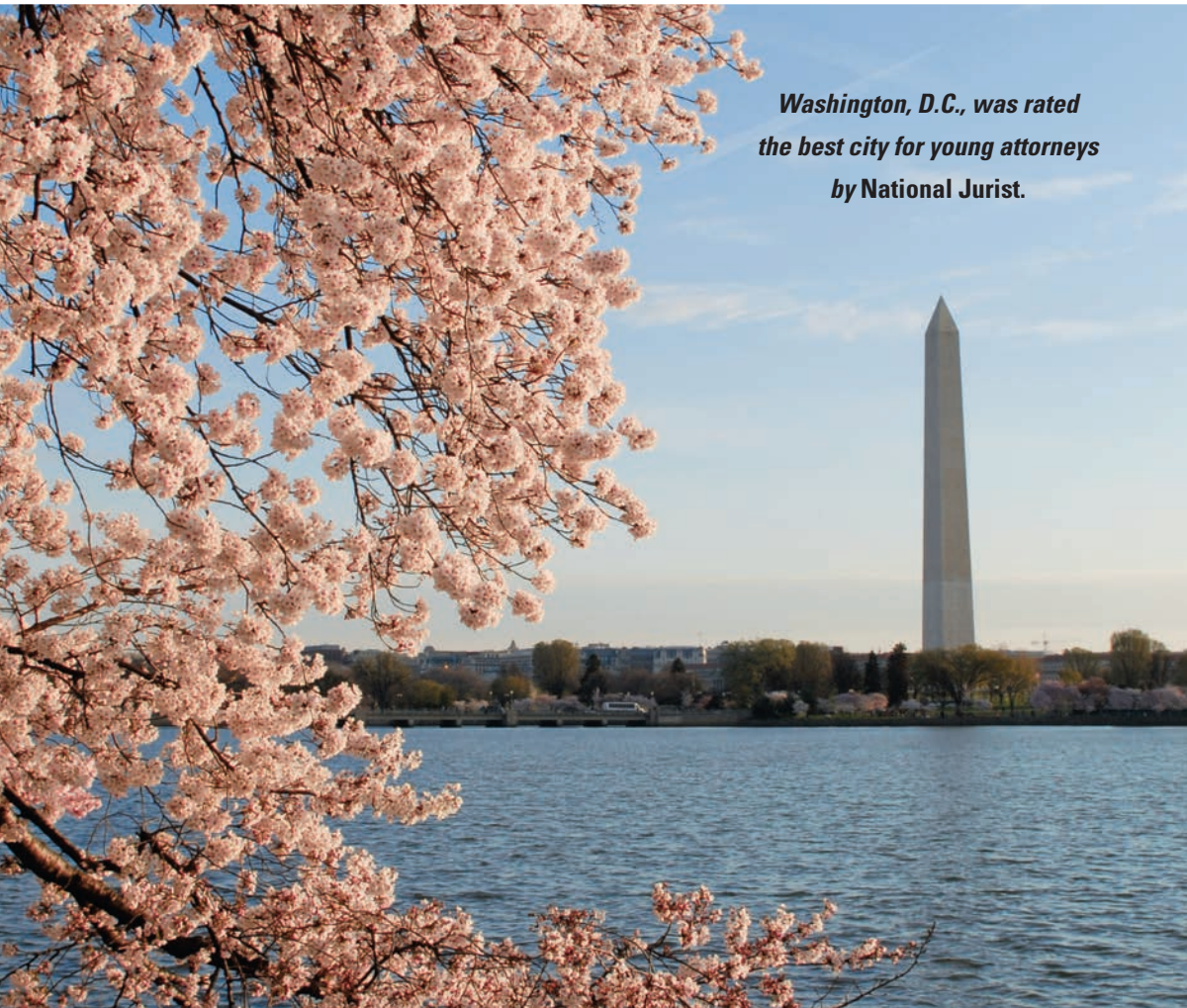
**Michael Bidwill, Esq., 1990**  
*Chairman and President  
Arizona Cardinals*



**Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, 1975**  
*Chair, International Trade, Investment and Market Access Practice Group,  
WilmerHale; former United States Trade Representative*

For a list of other notable  
Catholic Law alumni visit  
[law.edu/notablealumni](http://law.edu/notablealumni)





***Washington, D.C., was rated  
the best city for young attorneys  
by National Jurist.***



Washington, D.C.'s Metrorail system provides Catholic Law students a quick, convenient link to downtown's unique cultural attractions, as well as to the abundant externship opportunities offered in the nation's capital.



By emphasizing the careful analysis of judicial opinions, statutes, and other material, the first-year curriculum helps students develop the ability to perceive a problem from many different perspectives. The student learns to use facts and to arrange a factual pattern into a legal framework. The student also learns to express legal thoughts clearly and concisely.

By the conclusion of the first year, students should be able to recognize the basic legal dimensions of a problem and work that problem through to its conclusion. At Catholic Law, the first-year curriculum is as rigorous as it is fascinating. It yields a solid foundation for advanced study.

## ADVANCED CURRICULUM

After the first year, our students are able to design an individual study program. The law school offers a wide range of advanced courses and seminars, and we encourage students to construct a program well suited to their career plans.

To become licensed to practice law in most jurisdictions, a law school graduate must sit for and pass a bar examination. As part of that bar preparation, students are required to complete Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility. Students are also required to complete six “Bar Staple” courses from a list of ten such courses. These ten courses are Administrative Law, Agency or Agency & Partnership, Commercial Transactions, Conflict of Laws, Corporations, Family Law, Federal Income Taxation, Remedies, Sales and Leases, and Trusts and Estates.

Classes can be planned within “clusters” that offer related subject matter. Clusters of courses are available in the following specialties:

- Administrative and Legislative Law
- Civil Litigation
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Clinical Skills and Lawyering Competencies
- Commercial and Consumer Law/Compliance
- Communications Law and New Technologies
- Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- Constitutional Law
- Cyberlaw/Information Privacy
- Entertainment, Art, and Sports Law
- Family Law
- General Practice
- Immigration/Human Rights
- Intellectual Property Law
- International and Comparative Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Law and Public Policy
- Legal Profession/Professional Responsibility
- Litigation: Practice and Procedure
- Public Interest/Public Service Law
- Securities Regulation
- Tax Law and Policy
- Trusts and Estates





## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Given the strength of CUA's graduate programs, there are multiple dual-degree options available. Individual programs include:

- J.D./M.A. Politics
- J.D./M.A. Psychology
- J.D./M.S.W. Social Work
- J.D./M.A. Philosophy
- J.D./M.S.L.S. Library Science
- J.D./J.C.L. Licentiate in Canon Law
- J.D./M.A. History

## PART-TIME OPTION PUTS A DEGREE WITHIN REACH

Many applicants desire to earn a law degree while continuing to meet the responsibilities of family life and full-time employment. Offering a flexible and supportive four-year, part-time option, Catholic Law is an excellent choice for the working professional. Approximately one-third of our student body is enrolled in the evening division, and part-time students enjoy the comparable law school resources, including staff support after hours.

According to one current part-time student, "Having friends in other evening programs at D.C. schools, I find that Catholic Law has demonstrated a wider variety of classes and scheduling for evening students." Another part-time student affirms the achievability of the J.D. degree: "I have two kids and a full-time job. But with discipline (and a little sleep loss) I complete every assignment and am prepared for every class."



## **CUA BAR PREP PROGRAM**

Our commitment to our students does not end at Commencement. As a supplement to the commercial bar prep programs, and thanks to the outstanding support from over 45 alumni each year, we provide all of our students the opportunity to work one-on-one with a Catholic Law alumnus during the summer leading up to the bar exam. Twice a week from mid-May through mid-July, any graduate sitting for the bar is invited to attend a free catered lunch at the law school and receive bar exam essay questions which they can submit for quick and constructive feedback. In addition, once a week our students are given the opportunity to complete a practice quiz in a particular subject area tested on the bar exam and then attend a review session where a faculty member will extensively review each question. All of this is designed to ensure that our students are prepared to take and pass the bar exam.



# M.L.S. & LL.M. PROGRAMS

*For professionals who want to bring specialized knowledge and an enhanced understanding of the role of the law across industries without the time and expense associated with a J.D. program, the Columbus School of Law also offers the Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) Program.*

The Master of Legal Studies program from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law offers flexibility, versatility, and broad-ranging instructional excellence.

The 26-credit program equips students with both a general understanding of the American legal system and specific knowledge of their chosen field of interest. During the first semester, all students enrolled in the M.L.S. program take Introduction to American Law and Legal Methods. This introductory course designed exclusively for M.L.S. students provides an overview of the American legal system and teaches the process of legal analysis. All M.L.S. students will conclude their studies by working with a faculty member on a final project. The remaining credits allow candidates to further their knowledge in their chosen field of interest.

The M.L.S. degree program enhances the ability of professionals to work with lawyers and legal issues, to gain a deeper knowledge of a particular legal field, and to understand laws and regulations. Students can choose to concentrate in the fields of compliance and corporate responsibility, criminal justice, employment and human resources, intellectual property, or political law. Alternatively, students may choose a general U.S. law option, which allows students to design a course of study that best suits their interests and needs.

M.L.S. degree recipients will be able to distinguish themselves in their chosen profession based on the specialized knowledge they have gained regarding the role of the law across industries and in particular disciplines.

## EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic Law's Washington, D.C., location allows for valuable year-round externships. Catholic's extensive program allows students to gain class credit and priceless real-world experience in a vast array of legal practice settings that include government, private firms, the judiciary, think tanks, agencies, and many other places.





*Master of Laws Program (LL.M.) graduates acquire a credential that will serve them throughout their legal career. Students gain specialized knowledge, receive practical training, and form a network of professional contacts. The Law School curriculum enables LL.M. students to tailor a program of study suited to their career interests and aspirations.*

The Master of Laws is an advanced program of legal study that is customized to the needs of the individual student. LL.M. candidates, mentored by expert faculty, plan a course of study in one of the following concentrations: Law and Technology, Securities Law, or Comparative and International Law. Foreign LL.M. students have the option to pursue a curriculum that helps prepare them for a U.S. bar examination, while acquire a broad understanding of the U.S. common law system. Through the law school's extensive curricular offerings, LL.M. candidates enhance their knowledge for practice by acquiring significant expertise in the area of specialization they have selected, as well as honing their skills in U.S. legal research, analysis, and legal writing.

Committed to providing the highest quality legal education in an increasingly global society, the Columbus School of Law offers its LL.M. degree program to graduates of U.S. and foreign law schools.

Catholic Law is situated in our nation's capital, the legal and political center of the United States. Washington, D.C. is also the hub for governmental and non-governmental international organizations. LL.M. students may avail themselves of all the opportunities that Washington, D.C., has to offer due to our convenient location and easy access to public transportation.

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## Alumni say, “*Why did I choose Catholic Law?*”

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### **Alexis Zayas (LL.M. 2010)**

*Attorney at Broadband Legal Strategies, Washington, D.C.*

*“The education I received from Catholic’s LL.M. program greatly exceeded my expectations. Not only did I have the opportunity to further hone my legal skills in my area of focus, but I was able to expand my network of legal professionals through Catholic’s alumni network and form lasting relationships with my law student peers.”*

# HOW TO APPLY *Catholic Law Application Information*

*At the Columbus School of Law, we have always understood that one of our greatest strengths is the diversity of our community. We value the perspective that each student brings to the law school and we embrace diversity in all of its measures, whether by race, ethnicity, gender, geographic region, language, personal history, culture, or country.*

## APPLYING FOR FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

Catholic University's law school seeks students with both the academic potential and the unique intangibles to thrive in our classrooms and to bring diverse perspectives to our community. Thus, we rely upon an applicant's undergraduate GPA and LSAT score to predict the ability to excel in our rigorous academic setting. The intangibles — leadership through extracurricular activities, substantial and relevant work experience, demonstrated commitment to community service, significant graduate work — are examples of the many factors we examine to predict an applicant's ability to thrive in law school.

In short, we are selecting a relatively small number of candidates from a pool of approximately 1,500 applicants who possess both the academic predictors and the perspective-driven motivation to join our community at Catholic University.

To be eligible for admission, an applicant generally must have received an undergraduate degree from a college or university accredited by one of the regional associations, and also demonstrated competitive performance on the Law School Admission Test.

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## Alumni say, *“Why did I choose Catholic Law?”*

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**Alice S. Fisher, Esq., 1992**

*Partner and Executive Committee Member at Latham & Watkins*

*“Catholic offered the perfect blend of what I was looking for in a law school — a dynamic learning environment in an exciting city full of opportunity, combined with a great education that was grounded in the core values that were important to me. The collegial, mentor-focused environment and practical skills I learned at Catholic carry through my professional life today in significant and meaningful ways.”*





## LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST (LSAT)

The test is administered six times a year by the Law School Admission Council. Applicants should apply between Sept. 1 and June 30 for either the day or the evening division. First-year students may matriculate in the fall semester only. Applications are complete when the following required materials have been received:

- An application. Applicants must apply electronically through the law school's partnership with the Law School Admission Council.
- An official Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report containing a transcript analysis, recommendations, and LSAT score. Transcripts from colleges and universities from outside the United States or Canada should be sent to us through a credential evaluation service such as World Education Services.
- A personal statement that discusses your reasons for pursuing the study of law and describes how your background has led you to make this decision.
- A one-page résumé.

## EARLY ACTION PROGRAM

Candidates to the law school who submit an application and subsequently complete all the application requirements by Dec. 1 will be considered for the Early Action Program. In addition, candidates must have taken the LSAT prior to applying. Decisions on eligible applications will be rendered on or before Dec. 21. Early Action admission is nonbinding.

## FINANCING A LEGAL EDUCATION

Our Office of Financial Aid is committed to assisting students in acquiring the funding necessary to make it possible to attend law school. Between 75 and 80% of our students finance their education with federal loans. For more information, contact the law school's financial aid office or visit our website at [law.edu](http://law.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships from Catholic Law are merit-based. Scholarships received during the first year of attendance (except some Special Interest Scholarships) are renewed for subsequent years subject to the recipient remaining "in good standing." First-year students who did not receive a scholarship for the first-year of study, but finish in the top 25% of their respective class may still be considered for scholarships in ensuing years.

## TUITION

Tuition charges are set each year by the Board of Trustees. The most current information is included with the enclosed admissions profile and is also available on the financial aid section of the law school's website, [law.edu](http://law.edu).

## HOUSING

Nearly all law students live off campus. The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area offers many off-campus housing opportunities to prospective law students, such as apartments, rooms to rent, and group houses. Each summer, the Office of Admissions assists incoming students with their housing search. For more information, please contact the Office of Admissions at 202-319-5151.



## **TRANSPORTATION**

The Law School is within easy walking distance of the Brookland/CUA Metro Station, which is on the red line (just three stops from Union Station). There is also a parking garage attached to the Law School. Catholic provides security patrols 24/7, safe escort and transportation, identification and access services, and emergency alert systems to maintain a safe and secure campus environment.

## **ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

Before entering law school, students should be familiar with the character requirements and other requirements for admission to the bar of the state or states where practice is intended. Responsibility for fulfillment of all requirements rests with the student.

## **APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a disability that you believe should be taken into account in reviewing your credentials, it should be described in response to question 16 on the application form. This optional and confidential procedure is intended to shed additional light on the applicant's background and will not be used to discriminate against individuals. Some applicants may have disabilities that do not require special consideration in the review, but may require planning by the law school to assist students upon enrollment. Such disabilities may be discussed on the application, or students may notify the school upon admission. It is beneficial to have as much advance notice as possible to enable the law school to make necessary accommodations.

## **CANDOR IN APPLICATION**

Accurate answers to questions on the application are very important. Past arrests, criminal convictions, and disciplinary offenses are assessed individually on factors that include applicant's age at the time, time lapse since the event, seriousness of the offense, whether the record suggests an isolated event or pattern, and surrounding circumstances. Such events are considered with the total application and are rarely a deciding factor in themselves. Lack of candor and inaccurate disclosure on the application are serious matters, which can result in suspension or expulsion if discovered after admission.

## **REQUIRED CONSUMER DISCLOSURE TO ALL APPLICANTS**

Title IV of the Higher Education Act requires the University to make certain required disclosures to all applicants to the University. Pursuant to this law, Catholic has created a webpage at [law.edu/consumerinformation](http://law.edu/consumerinformation) that contains links to all of the relevant information. This page contains information about tuition and fees, financial aid, employment outcomes, scholarship retention data, transfer of credit policy, admissions, and other consumer information.

## **THE TRANSFER APPLICATION PROCESS**

Students may be admitted with advanced standing from an American Bar Association-accredited law school after successful completion of the first year. Students must be in good standing and eligible to continue study at that school. The application deadline for spring admission is Nov. 25. The application deadline for fall admission is July 1. Submission of the following documents is required:

- An official law school transcript demonstrating first-year grades. If the applicant's law school ranks its students, first-year rank is required.



- A letter of good standing from the dean of the law school following completion of the first year.
- A copy of the applicant's entire CAS report. This report may be sent to the Office of Admissions by either the LSAC or the applicant's current law school. To be complete, the copy of the CAS must include all transcripts and letters of recommendation as contained in the original report.
- Though not required, we recommend that transfer applicants submit a letter of recommendation from a current law school faculty member.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Columbus School of Law, motivated by the Catholic identity of The Catholic University of America of which it is an integral part, recognizes the inherent value and dignity of all members of the human family. It values equal opportunity and seeks racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity. The University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. The University maintains its Catholic character but is open to persons of all religious faiths who respect the goals of The Catholic University of America, as adopted by the Board of Trustees. It does not discriminate on the basis of religion, except to the extent that applicable laws and constitutional provisions respect its right to act in furtherance of its religious objectives. The University accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church with regard to homosexual conduct and sexual conduct outside the bounds of matrimony as set forth by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Consistent with those teachings, the University does not discriminate solely on the basis of an individual's sexual orientation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Catholic University of America

Columbus School of Law

Office of Admissions

Washington, DC 20064

Phone: 202-319-5151

Fax : 202-319-6285

Email: [admissions@law.edu](mailto:admissions@law.edu)

Web: [law.edu](http://law.edu)





An aerial photograph of the Catholic University of America campus in Washington, D.C. The image shows a large, historic stone building with a prominent dome on the left, surrounded by green lawns, trees, and other campus buildings. A yellow school bus is visible on a road near the main building. In the background, the city of Washington and the Potomac River are visible under a cloudy sky.

**START YOUR  
LAW SCHOOL  
SEARCH AT  
LAW.EDU**



**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**  
*Columbus School of Law*  
*Washington, D.C.*

PRACTICAL • FOCUSED • CONNECTED