

## St. John's University School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

St. John's University School of Law is a forceful presence and an integral part of the New York metropolitan area. It imparts to its students training and competency in the basic skills and techniques of the legal profession, a grasp of the history and the system of common law, and a familiarity with important statutes and decisions in federal and state jurisdictions, including the State of New York.

The law school is a state-of-the-art facility with a gross total square footage of 179,400, one of the highest space-per-student ratios in the country. Some highlights of the facility include a new high-tech clinical suite, alumni function areas, a student lounge, faculty offices, classrooms for teaching clinical and lawyering skills, and a state-of-the-art moot courtroom.

The School of Law is located on the Queens Campus of St. John's University. Situated on almost 100 rolling acres in a residential area, the campus boasts a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline. St. John's School of Law is approved by the ABA and is a member of the AALS.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

The showpiece of the law school building is its beautiful law library, which incorporates the most recent advances in law library science and technology. It contains a computer classroom, a computer laboratory, and several study rooms for student conferences. The library occupies approximately 50,000 square feet on five of the eight building levels. It has been designated a depository library for US government and UN documents.

The School of Law has recently completed a major renovation of its moot court, producing a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility that incorporates technologies that further the teaching and research missions of St. John's. In addition, the School of Law has completed renovations of first-year classrooms, clinic offices, and the professional skills center.

### ■ Clinical and Externship Programs

Elective clinical programs and externships are available to second- and third-year full-time students.

In the Civil Externship Program, students work in (1) a legal services office assisting lawyers who provide legal representation to the poor; or (2) a public service or governmental agency such as the United States Attorney's Office, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the New York Legal Aid Society. In the Criminal Justice Externship Program, students work in a district attorney's office, a legal aid office, or the law department of the supreme court or criminal court. In the Judicial Externship Program, students work in the federal, state, or city court system.

In the Elder Law Clinic, students represent elderly clients with legal problems that involve the danger of losing their homes, denial of disability benefits, unlawful collection practices, and illegal lending schemes. The Securities Arbitration Clinic positions students to work with small investors who are in securities disputes with broker-dealers. The Child Advocacy Clinic provides students the opportunity to represent children who have been abused or neglected. Students in the Domestic Violence Clinic represent women who

are victims of spousal abuse. The students perform services that include client interviews, negotiating settlements, and making court appearances. The Prosecution Clinic allows students to witness the criminal justice system at work—not just by observing, but by prosecuting real cases. The Refugee and Immigration Rights Clinic is coordinated in partnership with Catholic Charities and exposes students to the legal problems faced by immigrants, refugees, and asylees.

### ■ Special Diversity Admission Program

The School of Law sponsors a program for individuals who have faced the challenges of discrimination, chronic financial hardship, or other social, educational, or physical disadvantages to such an extent that their undergraduate performance or LSAT score would not otherwise warrant unconditional acceptance into the entering class. This Summer Institute program, which is available at no additional charge to the participants, consists of a substantive course taught and graded according to the same qualitative standard applied to all first-year courses, as well as a legal writing course. The program enables individuals whose LSAT scores and GPAs are not reliable predictors of their success to demonstrate their ability to succeed in the study of law.

### ■ Vincentian Scholarship Program

The mission statement of St. John's University School of Law calls for the law school "to provide a superior legal education for a diverse population of students with special awareness for economic fairness and equal opportunity, consistent with and in fulfillment of the Vincentian tradition and mission." In furtherance of this Vincentian tradition and mission, the School of Law provides five full-tuition Vincentian scholarships each year in its ongoing effort to achieve a diverse student body. These are in addition to the extensive financial scholarship aid provided to law students annually. Applicants seeking a Vincentian scholarship are encouraged to so indicate on their applications for admission and to discuss their qualifications in an addendum to their applications.

### ■ Student Activities

**Publications**—*St. John's Law Review*/*St. Thomas More Institute for Research*, *Journal of Catholic Legal Studies*, *Journal of Legal Commentary*, *New York International Law Review*, *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*, and *N.Y. Litigator*.

**Mock Trial and Appellate Activities**—Moot Court, Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute.

**Specialized Legal Activities**—The Student Bar Association, Admiralty Law Society, Women's Law Association, Bankruptcy Law Society, Environmental Law Club, Entertainment and Sports Club, International Law Society, Intellectual Property, Labor and Employment Club, Real Property Club, the Black Law Students Association, the Asian American Law Students Association, the Latino American Law Students Association, and Client Counseling Competition. The school also maintains chapters in two legal societies, Phi Delta Phi and Phi Alpha Delta.

## ■ Expenses and Financial Aid

The School of Law provides extensive financial scholarship aid to students annually. There are new university housing facilities, and many students find other suitable living accommodations in the vicinity of the university. In addition, the Admission Office coordinates a housing network for students. Students with housing needs are invited to contact the Admission Office for assistance and information.

## ■ Career Services

Career Services provides an array of services, including résumé and cover letter critiquing, mock interview coaching, job and judicial clerkship postings, newsletters, lists of prospective employers, interview programs, and career education panels. Recent graduates have obtained employment in many areas of the legal profession. Approximately 5 percent accept federal and state judicial clerkships. For the class of 2006, the employment rate (nine months after graduation) was 96 percent.

Alumni of the law school are currently practicing throughout the United States and its territories. Many have achieved positions of prominence in executive and legislative branches of the government, as members of the judiciary, and in both private and corporate practice. Two recent governors of New York, a congressman for New York, a recent governor of the US Virgin Islands, and a former governor of California were graduates of St. John's School of Law.

## ■ Bar Passage Rate

St. John's University School of Law's bar passage rate for first-time test takers was 90 percent on the 2007 bar examination, making it 5th among the 15 New York law

schools. St. John's has consistently placed among the top New York law schools in percentage of first-time test takers passing the bar exam.

## ■ Summer Rome Program

Each summer in June, St. John's University offers a way to enjoy the experience of learning in a different setting. Students have the pleasure of learning and gaining credits toward graduation in Rome, the Eternal City. Courses in International or Comparative Law are traditionally offered for this four-week program (for a maximum of four credits). US and foreign law students are allowed to apply and also have the opportunity to visit Italian legal institutions and develop networking connections for future reference.

## ■ LLM in Bankruptcy and LLM in US Legal Studies

**LLM in Bankruptcy**—St. John's has the nation's first master's program in bankruptcy. It is designed to meet an important and special educational need in the field of bankruptcy law. Matriculating students will be required to complete 30 credits, including the preparation and defense of a major thesis on a current significant bankruptcy topic. Students may matriculate on a full- or part-time basis.

**LLM in US Legal Studies**—St. John's offers a new LLM Program (*Magister Legum* or Master of Law) tailored exclusively for foreign law school graduates. The program is one year in residence and requires the completion of 24 credits. The LLM program is open to graduates of foreign law schools who demonstrate excellent academic achievement comparable to that of US law school graduates. Students may enroll on a full- or part-time basis.

## Applicant Profile

St. John's University School of Law

LSAT Score	GPA								
	3.75 +	3.50–3.74	3.25–3.49	3.00–3.24	2.75–2.99	2.50–2.74	2.25–2.49	2.00–2.24	Below 2.00
175–180	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
170–174	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
165–169	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
160–164	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
155–159	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
150–154	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
145–149	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
140–144	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
135–139	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
130–134	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
125–129	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		
120–124	Good Possibility				Possible		Unlikely		

Good Possibility
  Possible
  Unlikely