

## Vanderbilt University Law School

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### ■ Welcome to a New Way of Thinking

Vanderbilt is recognized among the nation's leading law schools for its faculty of renowned scholars, its talented students drawn from across the nation and around the world, and its rigorous curriculum with an array of joint-degree, specialized, and interdisciplinary programs. Building on this tradition of excellence, Vanderbilt has established itself as a leader in designing innovative programs that connect outstanding theoretical training to real-world information and experiences relevant to twenty-first century law practice. A legal education that translates the best scholarly research into effective lawyering provides immediate advantages to Vanderbilt graduates.

With about 200 students in each entering class, Vanderbilt fosters a tradition of challenging intellectual inquiry in an atmosphere of mutual respect. This small-school sense of collegiality combined with an accessible and distinguished faculty creates an exceptional environment for law studies and professional development. With state-of-the-art facilities situated on a beautiful and vibrant university campus in a sophisticated, friendly, and livable city, Vanderbilt offers a first-rate legal education in a setting that promotes a great quality of life.

### ■ Faculty

Widely respected for the quality of both their scholarship and their teaching, Vanderbilt professors have open doors for students. The faculty includes leading experts in an array of fields, including corporate and business law, constitutional law, litigation, torts, criminal law, international law, law and human behavior, dispute resolution, and intellectual property. Professors draw on their cutting-edge research to create engaging and valuable classroom experiences and extend their availability to students well beyond class times.

### ■ Curriculum

An outstanding foundational curriculum reinforced by innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to advanced training are the hallmarks of a Vanderbilt legal education. First-year requirements provide the intellectual foundation on which to build a legal education tailored to individual needs and interests in the second and third years. Upper-level courses are almost entirely electives, allowing students to choose what they wish from a broad curriculum, combining courses, clinics, externships, independent studies, and courses outside the law school to meet their individual goals.

Vanderbilt is a leader in designing innovative programs that connect rigorous intellectual training to practice-based information and experiences. The Law and Business Program is designed to produce lawyers who understand how complex corporate finance and regulatory environments affect businesses and their managers. The Cecil D. Branstetter Litigation and Dispute Resolution Program is directed at translating scholarly research on litigation and court systems to practice-based skills and strategies that litigators use to settle disputes. The International Legal Studies Program offers advanced coursework in international law and a unique

International Law Practice Lab in which students undertake specific projects for real-world clients such as the Iraqi Special Tribunal and the International Criminal Court. The faculty takes similar approaches to designing programs in constitutional law and theory, law and human behavior, environmental law, regulatory law, technology and entertainment law, and social justice.

### ■ Special Programs, Clinics, Study Abroad, and Joint Degrees

The law and economics movement has been the most important innovation in legal scholarship over the past quarter century, and Vanderbilt's PhD in Law and Economics provides the next generation of training in this field: a combination of professional and academic degrees that will train scholars for academic positions, law practice, policymaking, and public interest work. Students will either have a JD upon entry to the PhD program, or will work on the requirements for both the PhD and the JD concurrently.

Other special programs include the First Amendment Center, where journalists and legal scholars promote understanding of First Amendment values, and the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, which offers faculty and students throughout the university a place to collaborate on issues ranging from health care policy to international trade.

The Law School's clinical programs provide opportunities to earn academic credit while serving the public in real practice settings. Clinical offerings include civil law, criminal law, intellectual property, domestic violence, juvenile justice, community and economic development, small business, and international law practice. Students also gain experience and earn academic credit as externs in nonprofits and government agencies in Nashville and around the nation through the Law School's Legal Aid Society and Public Interest Stipend Fund.

Vanderbilt in Venice allows students to study abroad in the rich cultural center of Venice, Italy. Taught by Vanderbilt Law and University of Venice faculty, the academic program covers topics in international law with intensive classwork augmented by outside resources and experiences.

Joint-degree programs make it possible to combine the JD with an MBA, MD, MDiv, MTS, MPP, MA, or PhD in conjunction with the university's various graduate and professional schools. The law school also offers an LLM program for international lawyers and the LLM/MA in Latin American Studies.

### ■ Law School Building and Library

Recently renovated and expanded, the Law School facilities are among the best designed in the nation. Situated on a park-like campus that is designated a national arboretum, the building is designed for twenty-first century legal studies and research with wireless connectivity, state-of-the-art classrooms and a trial courtroom, and on-site and remote access to a host of electronic resources. The law library provides a variety of comfortable study spaces, including two reading rooms and nearly 200 carrels. The service-oriented library staff oversees a collection of over 565,000 volumes and more than 250 electronic databases; and all other Vanderbilt libraries,

containing more than 2.3 million volumes, are also available to law students.

## ■ Student Life and Law School Environs

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One of the reasons that students choose Vanderbilt is the congenial, collaborative atmosphere on campus. Spirited competition in an atmosphere of mutual respect creates an intellectual vibrancy and a sense of community that are rare. The activities of more than 40 student organizations are enhanced by Hyatt Fund financial support for student-initiated events including speakers, symposia, and conferences. Three journals—the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law*, and the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*—provide opportunities to strengthen legal research and writing skills.

In the natural beauty of Tennessee, Vanderbilt's hometown has emerged as a vibrant and progressive city that offers numerous professional opportunities, wide-ranging cultural and recreational options, and a great quality of life. Among the nation's most livable cities, Nashville is the state capital with a metropolitan-area population of 1.3 million, and Vanderbilt is ideally situated in this major center for legal activity, allowing law students an array of opportunities in law firms, state and federal courts and government, public agencies, nonprofits, and corporations.

## Applicant Profile

Admission to Vanderbilt is competitive, and our selection process reflects our belief that the quality of the educational environment at the law school benefits from considering a range of information about each prospective student that is far broader than GPA and LSAT. Each file is reviewed in its entirety for indicators of academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, hard work, interest in others' welfare, obstacles overcome, professionalism, and other characteristics of

## ■ Career Services

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Vanderbilt Law graduates are in high demand throughout the US and abroad for their outstanding legal training. Each fall, employers representing approximately 550 law offices in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and cities like London, Beijing, Shanghai, and Tokyo come to the law school to interview students, and more than 800 employers solicit students' résumés throughout the year. A growing number of public service and government employers recruit on campus, and about 5 to 7 percent of recent graduates have chosen work in this sector. The faculty takes an active role with students interested in judicial clerkships, and recent graduates have accepted clerkships in each of the US Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court of the United States. About 80 percent of recent graduates chose employment out-of-state, with the most popular destinations including Georgia, New York, DC, Texas, California, and Illinois. In all, Vanderbilt Law's 7,500 living alumni cover 49 states, DC, 3 US territories, and 27 foreign nations.

## ■ Financial Aid and Loan Repayment Assistance

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Vanderbilt provides generous financial assistance through need- and merit-based scholarships and educational loans. All admitted applicants are considered for merit scholarships, and several Law Scholar Merit Awards of full tuition plus stipend are given each year through a supplemental application process. Vanderbilt's Loan Repayment Assistance Program provides financial support to graduates who choose to practice law in low-paying public service organizations upon graduation.

successful law students. We believe that talented students with a mix of backgrounds, perspectives, and aspirations promote a vibrant and civil teaching and learning environment and that full file review in the admission process is central to that objective. Vanderbilt does not provide a two-factor profile grid to describe its multifaceted selection process in which admission decisions are based on experienced judgment applied to individual cases.