

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

2121 San Diego Avenue
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone: 619.297.9700; 800.956.5070; Fax: 619.294.4713
E-mail: info@tjssl.edu; Website: www.tjssl.edu

■ Introduction

Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL) is a private, nonprofit, and independent law school. Accredited by the ABA, the law school emphasizes an individualized approach to learning by integrating the cognitive sciences and learning theory into its curriculum.

TJSL has an extremely flexible curriculum that allows students to commence their studies in either August or January. Also, students can pursue a law degree in a full- or part-time (day or evening) program and accelerate graduation by attending classes in the summer. This multitrack approach, traceable to the school's roots as a long-time supporter of military personnel and working adults, gives students the option of pursuing a law degree full or part time while continuing their employment.

■ New Campus Opening in 2010–2011

The law school is currently located in Old Town San Diego, but will be moving to a \$70 million, eight-story, high-rise building in Downtown San Diego during the 2010–2011 academic year. The brand new campus will feature a state-of-the-art library, in-house legal clinics, and a cafeteria. The location will place students within walking distance from many law firms, major businesses, and the state and federal courts.

■ Vibrant and Diverse Student Community

Diversity isn't optional at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. It's an ongoing commitment that stems directly from the core values and philosophy of the law school, which are reflected in its mission statement: "The mission of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law is to provide an outstanding legal education for a nationally based, diverse student body in a collegial and supportive environment."

The TJSL campus truly reflects its commitment to diversity: the student body is gender-balanced, 20 percent of the students are the first in their family to attend law school, students of color comprise 39 percent of the student body, many students are openly GLBT, 25 percent are multilingual, and they represent more than 23 countries.

■ Location, Location, Location!

San Diego's mild Mediterranean climate promises nearly 265 days of sunshine annually and moderate temperatures throughout the year. The city is uniquely situated to offer law students ample opportunity for both professional development and personal fulfillment. As the border city to Tijuana, Mexico, and just 120 miles south of Los Angeles, San Diego is a training ground for everything from international law to entertainment law. Also, as the second largest city in California and the eighth largest city in the United States, it is a vibrant social and economic center.

■ Internationally Renowned Faculty

TJSL is proud to have a first-rate faculty consisting of distinguished practitioners and scholars. Our professors have

structured business transactions at both the international and the domestic levels and litigated before the World Court at The Hague, the US Supreme Court, and federal and state trial and appellate courts. Their clients have ranged from the largest multinational corporations to the most impoverished members of society.

All 42 members of our faculty pride themselves on providing quality instruction and being accessible to students outside the classroom. First-year students are assigned faculty advisors, but all members of the faculty emphasize being available to students outside of class.

■ Cutting-edge Legal Skills Programs

Our academic resources consist of a writing lab, student organization-led study sessions, and individual feedback from professors. However, the anchor of our academic resources is the highly effective academic success program, the SUMMIT Series™, which is a part of the first-year curriculum and continues until preparation for the bar exam. The series brings scientific principles in psychology, neuroscience, and cognitive science to the study of law and equips students with a personal and succinct methodology for acquiring the fundamental skills to succeed in law school and on the bar exam. Our Bar Secrets® course is a continuation of these principles and is a proven means of preparing for the California bar exam.

■ Progressive and Practical Curriculum

The academic program at Thomas Jefferson School of Law has been carefully designed to ensure a balanced and comprehensive curriculum that will prepare students to practice in any area of the law. During their first semester, entering students have the opportunity, in all their courses, to receive feedback from the faculty on their written legal analytical skills in order to enhance their understanding of the course material and hone their performance prior to final exams.

Academic Centers. A growing faculty has allowed the school to acquire special strengths in the areas of law that most reflect our changing world; that is, those relating to technological change, globalization, and the transformation of our social order. To provide an institutional framework for the study of these embryonic areas of law, the school has established three Academic Centers.

1. *The Center for Law, Technology, and Communications* prepares students for careers related to high technology and communications.

2. *The Center for Global Legal Studies* prepares students for the transborder aspects of contemporary legal practice and offers a wide variety of courses in international law.

3. *The Center for Law and Social Justice* prepares students for practice geared toward the preservation of the values of liberty and equality in an ever-changing world.

4. *The Externship Program* offers a large number of courses that train students in professional skills, supplemented by a variety of field-placement programs. Our externship coordinator works with students to place them in an endless number and type of for-credit legal positions. Past placements consist of public legal agencies, private law firms, corporations, and sports teams.

■ JD/MBA Program

Students can earn in eight semesters a Juris Doctor degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law and a Master of Business Administration degree from San Diego State University (SDSU). The objective of the concurrent degree program is to prepare students who are competent in both law and business for advanced practice in areas where the fields converge.

Classes will be taken at both campuses. Applicants must conform to the application procedures for each institution, including taking both the LSAT and GMAT. Because the sequence for the program is for students first to attend TJSL for two semesters, the expectation is that students will be admitted to TJSL and then apply to SDSU during their first year at TJSL.

■ International Law Programs

Thomas Jefferson offers several study-abroad opportunities for students to gain experience in a broad array of international law subjects, focusing on business and social justice issues. The locations include: Hangzhou, China; Nice, France; Dijon, France; and Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

■ LLM Programs

Thomas Jefferson School of Law offers three LLM (Master of Laws) programs, two of which will give students expertise in important areas of international law, and one of which will allow foreign students to obtain a US law degree. Specifically, the programs offered are: LLM in International Tax and Financial Services, LLM in International Trade and Investment, and LLM in American Legal Studies for Foreign Law Graduates.

■ Student Activities

Thomas Jefferson students manage and edit the *Thomas Jefferson Law Review*. Cocurricular programs include the Moot Court, Mock Trial, and Alternative Dispute Resolution teams. Some student organizations are formed as a result of heightened student interest in substantive areas of law practice, such as the International Law Society, the Entertainment and the Sports Law Societies, and the Public Interest Law Foundation. Many student organizations provide a source of mutual support for various groups of students, including the Black Law Students Association, La Raza Students Association, and the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

■ Career Services

The Career Services Office assists students and alumni in finding temporary and permanent law-related employment. The office maintains listings of employment opportunities and schedules on-campus interviewing. Also, through the Judicial Internship Program, students may gain academic credit by working with local, federal, and state judges. The Career Services Office has developed an alumni mentoring program, which matches current students with one of the law school's more than 5,600 alumni.

■ Admission

Thomas Jefferson conducts a rolling admission process under which applicants are considered when their applications are complete. While the priority date for fall applications is March 1, applications are accepted through early July. The priority date for spring applications is October 1 and applications are accepted later. Early applications are encouraged, however, due to the large applicant pool. Decisions are made and sent out on a rolling basis.

The Admissions Committee gives each applicant careful, thorough, and personalized consideration. In addition to the LSAT score, the committee considers the applicant's undergraduate record, extracurricular activities, work ethic and experience, and demonstrated ability to overcoming adversity.

■ Expenses and Financial Aid

Thomas Jefferson offers need- and merit-based scholarships and uses its funds for both recruitment as well as retention. Because of the broad array of scholarship criteria, applicants need not submit a separate scholarship application. Awards are based on information already accessible to the law school in your application. Should you have significant financial need that you would like us to consider, you can submit a brief but detailed written statement as a part of the application for admission.

Scholarship offers are made on a rolling basis as quickly after admission as possible. All scholarship recipients receive a detailed offer letter containing the terms of the award and any criteria for renewal.

Students can seek loans to finance their education. Also, students interested in work-study can secure jobs on campus. The school works with students seeking work-study on an individual basis upon matriculation.

Applicant Profile Not Available