



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW



Admissions Bulletin



Welcome to St. John's University School of Law

As Dean and as a longtime faculty member, I take pride in the way St. John's Law enables students to transform themselves into lawyers. We accomplish this by taking a balanced approach to legal education. You will have many opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, which will help you determine your career focus and build expertise in that area. Our location guarantees you a diversity of people and perspectives, together with access to our strong network of alumni.

With the ongoing changes in the legal profession, the Law School is focused on placing our students on the path to a rewarding career so they can follow our alumni, who have reached the highest levels in law firms, government, business and nonprofit organizations. Whatever path our graduates pursue, they carry with them the Vincentian values of St. John's, understanding that law is a vocation through which they can live justly and do justice.

I invite you to visit the Law School and to meet some of the remarkable people who study and teach here.

Mike

Michael A. Simons

Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics

Discover the Law

>> The Law School emphasizes legal theory and research, experiential learning and legal skills training. In addition to introducing you to legal concepts and practices, our curriculum is designed to expose you to diverse areas of the law so that you can discover your path to professional success.



OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

At St. John's Law, you will create your own pathway into the legal profession by engaging in a range of experiences—including coursework, research and writing, clinical and externship placements, participation in student organizations, competitions, summer associate positions and networking with experts. Our faculty and administrators will guide and support you from your first semester to your first job after graduation and beyond.

We are committed to a rigorous curriculum, and our faculty holds students to high standards. Yet the culture of the Law School creates an open and productive environment for learning. The professors are highly accessible and genuinely interested in their students' success. Students credit faculty members with their unimposing use of the Socratic method.

Our faculty members are recognized authorities in their scholarly fields, and they all bring experience in legal practice to their classrooms. While these men and women have varied teaching styles, they share a commitment to engaging their students in active learning.

“St. John's does a good job of making your education real from day one. Our professors definitely teach us, ‘This is the law, and this is how it will matter to a client.’ So you constantly hear that real-world piece.”



Faculty Scholarship

Our faculty members conduct research and produce cutting-edge scholarship on important and timely legal issues. Here are just a few of their noteworthy recent publications:

Professor **Marc O. DeGirolami**, Associate Director of the Center for Law and Religion, published his first book, *The Tragedy of Religious Freedom* (Harvard). In addition to law and religion, he researches criminal law and regularly posts at the CLR Forum and Mirror of Justice blogs.

Professor **Deepta Varadarajan's** law review article, *Improvement Doctrines*, was selected by the 2013 Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, marking the third year in a row a St. John's Law professor received this prestigious honor. Her article explores the connection between property law and intellectual property law.

Michael Perino, the Dean George W. Matheson Professor of Law, wrote the award-winning book, *The Hellhound of Wall Street: How Ferdinand Pecora's Investigation of the Great Crash Forever Changed American Finance* (Penguin), to scholarly and popular acclaim. He is widely quoted in the media as an expert on securities law.

Janai S. Nelson, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship, researches and writes on election law issues. Her article in the *Boston College Law Review*, *The Causal Context of Disparate Vote Denial*, proposes a test to determine when election laws operate unfairly toward specific groups.

Rosemary C. Salomone, the Kenneth Wang Professor of Law, studies and presents regularly on education law and children's rights. Her two most recent books are *True American: Language, Identity, and the Education of Immigrant Children* (Harvard) and *Same, Different, Equal: Rethinking Single-Sex Schooling* (Yale).

Vincent C. Alexander, the Charles M. Sparacio Professor of Law and a leading expert in New York civil practice, authors commentaries on the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules in *McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated*, and co-authors *Evidence in New York State and Federal Courts*.

>> For faculty profiles:
www.stjohns.edu/law/faculty



Learn by Doing

>> At St. John’s Law, you will find many opportunities to learn the practice of law by *doing*. Experiential learning is a cornerstone of our educational approach, and it allows you to test substantive areas of the law and different practice environments as you make your career plans. Many of our experiential programs enable you to help New York’s underserved as you prepare for your life in the law.

CLINICS

In our clinics, students represent real clients through all phases of a case—interviewing, conducting research, planning case strategy, drafting pleadings, appearing in court, negotiating settlements and conducting trials. Some clinics are based at the Law School, while others operate

through partners such as the Queens County District Attorney’s Office. To ensure that you get the most from these experiences, the clinics hold weekly seminars where students from all placements discuss their work and develop their practical skills with faculty guidance.

EXTERNSHIPS

Students who pursue externships work directly with mentor-attorneys on actual legal cases. The Law School identifies and approves placements in the New York area. Depending on your interest, you can choose a placement that offers experience in a particular legal skill or area of legal practice. Faculty-led seminars, organized according to students’ placements, complete the externship experience.

CURRENT CLINICS

- Bankruptcy Advocacy Clinic
- Bread and Life Immigration Clinic
- Child Advocacy Clinic
- Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Domestic Violence Litigation Clinic
- Economic Justice Clinic
- OSHA Whistleblower Mediation Advocacy Clinic
- Prosecution Clinic
- Refugee and Immigrant Rights Litigation Clinic
- Securities Arbitration Clinic

>> **More at:** www.stjohns.edu/law/clinics

SAMPLE EXTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

- A&E Television Networks
- Brooklyn Defenders Services
- Channel 13 WNET
- District Attorneys’ Offices
- Federal Trade Commission
- Judicial Chambers (federal, state and city courts)
- Mental Hygiene Legal Services
- Merrill Lynch
- New York City Law Department
- New York Stock Exchange
- The Legal Aid Society (civil, criminal and juvenile rights)
- United States Attorneys’ Offices

>> **More at:** www.stjohns.edu/law/externships

Public Interest Center

St. John’s University is committed to St. Vincent de Paul’s teachings, which emphasize respect for the individual, service to the needy, human solidarity and adherence to the belief that giving of one’s self helps make the world a better place. While this Vincentian ethos is woven through the Law School’s curriculum and community, its home is the Public Interest Center. In collaboration with the student Public Interest Committee and the faculty Committee on Public Interest, the Center organizes programs and connects students with professional opportunities in the public interest.

One of the Center’s most important initiatives is the Public Interest Fellowship Program, which supports students in full-time summer work at organizations working to address such areas as domestic violence, mental health, community development and child advocacy. The Fellowship Program also serves new St. John’s Law graduates, who spend their first year after law school in a range of placements with public and private organizations.

>> **More at:** www.stjohns.edu/law/pic

Build Your Legal Skills

>> No matter what career path you take as a lawyer, you must be able to speak and write clearly, concisely and cogently. At St. John's Law, we make the teaching of these skills a top priority.

WRITING SKILLS

From briefs to contracts to emails, good legal writing takes practice, even for a law student who is already a good writer. St. John's students regularly receive feedback on their writing throughout their time at the Law School.

Our popular Writing Center, staffed by our strongest writing students, offers an array of workshops on various aspects of writing and research. It also coordinates writing competitions.

ADVOCACY SKILLS

Our Trial Advocacy Program gives students the chance to develop trial skills in a small-group setting that allows for demonstration and intensive feedback from teams of experienced trial lawyers. Students practice skills including *voir dire*, opening statements, closing arguments and direct and cross-examination, culminating in full-day jury trials. The Frank S. Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute, home to our national champion mock trial team, complements the Trial Advocacy Program through additional training and trial competitions.

The Moot Court Honor Society is the center of appellate advocacy at the Law School. It provides advocacy skills training and exposure to leaders in the legal profession, and its members regularly compete in competitions at the Law School and across the United States.

EIGHT STUDENT-RUN JOURNALS PROVIDE AVENUES FOR PUBLICATION:

St. John's Law Review
Journal of Catholic Legal Studies
Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development
American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review
St. John's Journal of International and Comparative Law
New York International Law Review
New York Litigator Law Journal
New York Real Property Law Journal

RECENT ADVOCACY SKILLS HONORS INCLUDE:

- Trial Advocacy
- Semi-Finalists, NITA Tournament of Champions
- Regional Champions, National Quarter-Finalists, and Best Advocate, TYLA National Trial Competition
- Regional Champions, AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition
- Finalists, Buffalo-Niagara Invitational Mock Trial Competition

- Appellate Advocacy
- Winner, Tulane Sports Law Competition
- Semi-Finalists, William B. Spong Moot Court Competition
- Semi-Finalists, Cardozo/BMI Moot Court Competition

Global Dispute Resolution Skills Yield Honors

In today's global legal profession, lawyers need to know how to resolve disputes in the international arena. Students in our Dispute Resolution Society—the student arm of The Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution—have hands-on opportunities to learn about negotiation, mediation and arbitration in their global contexts through classes, seminars and clinics. They also test their dispute resolution skills at international competitions, with great success.

Our two student teams that competed in the 2013 ICC Mediation Competition in Paris and in the 2013 International Law School Mediation Tournament in Dublin finished in the top 20% of the field. The Dublin team also received first place for their effectiveness as an advocate/client team.

St. John's Law also celebrated the success of our four-student team at a recent Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, where we tied for third place in a field of 260 teams from 65 countries. Two team members also earned Honorable Mentions for Best Oralist. Ours was the only U.S. team to pass the quarter-finals.



Engage with the Profession

>> At St. John's Law, you will find faculty interested in everything from admiralty law to zoology law. We have eight centers that bring together faculty, students and practicing lawyers to engage specific areas of the law. Each center can help you to gain a broad perspective on issues that matter to you and, in doing so, to define and advance your career strategy.

The centers offer courses, conferences, symposia and speakers' series; they affiliate with student organizations, law journals and competitions; and they provide resources for externships, clinical placements and networking.

Preparing Students for All Facets of Labor and Employment Law

The Law School's Center for Labor and Employment Law provides a setting in which our students can learn from, and exchange ideas with, faculty, visiting scholars and practitioners in this key area of the law. In its programs, the Center stresses the importance of doing good work in the world, whether in the public or private sector.

The Center brings leading professionals to campus each year through a range of conferences, symposia and workshops. The Distinguished Speakers Series, produced by the student Labor Relations and Employment Law Society, has sponsored lectures by prominent figures from the federal judiciary, National Labor Relations Board, AFL-CIO, United Federation of Teachers, labor law and labor journalism. Conference topics have ranged from The Future of Labor Through the Prism of Bankruptcy to Transatlantic Perspectives on Labor to The Theology of Work and the Dignity of Workers.

Creating opportunities for students to gain practical skills and professional connections is high on the Center's agenda. Through the generosity of alumni, friends, law firms, corporations and unions, the Center offers scholarships to support students in hands-on summer work in labor and employment law.

>> More at: www.stjohns.edu/law/clel

St. John's Center for International and Comparative Law complements the Law School's growing roster of courses in international, comparative and national security law and promotes the study of international and foreign legal systems as a means of addressing pressing global problems.

The Center encourages experience beyond the United States by coordinating with the Law School's Office of Transnational Programs on study-abroad offerings at our Paris and Rome campuses and with partner institutions in other cities. It also coordinates travel courses, such as the new travel version of the Transactions in Emerging Markets course, which includes an experiential week in Romania.

Through its annual academic symposium and Global Issues Series, the Center is a forum for the exchange of ideas among faculty, visiting scholars, practitioners and students. The Center selects student fellows each year who support its programs and work on advanced research, and it sponsors career development and networking events to bring students together with alumni in international practice.

Additionally, the Center collaborates with student organizations, such as the International Law Society; oversees publication of the *St. John's Journal of International and Comparative Law*, an online student journal that features contributions from leading scholars and law students; and is home to the *New York International Law Review*, which students produce in coordination with practicing lawyers in the New York State Bar Association's International Section.

>> More at: www.stjohns.edu/law/cicl

Preparing Students for Global Legal Practice

CENTERS

The Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development

The Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution

Center for Bankruptcy Studies

St. John's Center for International and Comparative Law

Center for Labor and Employment Law

Center for Law and Religion

Public Interest Center

Writing Center

>> For more about the centers: www.stjohns.edu/law/centers

Launch Your Career

>> Your education at the Law School will set in motion a life in the law that should be dynamic and sustaining for years to come. If our past graduates are any measure, your options will be limited only by your aspirations. Our alumni are well-represented throughout the legal community: in the judiciary, government, elective offices, private practice in both large and small firms, public interest organizations, corporations and nonprofit organizations.

ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In recent years, the hiring climate has been difficult for newly-minted lawyers. St. John's Law has taken a proactive approach to this situation by establishing the Alumni Fellowship Program, through which alumni agree to hire recent graduates on a full- or part-time basis for up to one year. A number of law firms are participating, and several have hired more than one fellow. This win-win arrangement allows firms to preview a potential hire when they may not be prepared to make a long-term commitment, and the fellows to look for permanent positions while they participate in the program.

PATHWAY TO YOUR CAREER

Launching a legal career takes focus and planning, and the Law School helps each student set a career goal and follow a well-defined path to reach it.

This web of experience is crucial in developing a résumé that will make you stand out to potential employers.

Think of it as a four-step process. First, we will help you discover your passion. Then, we will teach you the law and skills you need to succeed in the profession. Along the way, you will develop experience in the field through externships, clinics and jobs. And, of course, you will do a lot of networking through student organizations, co-curricular activities and informal get-togethers with alumni in your practice areas of interest.

POWERFUL ALUMNI NETWORK

The Law School is known for the strength and loyalty of its alumni network, so whatever career directions our students choose, they will find St. John's Law graduates who stand ready to provide advice, guidance and support—the kind of help they themselves received from earlier alumni. Many of our more than 13,000 alumni practice in metropolitan New York City, making this network readily accessible to you.

Some alumni serve as adjunct faculty, while others visit the campus as guest lecturers and panelists. They also give their time to conduct mock interviews and provide insight into the hiring process.

ACTIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

To prepare you for your entry into the legal profession, the Career Development Office provides services and programs designed to help you develop your job-seeking skills and maximize your impact on prospective employers. Among these resources are individual career counseling, panels and workshops, advice on résumés and cover letters and practice in interview skills. The office also hosts on-campus recruiting and reaches out to employers.

Creating Your Path

If you want to be a prosecutor, points along your path should include Evidence and Criminal Procedure courses, involvement with the Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute, externships at local district attorneys' offices during the summers and the capstone Prosecution Clinic.

If you have an interest in labor and employment law, you can develop it by taking specific courses in labor law, employment discrimination and arbitration; pursuing internships at both labor- and management-side firms; and getting involved with the Center for Labor and Employment Law, which provides unparalleled access to high-level networking events with distinguished practitioners and leaders in the field.

No matter what area of law you select, you can create a similar track for yourself by taking advantage of the Law School's resources. Since not all law students know what type of law they want to practice, we provide many opportunities for them to discover their passions. Our Visiting Jurist Series, for example, brings to campus prominent members of the judiciary, who share their own career paths and offer perspective on the practice of law. Our core elective curriculum guarantees that every student will be exposed to different practice areas.

>> More at: www.stjohns.edu/law/career

The Paths They Chose

>> Our students chart varied paths to the legal profession. Many come to the Law School with a career vision—sometimes a general notion, sometimes a clear direction. Others arrive without any idea of the path they want to take. In either case, at St. John’s Law they find the support and resources they need to choose a direction and build a life in the law. Find out how six of our recent graduates made their way.



From left to right:
Pishoy B. Yacoub '05
Assistant District Attorney
Bronx County District Attorney's Office
Bronx, New York

Kristin Roshelli '11
Associate
Ropes & Gray LLP
New York, New York

Samantha Horn '11
Program Director
Auschwitz Institute for Peace
and Reconciliation
New York, New York

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES

Many successful students develop strategies to prepare for and start out at law school. Prosecutor Pishoy Yacoub discovered his calling in middle school as he watched the O.J. Simpson trial and enrolled at St. John’s University in order to take the quickest route to his goal—the six-year Bachelor’s/ J.D. program. Even as Kristin Roshelli trained to follow her mother and grandmothers into nursing, she began to consider a law degree. Over time, she transitioned from clinical nursing at a major New York teaching hospital to a position in its legal affairs department.

“I immediately focused on mock trial because it’s the best preparation for a prosecutor, and early on I took the courses I needed most. I’m lucky because I knew what I wanted to do. In the real world, I’ve gone up against lawyers who weren’t involved in mock trial, and the lack of mock trial training was evident in their performance in the courtroom.”
Pishoy Yacoub '05

“As a clinical nurse, both in and out of the military, I was exposed to ethical, end-of-life and malpractice issues—areas where law and medicine intersect—and wanted to know more. With my science background, I made sure to concentrate on my legal writing skills when I got to St. John’s.”
Kristin Roshelli '11

THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSION

The Law School helps students to kindle—or rekindle—their passions. Take Samantha Horn, who became involved with human rights during college and wanted to pursue this area of law at St. John’s. She completed two externships in the fashion industry, which she found exciting but ultimately unfulfilling. After talking with her professor about her passion for human rights, Samantha’s path became clear. Now she works in the emerging field of transitional justice, where societies re-form themselves in the aftermath of events like war and genocide.

“My professor immediately set up a dinner for us with a St. John’s Law alum and his wife, who works at The Auschwitz Institute. That led to internships and to my current position here—looking back, I can see every step.”
Samantha Horn '11

IN THE WORLD

Our alumni put their legal education to work in many different environments. Christeen Walch combined her earlier education in economics, computer science and business with her legal studies and decided that a global law firm’s real estate practice was right for her.

Arriving at the Law School with a business degree and three years’ experience in the financial industry, David Grossman knew he was an entrepreneur at heart. Like Christeen, he was headed for a large firm, intent on starting his own venture after several years of practice. That opportunity came much sooner than he expected. Just before his third year of law school, through a chance meeting during a cycling trip in Nicaragua, David became a partner in the development of an eco-resort community and organic farm in that revitalizing country. Months later, he and his partners launched a second business to harvest and export hurricane-felled timber.

“I knew I wanted to go to a big firm and do complex work at the cutting edge of the law. At Latham & Watkins, where I was also a summer associate, I work on unique deals and often confront novel and current issues.”
Christeen Walch '09

“Returning from Nicaragua, I had a new sense of purpose and tailored my third-year courses around my business. I focused a lot of my energy on contracts. Professor Jane Scott was really helpful in educating me about drafting issues and best practices.”
David Grossman '11

From left to right:
Christeen Walch '09
Associate
Latham & Watkins LLP
Los Angeles, CA

David Grossman '11
President
Tranquilo Maderas LLC
Nicaragua and New York

Consider Our Culture

>> Our welcoming, open culture defines us and sets us apart. You will quickly discover how natural it is to extend your learning experience through the exchanges with faculty and other students that take place in study groups, meetings, open-door faculty offices, informal get-togethers and even pick-up soccer games.

DIVERSITY AND RESPECT

OUR CAMPUS

We cultivate a campus atmosphere where mutual respect is paramount. People argue their positions with the passion, conviction and civility that enhance a diverse student community numbering about 900. Diversity is a St. John's Law tradition. When we opened our doors more than 85 years ago, we welcomed students from groups that had been denied equal access to educational opportunities, and that spirit remains strong today.

The Law School is located in Finley and Belson Halls on the main campus of St. John's University in a residential neighborhood of Queens. Our facilities are continuously renovated and technologically upgraded, and they contain convenient gathering spaces such as the solarium, Mattone Family Atrium and cafeteria. The campus has a park-like feel with open lawns and views of the Manhattan skyline. Law students can take advantage of the academic, recreational and cultural resources of St. John's University, including

the fitness center, music and theater performances, spectator sports and religious services.

We provide resources to students seeking off-campus housing, and the University maintains a group of townhouses exclusively for law students. The DePaul Townhouses, located about a mile from campus, can accommodate about 70 law students in apartments with two or three bedrooms. These apartments are furnished, and each has a full kitchen and a spacious living area.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Law School's student organizations are valuable on your journey to a legal career. Some are affiliated with our academic and skills centers, and all present opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the law and to build personal networks of advisors, mentors and colleagues. You will find student organizations devoted to a wide range of interests, from legal practice areas, to background heritage affinities, to issues advocacy and awareness.

>> More at: www.stjohns.edu/law/orgs

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

"There's this genuine camaraderie here that you can't find just anywhere. It's instilled within the institution."

"I think there really is a sense of community here that's stronger than in many law schools."

"The diversity of our students' backgrounds makes a big difference. They're really smart, and they're not entitled—and that means you're in a law school where people continue to be engaged."

"Our students are going to go out into the profession, and they're going to make a splash because they are people who work hard and don't take things for granted."

The Ideal Place to Study Law

New York City has unique advantages for law students. As a premier global center, it offers unparalleled educational, employment and networking opportunities in legal fields ranging from securities to bankruptcy, intellectual property, real estate, immigration, labor, public interest and international law.

A New York legal education is immeasurably valuable for students who intend to practice within the metropolitan area, and it also provides a powerful entrée to those who will pursue careers elsewhere.

The Law School's location puts all of the city's opportunities and our alumni within easy reach. We also appreciate our own borough of Queens, whose multicultural character is central to both our history and our future. Queens offers a rich blend of arts, sports and culture—including restaurants serving cuisines from around the globe—and some of the city's most affordable housing.

Visit Us

>> We invite you to visit our campus for an actual, not virtual, experience of St. John's Law. By visiting in person, you can meet current students, observe a class in action, see the University's 100-acre campus and feel the genuine warmth of our community.

>> You are welcome to make an appointment for an individual tour, which includes sitting in on a class, by calling (718) 990-6474. We also offer group information sessions and tours from October through February; see the schedule and reserve your place at www.stjohns.edu/law/visit.

>> Our main campus is located on Utopia Parkway, just off the Grand Central Parkway in Queens. We are easily accessible from points throughout metropolitan New York City and from both JFK and LaGuardia airports.



Essential Information

Contact

St. John's University
School of Law
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY 11439

(718) 990-6474
lawinfo@stjohns.edu

www.law.stjohns.edu



Degree Programs

J.D. (offered in a three-year, full-time Day Program and a four-year, part-time Evening Program)

J.D./M.B.A.

J.D./M.A. in Government and Politics

J.D./M.S. in Accounting

J.D./B.S./B.A. (for St. John's University undergraduates)

LL.M. in Bankruptcy (with joint J.D./LL.M. option)

LL.M. in International and Comparative Sports Law

LL.M. in Transnational Legal Practice

LL.M. in U.S. Legal Studies

>> For an application or to apply online:
www.stjohns.edu/law/apply

Mission

Consistent with the Vincentian mission of St. John's University, St. John's School of Law seeks to:

- Achieve academic excellence through a commitment to rigorous teaching, scholarly research and innovative application of knowledge
- Foster a diverse community emphasizing respect for the rights and dignity of every person
- Engage students to search out the causes of economic and social injustice and to find adaptable, effective and concrete solutions
- Endow graduates with the skills and values required for successful participation in a global legal community

It is the policy of St. John's School of Law not to discriminate in its educational program, admissions policies, financial aid programs, employment practices and other School-sponsored activities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, national or ethnic origin, age or disability.



Join us online to watch a day in the life of a St. John's Law student.