

University of St. Thomas School of Law—Minneapolis

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■ Introduction

The University of St. Thomas integrates faith and reason in the search for truth through a focus on morality and social justice. The close-knit community, drawn together by this unique mission, shares a distinctive vision of what law and the legal profession can be. The School of Law attracts students from across the country who want to be servant leaders and who understand their responsibility to serve their clients, the community, and those who are most in need of, and least able to pay for, legal assistance.

■ Curriculum

The School of Law offers more than 60 advanced, elective courses in addition to 15 required courses.

The University of St. Thomas offers a unique, nationally recognized, structured mentor externship integrated into the curriculum that matches each student with an experienced lawyer or judge for each year of law school. Mentors introduce students to a range of lawyering tasks. In addition to gaining practical knowledge, students talk with their mentors about the intellectual, ethical, and moral challenges facing attorneys.

Students can also pursue one of five joint-degree programs, including Business Administration (JD/MBA), Catholic Studies (JD/MA), Public Policy (JD/MA), Professional Psychology (JD/MA), and Social Work (JD/MSW).

■ Special Programs

All students are required to perform 50 hours of community service work, exploring a variety of ways in which their interests, skills, and talents can best serve the public.

At the Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services, law students work side by side with students from graduate programs in social work and professional psychology. The Center gives students experience working with actual clients on active cases.

■ The Area

The University of St. Thomas School of Law is located in downtown Minneapolis, the regional center for business and culture. Minneapolis and the nearby capital city of St. Paul make up the core of the Twin Cities metropolitan area—a metro area of more than 3.5 million residents. The Twin Cities are home to a vibrant business community that features 12 of Fortune 500's largest corporations. The Twin Cities are also home to a lively legal community that has embraced the School of Law through the mentor externship and summer employment opportunities.

The seemingly limitless recreational opportunities and distinctive beauty of the region add immeasurably to the quality of life. The Twin Cities boast 949 lakes in the metropolitan area. Outdoor enthusiasts have plenty of options from which to choose.

■ Admission

The School of Law seeks to identify students who show the potential to distinguish themselves academically and to

integrate the fundamental characteristics of faith and values into their professional character and identity.

The Admissions Committee reviews applications with the goal of understanding the strengths, skills, and unique perspectives of each applicant. While the committee examines quantitative criteria such as LSAT scores and undergraduate transcripts, it also focuses on qualitative factors, such as writing skills, leadership experience, motivation, public service orientation, and commitment to our mission of exploring the integration of faith and reason.

The committee carefully examines all materials submitted to determine whether the School of Law and the student are a good fit. A student's personal statement, letters of recommendation, and other subjective information play an important role in assisting the committee with its goal.

■ Faculty

The faculty are a distinguished group of scholars with an impressive mixture of skills, expertise, and experience. Faculty members are nationally recognized for their professional and scholarly proficiency; all have experience as teachers and as practicing lawyers or expert witnesses, and 16 have advanced degrees in other disciplines.

Of equal importance, faculty members have demonstrated a commitment to service and leadership. All have developed reputations as caring, accessible mentors for students, and each has an inspiring record of service to the community. Faculty members share a strong commitment to our mission and a dedication to assisting each student in his or her formation as an accomplished servant leader.

Each academic year, the full-time faculty is supplemented by over 60 practicing attorneys and judges who serve as adjunct professors.

■ Enrollment/Student Body

The student body is diverse. In the fall 2008 entering class, students represented 4 countries, 25 states, and 78 undergraduate institutions. While many students come to the School of Law directly from undergraduate institutions, others have earned postgraduate degrees or have work experience.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

In July 2003, the School of Law moved into a new building with more than 150,000 square feet, including nearly 40,000 square feet dedicated to the library, located in downtown Minneapolis. Modern technology enhances the classrooms, library, group study areas, moot courtroom, and private offices. A computer lab and a computer training center accommodate student research needs.

The School of Law building has several defining features that make it "quite simply breathtaking," as described by the ABA site-evaluation team. These include the dramatic four-story Schulze Grand Atrium, used for lectures, presentations, and social gatherings; the Frey Moot Courtroom, which provides a striking setting to learn lawyering skills or hear moot court arguments; and the beautiful Chapel of St. Thomas More.

The library offers a variety of attractive study spaces, including 12 group study rooms for collaborative work. Students have access to a large, outstanding collection of electronic titles and databases, which are available both on campus and off campus, as well as to traditional paper, microform, and audiovisual sources. A service-oriented library staff teaches students how to use those resources.

■ Financial Aid

St. Thomas is committed to making high-quality legal education available to students by offering scholarships, grants, employment, and loans. The School of Law administers two scholarship programs that acknowledge applicants who have outstanding academic records, who contribute to our dedicated diversity effort, or who are particularly likely to contribute to the school's mission. All incoming students are automatically considered for scholarship awards.

The UST Loan Repayment Assistance Program (UST-LRAP) provides up to \$6,000 in annual assistance for up to 10 years for qualifying applicants. In general, graduates with financial need who undertake public service jobs benefiting the poor and underserved will be eligible to receive assistance with repaying loans for law school tuition.

■ Career Services

Alumni and students work with federal and state judges; international, national, and local public interest organizations; corporations; banks; and law firms of all sizes.

The Office of Career and Professional Development supports students and alumni wherever they are in their career paths and encourages them to consider how their career choices complement their spiritual and ethical beliefs. Available resources include résumé and cover letter writing workshops and individual review, interviewing skills seminars, mock interviews, an online job center, a resource center, practice area panel discussions with local attorneys, networking events, career fairs, and on-campus interviewing.

■ Student Activities

Students are encouraged to form and join student organizations that help them integrate their faith or passion for social justice with their image of themselves as lawyers. Students have created several unique student organizations dedicated to integrating faith and reason in the search for truth with an emphasis on social justice.

The *University of St. Thomas Law Journal* gives students the opportunity to contribute to the development of legal scholarship and further hone their research, analytical, and writing abilities. The Board of Advocates oversees interscholastic competitions in moot court, trial advocacy, client counseling, and negotiation.

Applicant Profile

University of St. Thomas School of Law—Minneapolis

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total		
	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		No GPA		Apps	Adm	
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175–180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170–174	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
165–169	11	11	10	10	4	4	8	7	5	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	42	40
160–164	44	42	43	42	31	31	27	25	13	12	10	9	5	3	2	2	0	0	2	1	177	167	
155–159	57	54	86	82	86	82	63	57	31	26	20	12	17	9	6	4	0	0	7	7	373	333	
150–154	40	33	96	65	99	49	93	46	65	20	31	10	17	1	3	1	2	0	7	4	453	229	
145–149	24	11	37	6	69	14	56	11	64	4	25	1	15	0	14	0	2	0	10	1	316	48	
140–144	8	0	23	1	28	1	44	1	38	0	22	0	10	0	6	0	1	0	5	0	185	3	
135–139	5	0	6	0	15	0	19	0	19	0	14	0	9	0	6	0	0	0	8	0	101	0	
130–134	1	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	31	0	
125–129	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	14	0	
120–124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Total	194	154	306	209	339	183	317	149	240	66	131	34	82	13	41	7	6	0	49	16	1705	831	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.