VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

LL.M. PROGRAM
I invite you to considering pursuing an LL.M. at Vanderbilt Law School for an important reason: the future of U.S. legal education is here.

At Vanderbilt, all of the elements required to create a great law school come together in ways that surpass expectations. Our distinguished faculty of internationally renowned experts are also excellent teachers. Our rigorous curriculum—including specialized academic programs in Law and Business, Intellectual Property, and International Legal Studies—goes beyond providing outstanding training and connects legal theory to real-world strategies, knowledge and experience. That approach gives you immediate and lasting career advantages.

Here, you’ll find a community of talented students from around the globe, studying together in one of the best-designed law school buildings in the United States, situated on one of the most beautiful university campuses in America. You’ll also find yourself at home in one of America’s most livable cities. Like few other places, Vanderbilt’s location in Nashville, Tennessee, lets you balance the rigors of study with abundant opportunities to enjoy a city with a remarkable blend of cosmopolitan sophistication and friendliness.

However, what truly sets Vanderbilt apart from other top law schools is the premium we place on the classroom experience. Our students benefit from close faculty supervision and accessibility, and because of its small size and selectivity, our LL.M. Program offers many other advantages.

I invite you to discover these advantages for yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Guthrie
Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law
“After working for two years as a lawyer in Belgium, I wanted to deepen my knowledge of intellectual property law by studying in the States. I chose Vanderbilt because its Intellectual Property Program has an international focus, and I worked with Professor Daniel Gervais, who directs the IP program. I loved Vanderbilt classes because they are interactive—you have access to your professors, and you can ask questions in and outside class. These opportunities made Vanderbilt a wonderful learning environment.”

Sofie Indesteege Class of 2013 Brussels, Belgium

After earning her LL.M. as a Fulbright scholar, Sofie accepted a position in LAGA, the legal department of Deloitte. A native of Hasselt, Belgium, she earned her undergraduate law degree at Université Catholique de Louvain and practiced commercial law and litigation at Monard D’Hulst before applying for a Fulbright fellowship to study law in the U.S.
Beyond our challenging curriculum, Vanderbilt offers every LL.M. student ample opportunities to pursue intellectual and professional development outside of the classroom. You may choose to join student organizations that focus on specific areas of law, attend lectures by influential policy makers and legal practitioners, and even complete a major research project with direct faculty supervision by choosing the Thesis Track.

“A leading law school at a leading university

Founded in 1874 in conjunction with Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Law School has trained distinguished and influential lawyers, policymakers and public servants for 140 years. Consistently ranked among the top law schools in the United States, Vanderbilt attracts students who seek an intellectually rigorous legal education that also instills the values of leadership, personal integrity, collegiality and teamwork for which Vanderbilt is known.

“Vanderbilt is a major research university, and the law school’s faculty and students really benefit from the opportunities for cross-fertilization with other schools.”

Terry Maroney
Professor of Law
Professor of Medicine, Health and Society
Director, Social Justice Program
“Earning my LL.M. at Vanderbilt was one of the best experiences of my life. Vanderbilt’s professors and my classes here helped me realize what I wanted for my career and how to pursue it. The attention you receive and the teaching staff, the content of the classes, and its location in Nashville make Vanderbilt one of the best places to continue your studies and discover new uses for your abilities.”

Christian Leo Class of 2013
Mexico City, Mexico

Christian was an attorney with Zambrano Rocha y Espino in Mexico before coming to Vanderbilt. He is now pursuing a Master’s in international business at Queen Mary University in London, where he plans to take the solicitor’s exam and pursue a career in international transactional law. “I worked as a research assistant for Professor John Haley and took his Transnational Litigation class,” he said. “The way he interpreted different jurisdictions from all around the world inspired me, and made me realize what I really wanted to do professionally.”

“Preconceptions and ideology play far too great a role in environmental law and policy making. I encourage students to question underlying assumptions in ways that will help us draft better laws and make better policies.”

Michael Vandenbergh
Professor of Law
Director, Climate Change Research Network

Professor Vandenbergh leads Vanderbilt University’s Climate Change Research Network, an interdisciplinary team of Vanderbilt scholars who conduct theoretical and applied research aimed at identifying and addressing causes and issues related to global climate change.
A faculty of influential scholars and outstanding teachers

Learning to think like a lawyer remains the bedrock of a sound legal education, and Vanderbilt’s faculty is known for teaching students the rigorous analytic and problem-solving skills used by legal professionals. Consistently ranked among the most productive in the nation, Vanderbilt law professors are known nationally and internationally for their work in such areas as corporate and business law, law and economics, international law, environmental and property law, energy law, intellectual property law, criminal law, complex litigation, constitutional law, law and neuroscience, social justice, health law and policy, and bioethics.

As a result, Vanderbilt students learn about the law from some of the nation’s leading legal scholars. Faculty expertise translates into engaging coursework that takes students to the cutting edge of current legal scholarship. More than that, faculty members are committed teachers and mentors, and Vanderbilt’s small size allows students to enjoy substantial access to faculty throughout law school. The availability of faculty to meet with and come to know students as individuals both in and out of class adds greatly to the value of a Vanderbilt legal education.

Vanderbilt’s faculty ranked eighth among U.S. law schools in a study, “Scholarly Impact of Law Faculties in 2012: Applying Leiter Scores to Rank the Top Third,” conducted by a team led by University of Indiana Professor Gregory Sisk.

Vanderbilt ranked tenth among American Bar Association law schools in Brian Leiter’s 2010 ranking of scholarly influence of faculty.

L.L.M. students start their coursework at Vanderbilt with The Life of the Law, an introductory class all entering students take. The course, which provides an introduction to the American legal system and the study of law, was developed by two Vanderbilt Law professors, Tracey George (right) and Suzanna Sherry, and became the basis for their book, What Every Law Student Needs to Know.
“I was looking for a smaller LL.M. program in a mid-sized city, and I loved the whole package Nashville and Vanderbilt have to offer. Vanderbilt has an amazing community where students receive a world-class education, and my LL.M. degree enabled me to take and pass the New York Bar exam and become a licensed attorney in the U.S.”

Dominik Hochlenert CLASS OF 2012
Mainz, Germany

Dominik is an associate with BridgehouseLaw Atlanta Rueckel & Bolhausen, where he specializes in corporate and commercial transactions involving international clients. “At Vanderbilt, you are integrated with J.D. students, and classes are small, so every student gets the chance to participate and actively think about the covered material, which is a very valuable aspect of the process,” he said. “And because I chose to get my LL.M. at Vanderbilt, I made great friends and have colleagues all across the globe.” Dominik practiced international corporate law with Reiss+Preuss in New York before moving to Atlanta.

Prepare for the New York Bar Exam

Each year, approximately half of Vanderbilt’s LL.M. graduates choose to sit for the New York state bar examination. Vanderbilt ensures that all LL.M. students who plan to sit for the exam take the courses required by the New York Bar. You may also choose to take a summer preparation course at Vanderbilt after graduation, which allows you to remain in Nashville and at Vanderbilt while studying for the New York bar exam.

“Today’s legal practice is international, and knowing how other legal systems work is often essential to effective lawyering. I like having LL.M. students in my classes because they bring a comparative perspective to classroom discussions.”

Erin O’Hara O’Connor
Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law

Professor O’Connor co-authored The Law Market (Oxford Publishing, 2009), which addresses the unforeseen byproduct of globalization: the ability of individuals and businesses to “shop” among various nations for the laws most favorable to the actions they want to take.
A community focused on your success

Vanderbilt is, first and foremost, a student-centered law school. Our small size relative to other top law schools affords a more intimate learning environment, and our LL.M. program is founded on a core strength Vanderbilt has maintained for decades — quality teaching.

Beyond that, the law school building, which is one of the most modern and well-designed in the United States, offers a wireless network, technology-friendly classrooms, a computer classroom, a café and comfortable student lounges. In the Massey Law Library, you’ll find quiet, comfortable study areas and staff who can help you identify available resources and find information you need in printed or electronic format. Students and faculty stay connected through an intranet maintained by the law school’s information technology staff.

Vanderbilt’s LL.M. program director provides year-round, personalized support to individual students, and the university’s Office of International Student and Scholar Services also provides a wide array of services to meet your personal needs.

Learn to Conduct Legal Research in the United States
During the fall semester, all LL.M. students take Introduction to Legal Research and Writing in the United States, a course that provides a distinct academic forum in which LL.M. students learn:
- How to conduct legal research in the U.S.;
- The fundamental, generally accepted conventions of written legal analysis and citation in the U.S.; and
- The basic vocabulary of legal analysis and advocacy in the U.S.

Learn Legal English
Vanderbilt LL.M. students benefit from an intensive program designed to provide the language and academic skills they need to succeed in a demanding educational program at a top U.S. law school. The program begins with a four-week introductory course at the law school during the summer, scheduled before your LL.M. courses begin. Provided in association with the Vanderbilt University English Language Center, Vanderbilt’s Legal English program includes intensive instruction in oral and written communication and small-group discussions, legal research and scholarly writing. You’ll also practice responding quickly and concisely in large-group discussions.

To enhance your academic training, your classes in Legal English continue throughout your year of study at Vanderbilt. These extra classes increase your exposure to the language of U.S. law while you learn American legal principles and precepts in your law classes.
English is the international language of business law. Right now, 80 to 90 percent of my work in German regulatory and transaction finance law is done in English.

I learned the terminology in my Legal English course at Vanderbilt and how to apply my knowledge in corporate law classes.

Friedemann Kiethe  
CLASS OF 2005  
Staff Attorney, Landesbank Baden-Württemberg  
Friedemann is a member of the New York Bar and focuses on banking law. He recently joined the legal department at Landesbank Baden-Württemberg after practicing at Hogan Lovells in Frankfurt.

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**Academic Programs**

**LL.M. students may choose from a wide range of courses offered through Vanderbilt’s innovative academic programs to design an individual course of study tailored to their interests.**

**Law and Business** An intensive upper-level curriculum and transactional seminars that allow students interested in a career in business law to build expertise in business law, corporate management, finance and accounting. The faculty includes experts in corporate and commercial law, bankruptcy, antitrust, tax, arbitration and economics. A certificate in Law and Business is available.

**Litigation & Dispute Resolution** An advanced legal curriculum that prepares graduates to step immediately into sophisticated litigation practice with both a practical and conceptual understanding of the different methods that our justice system employs to resolve disputes. Faculty includes leading practitioners and judges.

**Energy, Environment and Land Use** A broad array of courses, research opportunities and extracurricular activities taught by a team of leading scholars. The program sponsors externships and fosters research opportunities through the Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment and the Climate Change Research Network, an interdisciplinary team of faculty, graduate and professional students representing several Vanderbilt schools and academic departments.

**Intellectual Property** Prepares students to enter practice focusing on copyright and patent law, both domestic and international, through an Intellectual Property clinic and courses taught by international intellectual property expert Daniel Gervais, patent law expert Sean Seymour and other noted practitioners.

**International Legal Studies** Prepares students for careers in a global environment by combining substantive classroom exposure to cutting-edge topics in international law with practical experience in their application through the International Practice Lab and externships. Core faculty have expertise in international corporate, intellectual property, human rights, and criminal law.

**Social Justice** A variety of educational and scholarly activities aimed at exploring the role of law in creating, perpetuating and eradicating hierarchies of power and privilege in our society.

**Criminal Justice** More than 20 upper-level courses and clinics that focus on criminal theory and practice, criminal procedure, juvenile justice, international criminal law, mental health law and other areas. Faculty include experts in cutting-edge fields such as law and neuroscience, human rights, and juvenile justice.

**Law and Government** The law school’s largest and most intellectually diverse program, with 18 affiliated faculty who have nationally recognized expertise in constitutional and public law and a comprehensive curriculum aimed at students interested in public law and policy.
All LL.M. and first-year J.D. students begin their studies with The Life of the Law, an intensive introductory course in which students learn core concepts relevant to legal education, including the structure of American government and the legal system. They also acquire techniques and strategies for learning the law, such as analytical reasoning, reading like an expert and briefing cases; and the class introduces the Socratic Method of teaching and offers small-group exercises.

Choose Your Course of Study

The Vanderbilt faculty’s broad range of expertise allows LL.M. students to study virtually any area of law, including international intellectual property, litigation and dispute resolution, constitutional law, criminal justice, health policy and environmental law, through programs that connect rigorous intellectual training in legal theory to 21st century law practice.

Students choose one of three tracks within the LL.M. degree program:

- In the Course Track, students focus exclusively on course work, choosing their courses from the law school’s extensive curriculum. A faculty adviser or a law school administrator will help you tailor your academic program to your career goals and intellectual interests.

- The Thesis Track is designed for students who have a well-developed research focus and wish to work closely with one or more Vanderbilt law professors to complete a substantial research project that culminates in a scholarly paper. You will work closely with a faculty adviser with expertise in your area of study while choosing courses that support your research interests, conducting legal research, and writing a scholarly paper.

- The Law and Business Track is specifically designed for students who seek intensive academic and professional training in corporate law, securities regulation, finance, accounting, and the principles of corporate governance. Students develop an understanding not only of the legal and regulatory environment in which businesses operate, but also of corporate governance, the principles of finance and accounting, and the economic and financial frameworks of transactions.

“I wanted to focus on business law because Belgium is a European business center. Vanderbilt’s business law program is really strong, and because it has a small LL.M. program compared to other law schools, most of the other students in your classes will be Americans.”

Koen Van Cauter Class of 2008
Associate, Simont Braun Brussels, Belgium
Koen earned his law degree at the University of Ghent before earning his LL.M. at Vanderbilt. He practices corporate and financial law and is a member of the Brussels bar.
“I chose Vanderbilt because of its academic reputation and the strength of its corporate law faculty. It is also one of the few law schools to offer the Thesis Track, which was important to me as I wanted to mix academic research and coursework. Since I also wanted to attend a small law school in a small to mid-size city, Vanderbilt was really the only choice.”

Tom Hodge  CLASS OF 2010, Trainee Solicitor, Jones Day, London

Before earning his LLM at Vanderbilt, Tom earned his law degree at Kings College London. He is a trainee solicitor at Jones Day in London and a member of the New York Bar, having prepared to sit for the exam in Nashville. “Being a member of the New York Bar is extremely useful as the two most important jurisdictions in the world for corporate law are England and New York,” he said. “At Jones Day, we frequently deal with matters that involve the laws of both jurisdictions, so being educated in U.S. law certainly helps me to appreciate the full scope of the firm’s work in any given matter.”

“As a German lawyer, I found that Vanderbilt provided a terrific challenge. Its unique LL.M. program and the international atmosphere here contributed more to my legal education than I ever expected.”

Dr. Thomas Fetzer  CLASS OF 2003
Professor of Law, Universität Tübingen

Dr. Fetzer taught a short course in European Union Competition Law at Vanderbilt in fall 2008.
A strong emphasis on international law

Vanderbilt’s strength in international law provides our LL.M. students an important advantage: ample opportunities to take courses that will immediately inform your legal practice in your home country. Through our highly regarded International Legal Studies Program, you will have access to courses that allow you to gain expertise in such key areas of international law as corporate law, transactions and finance law, trade policy, intellectual property law, tax law, foreign relations, comparative constitutional law, litigation, human rights law and criminal law. The program is directed by Ingrid Brunk Wuerth, an expert in comparative constitutional law who has studied in Berlin as a Fulbright Scholar and as a Chancellor’s Scholar of the Alexander Humboldt Foundation. In addition to its acclaimed full-time faculty, the program also includes experienced attorneys, judges and policy makers who teach short courses here each year.

“The International Law Practice Lab was one of the reasons I chose to study at Vanderbilt. It provided a unique opportunity to learn about international law in practice and to work on a project on torture reparations around the world, which we submitted to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture.”

Gisela Valle Garcia Class of 2010, Campbell Burns Research Scholar, University of Strathclyde, Scotland

Before earning her LL.M. at Vanderbilt, Gisela served as senior legal counsel for the Mexican Senate’s Industry and Commerce Committee. After earning her LL.M. at Vanderbilt, she entered a Ph.D. program at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, where she is the Campbell Burns Research Scholar.

Published Authors


A Thriving International Community

Each year, the 10 schools that comprise Vanderbilt University attract almost 1,000 international students and post-graduate scholars from more than 90 countries around the world. Vanderbilt University comprises a highly ranked Medical School, a School of Nursing, the Owen Graduate School of Management, the Blair School of Music, Peabody College of Education and Human Development, the School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Arts and Science as well as Vanderbilt Law School. In addition to meeting students from many other countries at the law school, you’ll have opportunities to meet students from every part of the world through campus-wide academic and social organizations.
Ingrid Brunk Wuerth’s research focuses on foreign affairs, international law and comparative constitutional law. She has served as a research fellow at both Humboldt University and the Free University in Berlin. Professor Wuerth is a member of the American Law Institute and is a Reporter for the Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States. She directs Vanderbilt’s International Legal Studies Program and sits on the board of editors of the American Journal of International Law.

Ganesh Sitaraman’s current research addresses issues in public law ranging from foreign relations and international law to domestic regulation and institutional design. Before joining Vanderbilt’s law faculty, he was the Public Law Fellow at Harvard law School. He was also a research fellow at the Counterinsurgency Training Center in Afghanistan and served as a special adviser to the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP).

Michael A. Newton is an expert on international accountability, international criminal law and conduct of hostilities, and is the author of more than 70 articles and book chapters on these topics. He assisted with the establishment of the Iraqi High Criminal Court and served as advisor to the Court’s Legal Judicial Chambers. At Vanderbilt, he teaches the International Law Practice Lab, teaches International Criminal Law, and develops placement opportunities for students interested in international law practice.

Yesha Yadav’s research focuses on international financial and securities regulation. She joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in 2011 after working in the Legal Vice-Presidency of the World Bank as legal counsel in financial regulation, markets and infrastructure as well as in insolvency and creditor rights. Before joining the World Bank, Professor Yadav practiced in the financial regulation and derivatives practice of Clifford Chance in London. During her tenure with the World Bank, she served on Georgetown’s adjunct law faculty.

Daniel J. Gervais directs Vanderbilt’s LL.M. and Intellectual Property programs. An expert on the TRIPS Agreement, he focuses on international intellectual property law, having spent 10 years addressing policy issues on behalf of the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, CISAC and CCC before entering the academy. He is a panelist at the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre and editor-in-chief of the Journal of World Intellectual Property Law.

Vijay Padmanabhan has published articles on international criminal law, human rights law and the law of war. He served from 2003–08 in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, where he was the department’s chief counsel on Guantanamo and Iraq detainee litigation. After earning his B.S. from Georgetown and J.D. from New York University, he clerked for Judge James L. Dennis on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He previously taught at the Cardozo School of Law. He joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in fall 2011.

John Owen Haley is an internationally renowned scholar of comparative and international law and a preeminent scholar of Japanese law. His works have addressed international trade policy, Japanese land use law, and Japanese and East Asian business transactions. His 1991 book, Authority without Power: Law and the Japanese Paradox, and his article, “The Myth of the Reluctant Litigant,” are considered leading works in the field. He was a pioneering scholar of Japanese law and is widely credited with popularizing Japanese studies in the U.S.
A renowned Law and Business Program

Drawing its curriculum from Vanderbilt’s outstanding Law and Business J.D. Program, Vanderbilt’s Law and Business LL.M. Track offers intensive academic and professional training in corporate law, securities regulation, finance, accounting and the principles of corporate governance with the goal of producing lawyers who understand the legal and regulatory environment in which businesses operate as well as corporate governance, the principles of finance and accounting, and the economic and financial frameworks of transactions.

Graduates may use their Law and Business training to pursue careers in business law, as government regulators, or in other international posts that benefit from an excellent understanding of business law and corporate management. Because Law and Business graduates understand how businesses operate, they return to their home countries prepared to work effectively with business executives, managers and directors to navigate laws and regulations governing business activities.

Law and Business students take a core curriculum of required courses and may choose their remaining courses from among Vanderbilt’s rich array of electives, including courses in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, bankruptcy, law, antitrust law, and secured and global transactions.

“Earning an LL.M. at Vanderbilt has been a life-changing experience, both from an academic standpoint and from a human perspective. I met extraordinary people from all over the world, from the faculty and staff to my classmates. The Law and Business Program was very hard work but definitely rewarding. We are graded on the same curve as the J.D.s, which makes it more challenging, but also gratifying when you see good grades!”

Maria Tiberia CLASS OF 2013 Rome, Italy

Maria was a trainee lawyer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, where “half the work we had was carried out in English,” before coming to Vanderbilt to pursue her LL.M. She earned her law degree at Sapienza—Università di Roma, where she focused on law and economics, before pursuing Vanderbilt’s Law and Business LL.M. track. To pursue the Law and Business Track, “you have to be super committed,” she said. “But I learned a tremendous amount.” Maria interned at the State of Tennessee’s International Division of Economic Development during and after her LL.M. year.
“Law and business are inextricably linked; lawyers work in teams with executive managers, board members and investment bankers. I came to Vanderbilt to direct the Law and Business Program because, in addition to offering a great legal education, I felt we needed to train our lawyers in business school basics, such as accounting and finance.”

Randall Thomas
John S. Beasley II Professor of Law and Business Director, Law and Business Program

Articles authored or co-authored by Professor Thomas have frequently been selected as among the “Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles” by the Corporate Practice Commentator.

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Articles authored or co-authored by Professor Thomas have frequently been selected as among the “Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles” by the Corporate Practice Commentator.

“I practice corporate law, and I wanted to learn more about how the American legal system works. I chose Vanderbilt because it has a Law and Business Program, and because students here get individual attention from faculty and staff.”

Susumu Tanizawa CLASS OF 2012
Associate, Nishimura & Asahi, Tokyo

Susumu earned his LL.B. at the University of Tokyo. He is a co-author, with three other Nishimura & Asahi attorneys, of the Japan chapter of Getting the Deal Through—Banking Regulation 2010, published by Law Business Research. He pursued the Law and Business Track. “In my practice, I often discussed cases with American lawyers and admired their creative thinking,” Susumu said. “I was very impressed with the way American law schools taught case law, and I wanted to get such a background.”
Vanderbilt offers a unique environment in which to pursue your legal education. Here, you'll benefit from a rigorous American law school experience that connects outstanding theoretical training with the essential fundamentals of legal practice, including cross-border transactions, international commercial arbitration, and litigation and dispute resolution.

Vanderbilt’s collegial culture also offers an ideal preparation for an international legal career. More than ever before, law graduates must be team players, and our well-established culture promotes collaboration in a challenging learning environment, which provides an excellent preparation for working with other attorneys in legal practice teams. As a result, students choose Vanderbilt not only for its outstanding academic programs, but also for its longstanding reputation for collegiality, professionalism and relationship-building. They recognize that mutual support, teamwork and respect for others’ views are now essential to professional success. In fact, our students and graduates consistently say that the strong sense of community among their colleagues here at Vanderbilt is one of the most valuable and enduring aspects of a Vanderbilt legal education.

Law practice is now a global endeavor, and when you graduate, you'll become part of Vanderbilt’s global alumni community. Vanderbilt graduates live and work in more than 40 nations outside the U.S.—a number which is increasing every year. In addition, approximately 9,000 Vanderbilt law alumni—both J.D. and LL.M. graduates—live and work throughout the U.S., practicing in 49 states and in Washington D.C.

For insights into the qualities we seek in Vanderbilt Law students, visit our website at www.law.vanderbilt.edu, and sample the profiles of our students and graduates.

“The reality that lawyers now face is that an increasingly important share of the global economy is intangible, a lot of it online and very nimble, and that means a much greater role for intellectual property. In addition, a global economy means a flat world in which international law means at least as much as domestic law for many lawyers. Those are the foundations of Vanderbilt’s Intellectual Property Program.”

Daniel Gervais
Professor of Law
Faculty Director, LL.M. Program
Director, Intellectual Property Program

An expert on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights, or TRIPS Agreement, which governs international intellectual property rights, Professor Gervais is the author of an influential book, The TRIPS Agreement: Drafting History and Analysis (Sweet & Maxwell), the fourth edition of which was released in 2012.
“What truly sets Vanderbilt apart from other top law schools is the premium we place on the classroom experience. Our students benefit from close faculty supervision and accessibility, and because of its small size and selectivity, our LL.M. program offers many other advantages.”

Chris Guthrie
Dean and
John-Wade Kent Syverud
Professor of Law

“I joined Vanderbilt because the law school offers a superior intellectual and educational community. Its size, faculty, resources and physical facilities are all conducive to the best sort of legal education and scholarship.”

Christopher Slobogin
Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law

A renowned scholar of criminal law who has authored more than 100 articles, books and chapters, Professor Slobogin is one of the 10 most cited criminal law and procedure professors in the country. He joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in 2008 and heads the Criminal Justice Program. Juveniles at Risk: A Plea for Preventive Justice, co-authored by Professor Slobogin and published by Oxford University Press in 2011, offers proposals intended to encourage policy makers, judges and lawyers to re-examine and improve juvenile court practice.
Nashville is a major legal, economic and political center—a state capital with a population of 1.5 million in its metropolitan area. Its active legal community is extremely supportive of the law school. National firms based here, combined with many corporate headquarters of major corporations, create plentiful and interesting employment and internship opportunities in all areas of the law.

Metropolitan Nashville also affords a dynamic business environment. As the corporate headquarters of Hospital Corporation of America and more than 50 other health care enterprises, Nashville has been called the health care industry’s Silicon Valley. The entertainment industry for which Nashville is world famous pumps $1 billion into the local economy each year. And Fortune 500 companies with a major presence include Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Ford, DuPont, Goodyear, Nissan and General Motors.

“Nashville is a great city, and the people here are so warm and friendly. In Nashville I had a wonderful chance to enjoy all kinds of American music.”

David Liao, J.D. Class of 2010, Associate, Linklaters, Beijing

After starting Vanderbilt as an LL.M. student in 2007, David was admitted to the J.D. program in 2008. He is a member of the New York Bar and is currently based in Linklaters’ Hong Kong office.
When you visit—and especially as you study here—you’ll find that Nashville is an extremely appealing place to live and work. Students say they find the city surprisingly cosmopolitan, with all of the amenities they would expect from much larger metropolitan areas, yet small and accessible enough to maintain a familiar sense of community.

The Third Coast. Country music may have put Nashville on the map, but today’s diverse music scene reflects the city’s cultural breadth and sophistication—ranging from the Grand Ole Opry to the Nashville Opera, and from the world-class Nashville Symphony to jazz, rock and bluegrass performers at intimate clubs around town.

Where to Play. Nashville’s entertainment opportunities also include an abundance of professional sports with the NFL’s Tennessee Titans, the Nashville Predators of the NHL and minor-league baseball with the AAA Nashville Sounds. Nearby parks offer quiet hiking and biking trails, and each year several Vanderbilt Law students join thousands of other runners in the Music City Marathon.

Whet Your Appetite. Dozens of restaurants are within walking distance of the law school. Thanks to Nashville’s tremendous cultural diversity, you can find everything from Peruvian, Ethiopian, East Indian and West African cuisine to “meat and threes” that offer traditional Southern cooking and soul food.

A Pleasant Climate. Many students who come here from other areas of the country say they’ve never before experienced four distinct seasons. Nashville’s spectacular springs and falls show Vanderbilt’s park-like campus to its best advantage, and pleasant temperatures will beckon you to study outdoors. Winters tend to be mild.

“Living in Nashville was awesome. It’s a really relaxed, pleasant city, but if you want to go out, there’s plenty to do.”

Eduardo Gutierrez  
CLASS OF 2011
Attorney, Aczalaw Abogados Centroamericano Asociados, Managua, Nicaragua

After earning his law degree at Universidad Americana in Managua and practicing law in his home country of Nicaragua, Eduado pursued his L.L.M. at Vanderbilt because “Vanderbilt is world-ranked, and the program was small enough that I knew I would get to know my professors and classmates.” He found his courses in antitrust law and intellectual property law particularly helpful. “Antitrust law is relatively new in Nicaragua,” he said. “The U.S. has a good antitrust law regime, and the background I got in my course in antitrust law at Vanderbilt has really helped me serve my clients here.”
Founded in 1873 with a million-dollar endowment from Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the university that bears his name now comprises 10 colleges and schools, including one of the nation’s top medical schools. Vanderbilt draws its 12,700 students from all 50 states and 45 foreign nations.

There’s always something interesting to do or see here—whether it’s American football, basketball or baseball games (and a host of other sports); the Performances at Vanderbilt series that brings in top artists; movies at the on-campus Sarraff Cinema; or lectures by world-renowned scholars and leaders at the law school and elsewhere on campus.

Law students can unwind at the 132,000-square-foot Student Recreation Center, which features a gym with three basketball courts, a suspended running track, a 6,000-square-foot weight and cardio room, racquetball and squash courts, and a large indoor pool, and is currently being expanded. Outdoor court-yards, tracks, recreational fields and an indoor tennis center are also nearby. Law students regularly form teams to participate in a variety of intramural sports and enjoy the kayaking, caving, rock climbing and camping trips sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Vanderbilt’s beautiful 330-acre campus was designated a national arboretum in 1988. More than 300 tree and shrub varieties thrive here.

Last year, Vanderbilt’s attention-getting football team won nine games, made their second straight bowl appearance (defeating North Carolina State in the Music City Bowl), and earned a final ranking among the nation’s top 20.
Vanderbilt’s 2009 LL.M. Class included two Fulbright scholars: Rafael Romero Moreno from Managua, Nicaragua, and Sheena Shukkur, a professor of labor and family law at Kerala University in South India. After earning her LL.M., Sheena returned to India, where she heads the law department at Kerala University. Rafael, a lecturer in law at Central American University in Managua, won the LL.M. Research Prize with his thesis, “Aid for Trade: A Santa Claus Letter for Developing Countries,” which offers an insider’s perspective on the Nicaraguan experience with Aid for Trade. “Vanderbilt has an outstanding law library with an excellent staff who can help you find anything you need,” he says. Rafael also earned a master’s in Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt before rejoining the faculty of Central American University in Managua.

Vanderbilt University is comprised of 10 schools, all located on the university’s Nashville campus. In addition to Vanderbilt Law School, the university encompasses:

- Blair School of Music
- Owen Graduate School of Management
- Peabody College of Education and Human Development
- Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science
- Vanderbilt Divinity School
- Vanderbilt School of Engineering
- Vanderbilt School of Medicine
- Vanderbilt School of Nursing
- Vanderbilt University Graduate School

A SOURCE OF UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Vanderbilt Chancellor Nick Zeppos (left) joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in 1992 and was a renowned teacher of administrative law before joining the university’s administration. Vice Chancellor for University Affairs and Athletics David Williams, an expert in sports law, also teaches on Vanderbilt’s law faculty.
First, visit our website at www.law.vanderbilt.edu. Then, contact our Admissions Office.

“Vanderbilt professors are brilliant lawyers who not only taught me basic transaction structures and legal skills, but also cultivated my understanding of American legal system. The deep insights into the American legal system I gained in Vanderbilt’s LL.M. program have helped me a lot in my current work and have laid a good foundation for my whole career.”

Diana (Chen) Yang class of 2012 Beijing, China

Diana earned her law degree at the China University of Political Science and Law before coming to Vanderbilt, where she pursued the Law and Business Track. “The Law and Business Program introduces the fundamental principles of international transactions, and professors share their experiences and insight,” she said. She is an associate at the Han Kun Law Office in Beijing.

“WE INVITE YOU TO CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LL.M. PROGRAM AT VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL. YOU CAN REACH THE LL.M. Admissions Department by email at llm.program@law.vanderbilt.edu, via Skype at vanderbilt.lawadmissions or by telephone at (+001) 615-322-6452, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time.

Apply Online
You may apply online using the link to the LSAC’s electronic application service on the Vanderbilt Law School website at www.law.vanderbilt.edu/llm.

Fast Facts about Vanderbilt Law School

- 600 students, representing 42 states and 22 foreign nations
- More than 50 full-time faculty members
- Ranked 15th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in 2013
- Choose among three tracks: Course Track, Thesis Track or Law and Business Track

Register with LSAC
We recommend that you register with LSAC for the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service at: www.LLM.LSAC.org

This service will assemble and send us the materials we need to consider your application, including your TOEFL score, photocopies of your academic transcripts, and a transcript analysis.

To meet the deadline for applying to Vanderbilt’s LL.M. program, your application must be electronically submitted or postmarked by April 30.
FAST FACTS ABOUT VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL’S L.L.M. PROGRAM

Length of program: 10 months (2 semesters) of full-time study

Three Tracks: Choose the Course Track, the Thesis Track, or the Law and Business Track.

Language of instruction: English

Pre-orientation program: A four-week course, English for Legal Purposes, begins in July.

Program prerequisite: You must have or expect to receive a university degree in law from an accredited institution outside the United States before enrollment.

3 ways to apply at www.law.vanderbilt.edu/llm
- Apply online using the link to the LSAC’s electronic application service.
- Download an application form.
- Request an application online.

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