Eleven years ago, I visited Vanderbilt for the first time as a faculty candidate—and discovered an environment unique among American law schools. Collegial and supportive, challenging and academically rigorous, Vanderbilt offers a community where all of the elements required to create a great law school come together in ways that surpass expectations. I joined this community in 2002 because here, great scholars and teachers thrive. As Vanderbilt’s Dean, one of my top priorities is maintaining the sense of community that makes Vanderbilt stand apart from other law schools.

Experience it, and you will find compelling reasons to make Vanderbilt your law school. You’ll find talented students from across the nation and a welcoming network of alumni who live and work around the globe. You’ll find a distinguished faculty of experts; a rigorous curriculum; a wide array of joint degree, interdisciplinary, and clinical programs; ample opportunities for involvement in public service and student organizations; and a beautiful campus in a vibrant city. Most importantly, you’ll find a student-friendly atmosphere—a Vanderbilt tradition our students have treasured for decades.

You’ll discover that Vanderbilt stands apart from other law schools not only for the quality of the legal training delivered by our faculty of renowned legal scholars and teachers, but also for the support you’ll receive from one of the nation’s best Career Services departments. Our academic programs go beyond providing outstanding training and connect legal theory to real-world strategies, knowledge and experiences. That approach provides immediate advantages when you interview for legal positions and begin practicing law.

Finally, you’ll find yourself at home in one of America’s most livable cities. Like few other places, Vanderbilt’s Nashville setting lets you balance the rigors of study with abundant opportunities to enjoy a city with a remarkable blend of cosmopolitan sophistication and the feel of a friendly small town.

I invite you to visit and discover these things for yourself.

Chris Guthrie
Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud
Professor of Law
“I wanted to attend an academically challenging school with a national Career Services program where I could really get to know my professors and peers and experience a new part of the country at the same time. I had a terrific law school experience at Vanderbilt.”

Barbara Barreno CLASS OF 2011

Barbara joined Sidley Austin in Chicago after working there as a summer associate in 2010. A native of the Los Angeles area, she majored in social studies at Harvard University and then worked in the Immigration Unit at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and interned with Otterbourg Steindler Houston & Rosen in New York before law school. She was Executive Editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review in 2010–11.

RESOURCES TO SHAPE YOUR FUTURE:

- A community that promotes professional excellence, service and teamwork
- A faculty of leading scholars and specialists in every area of law
- A stimulating and highly collegial academic culture
- Outstanding theoretical training
- Experiential learning to prepare you for 21st century law practice
- Innovative and interdisciplinary programs
- A national Career Services program and alumni network
- A world-class university campus
- A sophisticated, friendly and affordable urban setting

A Vanderbilt legal education will challenge you to work harder and accomplish more than you thought possible and give you experience, skills and analytic tools to tackle difficult problems. We offer a unique set of resources to shape your legal education and an exceptional environment to prepare for leadership in private practice, public service, business, government or other areas where the application of law and legal reasoning shape positive outcomes for individuals and society.
Influential scholars and outstanding teachers

Vanderbilt’s faculty ranks among the most productive in the nation. Vanderbilt law professors are known nationally and internationally for their work in such fields as corporate and business law, law and economics, international law, environmental and property law, criminal law, complex litigation, constitutional law, intellectual property, law and neuroscience, health law and policy, and bioethics.

At Vanderbilt, 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 individually in class and outside of the classroom adds greatly to the value of a Vanderbilt legal education.

“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.

“Vanderbilt is a place where both students and faculty take ideas seriously. Each class is energized by the intellectual excitement that comes from the exchange of ideas.”

Suzanna Sherry Herman O. Loewenstein Chair in Law
Professor Sherry is a nationally renowned scholar of constitutional law. Her book, Judgment Calls: Principle and Politics in Constitutional Law, co-authored with Daniel Farber, was published in 2008.

In Brian Leiter’s 2010 ranking of scholarly influence, Vanderbilt’s faculty placed tenth among ABA law schools.
Articles published in 2010 by intellectual property scholar Daniel Gervais (right) and environmental law scholar J.B. Ruhl were ranked among the top five scholarly articles published that year in these disciplines. Professor Ruhl’s article addressed strategies for creating networks to deal with complex environmental issues, such as “dead zones.” Professor Gervais’ article on copyright limits appeared in the 2011 edition of Intellectual Property Law Review (West).

Randall Thomas’ co-authored 2011 paper, “Litigation in Mergers & Acquisitions,” an empirical study examining the targeting of lawsuits in M&A transactions, was selected by the Financial Management Association as among the year’s best corporate finance articles.

“The thing I’ve been most impressed by at Vanderbilt is the quality of the professors.”

Adele El-Khoury CLASS OF 2013

Adele was accepted into the Vanderbilt Legal Academy Scholars Program, in which students explore the possibility of teaching law by attending frequent paper talks delivered by Vanderbilt and other law faculty. She returned to her hometown of Washington, D.C., in 2011 to intern at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and in 2012 to work as an associate at WilmerHale.

“I’ve loved the classes in law school. My first-year classes were some of the best I’d ever taken at a university; every professor made the material come completely alive. Professors here take an incredible interest in students and in teaching; in class, you can tell how seriously they think about teaching techniques.”

Karen Usselman Lindell CLASS OF 2012
“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, Vanderbilt Climate Change Research Network

Professor Vandenbergh leads Vanderbilt’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 climate change.

Rigorous professional training

Vanderbilt’s faculty is committed to delivering a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that prepares students for 21st century law practice. First-year students begin their studies with The Life of the Law, an intensive one-week course taught by full-time faculty in which students learn core concepts relevant to legal education, including the structure of American government and the legal system, cross-cutting legal doctrines, and interdisciplinary approaches to legal analysis. They also acquire techniques and strategies for learning the law, such as analytical reasoning, reading like an expert, and briefing cases. The class also introduces the Socratic method of teaching and offers small-group exercises.

The first-year experience provides the intellectual foundation upon which to build an advanced legal education tailored to individual intellectual interests and professional goals. Each entering J.D. class is divided into sections of approximately 65 students for core courses, allowing maximum opportunity for classroom interaction. First-year courses in Torts, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Property, the Regulatory State and Legal Writing set the stage for continued studies. First-year students may take an elective course during the spring semester.

In the second and third years, students take advantage of Vanderbilt’s rich interdisciplinary offerings, choosing from an extensive array of elective courses, seminars, clinics and externships. Upper-level study is enhanced by opportunities to serve as a research assistant, join one of four scholarly journals, work with legal clients through clinics, externships and pro bono projects, and engage in the intellectual life of one of the world’s great universities.
“The first year of law school introduces students to the current landscape of American law. Regulation is such an important feature of that landscape that students should be exposed to regulation, and how it is created, early in their legal education.”

Kevin Stack
Associate Dean for Research

Professor Stack, together with noted legal scholars Lisa Bressman and Edward Rubin, collaborated on a casebook specifically designed for The Regulatory State, a first-year course they worked together to develop.

“I’m pleased that Vanderbilt’s curriculum emphasizes regulatory law, because we are living in an administrative state now. Administrative agencies are tremendously powerful, and it’s important for attorneys to understand how the administrative process works.”

Virginia Albrecht CLASS OF 1983
Partner, Hunton & Williams, Washington, D.C.

Albrecht is known throughout the U.S. as an expert in the federal regulations governing land use.
A tradition of excellence

Founded along with Vanderbilt University in 1873, Vanderbilt Law School has trained distinguished and influential lawyers, policymakers and public servants for well over a century. Consistently ranked among the nation’s top law schools, Vanderbilt attracts students throughout the nation and abroad who seek an intellectually rigorous legal education that also instills the values of community, collegiality, leadership, personal integrity, teamwork and service for which Vanderbilt is known.

Beyond our challenging curriculum, every student has ample opportunities to pursue intellectual and professional development and pro bono service outside of the classroom. You may choose to join student organizations that focus on specific areas of law and offer service opportunities, do substantive legal work in a variety of settings for course credit through semester and summer externships, and participate in Vanderbilt’s well-organized Moot Court and Mock Trial programs.

Vanderbilt students publish four scholarly journals:
- Vanderbilt Law Review—established in 1947
- Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law—established in 1967
- Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment & Technology Law—established in 1998
- Environmental Law & Policy Annual Review—established in 2007 and produced in conjunction with the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C.

Students enter a competition for journal staff positions at the end of their 1L year. Winners of writing awards are honored each September at a reception sponsored by Lightfoot Franklin & White.

CLASS OF 2014 PROFILE

3,987 Applicants
192 First-year J.D. Students
Representing 33 states, D.C., Cameroon, China, Finland, South Korea, Sweden & Zimbabwe

83 (43%) Female 1Ls
40 (21%) Minority 1Ls

99 Undergraduate Colleges Represented

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For detailed profiles of this and other recent entering classes, please visit www.law.vanderbilt.edu
A Law Review note written by Anne Gooch, Class of 2011, “Admitting Guilt While Professing Innocence” (63 Vanderbilt Law Review, 2010), was cited by Judge Andre Davis of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in an opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part with the majority decision in U.S. v. Toyer. Judge Davis cited Anne’s note to support his description of the circumstances under which an Alford plea would be treated as a traditional guilty plea. Anne is House Parliamentarian for Congress in Washington, D.C.

“Virtually everyone on the faculty shares the same goal: to make the law school a better place for learning and research. We collaborate on so many levels and in so many ways that everyone benefits, especially our students, who form relationships with one another as colleagues rather than competitors.”

Erin O’Hara O’Connor
Milton R. Underwood Chair in Law and Professor of Economics


Maria Glover, Class of 2007, joined the faculty of Georgetown Law Center after spending two years as a Climenko Fellow at Harvard Law School, where she taught legal writing and studied class action litigation. She participated in Vanderbilt’s Legal Academy Scholars Program, a selective mentoring program for students interested in academic careers directed by Associate Dean Lisa Bressman, a respected administrative law scholar.

Emily Klick and Joshua Rabon, both Class of 2012, won the American Bar Association’s Section of Taxation Law’s 2012 Law Student Tax Challenge and received the competition’s top award for best written submission. “We were the first Vanderbilt team ever to enter this competition, so we were particularly excited to win,” Josh said. He has joined the legal staff in the Internal Revenue Service’s international division, and Emily is an associate with Hawley Troxell in her hometown of Boise, Idaho. They were coached by Professor Herwig Schlunk, an expert in tax law.

Emily Klick and Joshua Rabon, both Class of 2012, won the American Bar Association’s Section of Taxation Law’s 2012 Law Student Tax Challenge and received the competition’s top award for best written submission. “We were the first Vanderbilt team ever to enter this competition, so we were particularly excited to win,” Josh said. He has joined the legal staff in the Internal Revenue Service’s international division, and Emily is an associate with Hawley Troxell in her hometown of Boise, Idaho. They were coached by Professor Herwig Schlunk, an expert in tax law.
Programs that connect theory to practice

Vanderbilt has established itself as a leader in designing innovative academic, clinical and externship programs that connect outstanding theoretical training to the real-world fundamentals of legal practice. Our graduates enter the job market with an immediate advantage: a legal education that translates cutting-edge scholarship into effective lawyering.

Our comprehensive approach treats scholarship, professional development and service as integral components of legal education, while affording our students the flexibility to cultivate expertise in specific areas as they prepare for a wide range of legal careers. Your exposure to the myriad ways in which law influences professional, political, social and cultural life is broadened by academic programs and study centers that allow you to focus on areas such as corporate and finance law, international law, intellectual property, environmental law, constitutional law, governmental regulation, tax law, health law and other areas.

These programs sponsor a rich array of events and support externships that enable you to gain substantive experience.

“Attorneys are starting to use research on adolescent brain development in juvenile criminal cases. To ensure the integrity of law and promote effective advocacy, it’s critically important that any such arguments be both scientifically well-supported and well-matched with sound legal theories of juvenile culpability and punishment.”

Terry Maroney Professor of Law

Since Professor Maroney, who studies and teaches criminal law and juvenile justice, published an article about a “disconnect” between the perceived promise of adolescent brain research and the relatively modest success of brain-based arguments in actual cases, “I’ve received calls and emails from defenders asking how they can use my work to better integrate the science into their advocacy,” she said. She also is a leader in the emerging interdisciplinary movement exploring the role of emotion in law, and hopes to change the theory of how judges are expected to handle their emotional reactions to cases as well as the practical ways in which they do so.

International Law Practice Lab

Students in Professor Michael Newton’s International Law Practice Lab have completed legal work supporting the U.S. Departments of State, Justice and Defense, the International Bar Association, the Iraqi High Tribunal, the Sierra Leone Special Court, and a number of United Nations and global human rights organizations. “The work my students have done is reflected in treaties, statutes, decisions and negotiating histories across the globe,” Professor Newton said.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Law & Business (certificate program)
- Cecil D. Branstetter Litigation & Dispute Resolution Program
- Criminal Justice
- Energy, Environment and Land Use
- Intellectual Property
- International Legal Studies
- Law & Government
- Social Justice
Will Airhart, Class of 2012, won the 2012 Jon E. Hastings Memorial Award from Tennessee Bar Association’s Environmental Law Section and Vanderbilt’s Weldon B. White Prize for a paper he wrote that addressed the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in American Electric Power Company v. Connecticut for tort cases related to climate change. “Will’s paper is a great example of how a student can look across different fields, such as torts, administrative law and environmental law, to develop a fresh approach to a difficult problem,” said Professor Michael Vandenbergh, who directs Vanderbilt’s Climate Change Research Network. “His work underscores the value of intensive legal writing experiences in law school and the contributions students can make by developing practical legal strategies that draw on the best theoretical literature.”

Will has joined the environmental practice at Baker Botts in Houston.

“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.

“At the Department of Justice, I worked in the Antitrust Division, which investigates pending mergers. I now have a 360-degree view of the antitrust process, and that will be valuable even if I don’t end up practicing antitrust law.”

Amit Tantri CLASS OF 2013

Amit landed a coveted internship at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked in the Antitrust Division in summer 2011. He spent summer 2012 working as an associate with WilmerHale in Boston. “I wanted to make sure I would have the opportunity to go back to the Northeast, and I’ve found plenty of opportunities in Boston,” he said. “I would encourage anyone not to worry about going back home to work with a Vanderbilt Law degree.”

Exterships for Course Credit

Vanderbilt offers many opportunities for students to pursue externships that provide valuable professional experience while earning academic credit. During summer 2012, 85 students served externships for course credit at federal and state agencies, judicial chambers, district attorneys’ and public defenders’ offices; in corporate legal departments; and with non-profit legal aid and advocacy organizations in 20 states and two foreign nations. “Vanderbilt places a strong emphasis on experiential learning,” said Sue Kay, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, who oversees Vanderbilt’s externship program.
Innovative and interdisciplinary

Vanderbilt’s commitment to programs that integrate rigorous training in legal theory with contemporary law practice extends to our extensive array of interdisciplinary and joint degree programs. The law school’s location on the campus of Vanderbilt University, which also has top-ranked schools of medicine, business, engineering and education, makes Vanderbilt an especially attractive choice for students who want to pursue a joint degree.

Vanderbilt is also home to the Law and Neuroscience Program, a national program funded by the MacArthur Foundation and directed by Professor Owen Jones, and the Climate Change Research Network, directed by Professor Michael Vandenbergh.

“Inventions have become increasingly complex, and patent law has to respond to advances in science and technology. I was eager to join the faculty at a research university that offered a depth of expertise in both science and law. In addition to having a top-notch law school, Vanderbilt’s science and engineering programs and medical school are all superb.”

Sean Seymour Professor of Law
Professor Seymour holds both a Ph.D. in chemistry and a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses on how patent law should evolve in response to scientific advances and the ways in which technological change influences public policy. Professor Seymour was the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Associate Professor at MIT in spring 2012.

Members of Vanderbilt’s law faculty also hold primary or secondary appointments in Vanderbilt’s Owen Graduate School of Management and its School of Medicine, and in its biology, chemistry, economics, history, mathematics, philosophy and political science departments.

INTERDISCIPLINARY & JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS

- The Ph.D. in Law & Economics allows students to enter with a J.D. from any ABA-approved law school or to earn both a J.D. and a Ph.D. at Vanderbilt.
- Vanderbilt offers its well-established J.D./M.B.A. program in conjunction with the Owen Graduate School of Management, which adjoins the law school.
- Medical students can expand their professional horizons through Vanderbilt’s J.D./M.D. degree. Two faculty members—bioethics expert Ellen Wright Clayton and health policy expert James Blumstein—have joint appointments at Vanderbilt’s law and medical schools.
- Earn a J.D./M.Div. or J.D./M.T.S. degree in conjunction with the Vanderbilt Divinity School.
- Earn a J.D./M.P.P. in conjunction with Vanderbilt’s Peabody College.
- Tailor your own program to earn a J.D./M.A. or J.D./Ph.D. in conjunction with the Vanderbilt Graduate School.

You’ll find complete information on our joint-degree programs at www.law.vanderbilt.edu.
"Vanderbilt was a natural intellectual fit for me because it has a really amazing concentration of scholars who do interdisciplinary research."

Edward K. Cheng Professor of Law

Professor Cheng recently earned a Ph.D. in statistics at Columbia University to support his study of evidence. "I'm using empirical methods to address social scientific questions, such as how we make decisions, and I wanted to learn how to do the statistical analyses myself," he said.

"Vanderbilt's faculty is one of its defining strengths. Professors here are high-performing and very capable on a professional, intellectual level, but they are also very approachable and friendly."

Rick Apple JD/MBA 2012

Rick became director of the Council & Enhanced Tennessee Fund, a private equity fund, after earning his J.D./M.B.A. in 2012. In addition to directing the private equity fund, he is his firm's first in-house attorney. The four-year J.D./M.B.A. track was a natural choice for Rick, who earned his undergraduate degree in applied mathematics and financial engineering at Princeton. Rick spent three years in Manhattan as an analyst in the industrial growth investment banking group of Wachovia Securities and as a risk management and portfolio modeling consultant with Oliver Wyman before earning his J.D./M.B.A. at Vanderbilt.

“My law professors were great at teaching the fundamentals of contracts, civil procedure and property, but I found myself more curious about the topics their research addressed.”

Jennifer Bennett Shinall J.D./Ph.D. IN LAW AND ECONOMICS 2012

Jennifer became the first graduate of Vanderbilt’s innovative Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics, in which students earn both a J.D. and a Ph.D. in an integrated course of study. Her dissertation addressed the role of obesity in the labor market. Jennifer will clerk for Judge John Tinder on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit during 2012–13.

Matthew Ginther is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience and a J.D. concurrently. "I chose the dual-degree program because I enjoy the scientific process, but I want to look at things at the macro level instead of on a one-to-one basis," he said, "Scientific evidence is becoming an increasing factor in litigation, and I want to address the ways in which science is used in the courtroom."
Clinics that offer substantive legal experience

Vanderbilt’s clinics allow students to gain experience in a wide array of real-world practice settings from municipal courts to international tribunals. Whether you follow a single legal case from start to finish, work with an advocacy organization to research an issue, or work with other students on a case or project, clinics allow you to work under the direct supervision of skilled and experienced clinical faculty in small-group settings. They provide an ideal environment for students to learn how the legal system works and how its participants interact, and to gain an understanding of issues of professional ethics and responsibility.

“Theoretical classes teach students to think like lawyers, but law exists out in the real world. Our clinics allow students to learn in this context—to apply their new skills to a real problem and learn substance and procedure in context.”

Susan Kay Class of 1979  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Dean Kay also administers the law school’s summer stipend and externship programs. During summer 2012, 86 Vanderbilt students received stipends to support their work with courts, attorneys general and district attorneys, public defenders, federal and state agencies, and non-governmental public interest and advocacy organizations, and 85 students served externships for credit.

Sharpen your skills in real-world situations

Appellate Litigation Clinic Students benefit from an intensive supervised litigation experience in the federal courts of appeals, dealing with cases ranging from immigration to habeas corpus to civil rights claims.

Civil Practice Clinic Students deal with all stages of client representation while representing individuals with Social Security disability appeals, or children and parents who need special education services in public schools.

Criminal Practice Clinic Students gain experience in pre-trial, trial and post-conviction legal work by representing adults charged with criminal offenses and children charged with criminal offenses and delinquency.

Domestic Violence Clinic Students represent indigent victims of domestic violence, dealing with issues ranging from orders of protection to child custody.

Intellectual Property and the Arts Clinic Students represent individuals, businesses, organizations, groups and associations in intellectual property matters, internet issues, business and contractual matters, and litigation.

International Law Practice Lab Past clients have included international criminal tribunals, the U.S. Departments of Justice, State and Defense, and numerous human rights organizations. Students have worked on treaties, researched comparative criminal statutes, and written amicus briefs for advocacy organizations.

Students in the International Law Practice Lab learn the psychology of treaty negotiations and apply those insights to actual treaty proposals. While learning international legal principles and practice, Practice Lab students develop concrete skills that support careers in litigation, arbitration or international business practice.
Students in Vanderbilt’s Appellate Litigation Clinic have argued significant issues in civil rights and immigration appeals in federal courts:

- In the Board of Immigration Appeals, clinic students won relief for a Tutsi man who, if removed from his native Burundi, would have faced persecution by Hutu soldiers; a Salvadoran man who had been violently attacked by that country’s national police; and a Kenyan man who had been tortured by police in his home country because of his sexual orientation.

- James Clayton ‘11 successfully argued to the Sixth Circuit that his client was denied effective assistance of counsel when his criminal defense counsel failed to file a requested notice of appeal.

- Nicole Soussan ‘11 won a victory for her client in the Sixth Circuit, arguing that his Section 1983 civil rights action was wrongfully dismissed.

- Russell Burke ‘12, won a new sentencing hearing for his client, whose sentence had been improperly calculated.

- John Williams ‘12 argued against the adoption of a standard for motive in First Amendment retaliation claims that would have significantly limited that cause of action for prisoners.

“In each of these cases, students worked hard to protect the rights of clients whose claims might otherwise not have been heard,” Professor Newbern said. “These students made a real difference in their clients’ lives.”
Opportunities for public service begin during orientation, when you may choose to take the Pro Bono Pledge, a commitment to perform at least 25 hours of pro bono and community service during each year of law school. Students are also encouraged to pursue summer work in public service with the support of stipends funded by the law school or the student Legal Aid Society, working in judicial chambers, in the offices of federal and district attorneys and public defenders, and with government agencies and nonprofit advocacy organizations across the nation and around the world. In recent years, Vanderbilt students have worked with the U.S. Departments of State, Justice, Energy and Peacekeeping; the international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; federal and district attorneys’ and public defenders’ offices throughout the U.S.; federal, state and local courts; the United Nations; human rights and advocacy organizations, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, and dozens of other organizations worldwide.

Numerous student organizations, including the student-run Vanderbilt Bar Association, organize community service projects throughout the year. In addition, Vanderbilt law graduates who serve on the staffs of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and other advocacy organizations and as judges in local, state and federal courts teach at Vanderbilt and involve students in pro bono and public interest work. To graduates who choose public service, Vanderbilt offers a Loan Repayment Assistance Program that provides up to 10 years of assistance with annual loan repayments to graduates who work in qualifying public interest jobs after graduation.

"Cases that gain notoriety are not the bread and butter of what I do every day as a federal trial judge. But there are no unimportant cases, and I devote my energies and focus to each case that comes before me.”

Judge Aleta Trauger CLASS OF 1976
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee

In 2011, Judge Jane Stranch ’78 was confirmed to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and Judge Kevin Sharp ’93 to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Ainka Sanders Jackson ’07 represents children who have been abused or neglected as a guardian ad litem in the Metro Public Defender's Office in Nashville. "I wanted to be able to do policy work supporting the education and welfare of children, and Vanderbilt's Loan Repayment Assistance Program makes it possible for me to do this work,” she said.
Eighty-six Vanderbilt Law students received stipends to support their volunteer legal work during summer 2012 with government agencies; the chambers of federal, state and local judges; federal and state District Attorneys and Public Defenders’ offices; and public interest and advocacy organizations. Students did pro bono legal work for 76 legal offices and organizations in 25 states, the District of Columbia, and in five foreign nations. The summer stipends, sponsored by the law school and the Vanderbilt Legal Aid Society, help defray the travel and living expenses of students who serve in unpaid legal internships with government or non-profit organizations.

“Vanderbilt’s national reputation provides plenty of opportunities around the country.”

John Williams class of 2012 Clerk, Judge Gilbert S. Merritt Jr. ’60, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

John, who plans to pursue a career in public interest law, spent summer 2010 working at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he found a mentor in Steve Kotz, Class of 1984, and summer 2011 at the Tennessee Justice Center, where his work addressed access to health care. Students may also serve semester-long internships for credit in the U.S. and abroad.

Wyatt Sassman ’13 and Karen Usselman Lindell ’12 worked with Lindell’s husband, a fourth-year medical student at Vanderbilt, to start a Medical / Legal Partnership at Shade Tree Clinic in spring 2012. Staffed by medical and nursing students, the clinic offers free healthcare services to destitute patients whose legal issues made it difficult to treat their medical problems. “You and your children can’t reliably be following a medical treatment plan if you’ve been evicted from your apartment and don’t have a place to live,” Lindell said.

The Lindells and Sassman set up a program through which Vanderbilt Law students conduct intake interviews for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee each month. “The legal component will be a fully functioning part of Shade Tree’s treatment, connecting legal, medical and social services to comprehensively address a patient’s needs,” said Sassman, who is directing the Medical / Legal Partnership in 2012—13. Lindell is pleased that Shade Tree offers a valuable clinical education opportunity to law students as well as medical students. “Law students are learning how to interview clients, what legal issues they face, and how to determine what’s important and what’s not,” she said. “We can take better care of the people the clinic serves by working together.”

“Law school offered a practical path to my goal of working in the public interest. If you are interested in public interest and social justice as a potential career path, Vanderbilt is very supportive.”

Kent McKeever class of 2012

Kent earned a master’s in divinity at Princeton and worked as a pastor before earning his law degree at Vanderbilt. He is starting a legal services program in Waco, Texas, that will focus on family law and other services for the indigent.
With our faculty of experts in every area of law, you’ll find ample opportunities to explore the breadth of the profession and determine which areas you find compelling. As you advance in your studies, you will not only acquire an entirely new way of thinking about issues and problems, but also learn how to apply your skills in real-world settings. In each of our academic programs, you’ll find courses that give you a thorough grounding in current theory alongside courses and clinics that address policy issues as well as practical lawyering skills. You’ll also discover that many first-year and upper-level courses in Vanderbilt’s academic programs are taught by professors whose recent scholarship not only addresses topics at the frontiers of their fields of law, but also influences policy at a national level.

In Habeas for the Twenty-first Century: Uses, Abuses and the Future of the Great Writ, released by the University of Chicago Press in 2011, Nancy King, who is Vanderbilt’s Lee S. and Charles A. Speir Professor of Law, and her co-author based their recommendations for reform of habeas law on a comprehensive study of habeas cases. King and two colleagues completed the study, for which Vanderbilt students helped code and analyze the data, in 2007.
“At Vanderbilt, I learned how to research effectively, dissect legal problems in an analytically concise way, communicate with legal professionals, and work collaboratively with others. I also learned how to work hard at Vanderbilt—really hard!”

Jenna Farleigh CLASS OF 2012

Jenna was Editor-in-Chief of the Vanderbilt Law Review in 2011–12. “While serving as the Law Review’s Editor-in-Chief, I honed my editing skills while simultaneously learning what good legal scholarship looks like,” Jenna said. “Most importantly, Law Review gave me the opportunity to work collaboratively with students who have become some of my closest friends and will be big assets as I move forward with my legal career.” Jenna is clerking for Judge Ronald M. Gould of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2012–13 and for Judge Richard C. Tallman, also of the Ninth Circuit, in 2013–14.

Legal historian Daniel Sharfstein chronicled shifting racial identity among three families in The Invisible Line: Three American Families and the Secret Journey from Black to White, released by Penguin Press in 2011. “What this research tells us is that the categories of black and white have never been about blood,” he said. “There were plenty of people throughout American history who were not just white, but quintessentially white, powerfully white, and had African American ancestors. Then we’re left thinking, ‘What is black and what is white then if it’s not about blood and biology? What we wind up with is just the fact of separation and hierarchy.” Professor Sharfstein teaches Property and a seminar, The Legal History of Race in the U.S.
A culture of collaborative competition

Even as they challenge one another in an intensive learning environment, Vanderbilt Law students have gained a reputation for collegiality, professionalism and building relationships. They recognize that mutual support, teamwork and respect for others’ views are essential ingredients of professional success. Our students and alumni consistently say that the strong sense of community among their colleagues here is one of the most valuable aspects of a Vanderbilt legal education. For insights into the qualities we seek in Vanderbilt Law students, visit our website at www.law.vanderbilt.edu, sample the profiles of our students and graduates, and browse the descriptions of more than 40 student organizations. They reflect the remarkable diversity of our students’ intellectual and professional interests and their common desire to excel and to serve.

“When you get out in the real world and practice at a law firm, you work together in groups representing clients. Vanderbilt does a good job of preparing people to work well together. Students are competitive, but it’s not a zero-sum game. They work together in a way that helps everyone win.”

Harrison J. Frahn IV Class of 1996 Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Palo Alto, California

As a trial lawyer, Frahn has represented industry giants such as Cisco, Intel, NEC, Xilinx, Accenture and Avistar Communications.
“Vanderbilt teaches its students to be team players, in and out of the classroom. That was the case when I was there 25 years ago, and it still is. Even more than when I was in law school, I’ve come to value how unique and special Vanderbilt is, and how well it prepares its students to succeed.”

Richard R. Hays, Class of 1986, Managing Partner, Alston & Bird

“I chose Vanderbilt because the academic prestige, rigorous curriculum and outstanding faculty guarantee a first-rate legal education, and because the collegial, congenial environment here fosters community and collaboration. My experience has been amazing—both academically stimulating and challenging.”

TaCara Harris, Class of 2013

TaCara has received diversity scholarships from McGuireWoods, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings and Arnold and Porter, and won the Vanderbilt Scholastic Excellence Award for Legal Writing 1 and the Fulbright & Jaworski Book Award for Legal Writing 1. She is a teaching assistant for Legal Research and Writing, serves as recruiting and retention chair for the Black Law Students Association, and is a member of the Health Law Society.


J.B. Ruhl, a top scholar in the field of natural resources management, joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in 2011. Through the Energy, Environment and Land Use Program, Professor Ruhl, environmental law scholar Michael Vandenbergh and energy law expert Jim Rossi offer courses that will prepare students for the complex and dynamic future of energy, environmental, and land use laws and policies. “The interconnections between these three fields make it essential for students to gain exposure to all in order to understand how any one of them operates,” Ruhl said. “They can do that at Vanderbilt.”
A balanced approach

While free time during law school can seem scarce, most students find it important to balance the demands of study by joining one or more organizations for professional advancement, personal development, community service and professional networking.

Our Student Affairs staff provides year-round support to individual students and to student organizations. Students also receive the support of a dedicated information technology staff, a committed legal writing faculty and expert legal librarians. Non-professional student organizations devoted to everything from soccer to religious fellowship to knitting are encouraged and supported. Vanderbilt University also provides a wide array of services to meet your academic and personal needs.

You will spend much of your time in the law school building, and Vanderbilt’s offers a wealth of natural light and comfortable study nooks, along with a wireless network, ample computer lab space, attractive classrooms, a café and student lounges.

Casey Miller, Class of 2013, is president of the Vanderbilt Bar Association for 2012–13. In addition to maintaining outline and syllabus banks, the VBA offers a textbook exchange program and sponsors social activities and service projects. It also allocates funds to more than 45 student organizations, which include an active Legal Aid Society, local chapters of the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society, interest groups focusing on most legal specialties, more than a dozen affinity groups, and even a Futbol Club, which organizes pick-up soccer games and intramural teams.

“Law school at Vanderbilt has been a great experience. Vanderbilt is unique in that it offers a first-rate legal education in a laid-back atmosphere. The professors here take a strong interest in the students, and the final two years provide significant flexibility for students to specialize in specific areas and take courses that interest them.”

Tom Booms, Class of 2012
Associate, McGuireWoods, Charlotte, North Carolina

Tom earned the Law and Business certificate through Vanderbilt’s Law and Business Program, directed by Randall Thomas. To earn the certificate, students must take elective courses in accounting and finance—a requirement satisfied by Tom’s undergraduate degree in accounting and finance—as well as courses in corporate, tax and transactional law. “The courses were outstanding,” he said. “The Law and Business Seminar was especially interesting. Each week a guest speaker presented a paper, and throughout the semester we wrote five scholarly papers analyzing visiting scholars’ work.”

“It’s hard to imagine a law school that strikes a better balance between intellectual inquiry and a sense of community.”

Chris Guthrie
Dean and John Wade–Kent Syverud Professor of Law
Wayne Hyatt, Class of 1967, a founding partner of Hyatt & Stubblefield in Atlanta, created the Hyatt Student Activities Fund to underwrite lectures and other academic programs organized by students. “At Vanderbilt,” Hyatt said, “alumni are truly part of the ongoing process of developing the physical and programmatic vision for the law school.”

“I am very happy with my decision to come to Vanderbilt. My time here has been filled with rewarding challenges, and I have pushed myself through both my courses and extracurricular involvement. I’m president of the Black Law Students Association, which does a great job of reaching out to students on both a professional and personal level to make the transition into law school easier, and I’ve enjoyed my time serving on its board.”

David Mitchell Class of 2013

David earned his undergraduate degree at New York University. A native of Delaware, David had never visited any Southern state before choosing Vanderbilt. “I felt welcomed into the Vanderbilt Law community before I even started here,” he said. He worked as an associate with Hogan Lovells in New York during summer 2012.

Blackacre, the law school’s central courtyard, adjoins the school’s café and is a popular place for students to lunch, socialize and study.
A community that extends around the world

More than 8,600 alumni in 49 states, D.C., two U.S. territories and 30 foreign nations are a vital force in the life of the law school. A decade ago, alumni contributions enabled Vanderbilt to complete a $24 million expansion and renovation project that almost doubled the size of our building, which remains one of the most technologically current, attractive and comfortable facilities in the nation. The financial support alumni provided allowed the law school to improve its facilities dramatically while maintaining a key advantage: the small size of our student body. In recent years, alumni have also endowed the law school’s well-regarded Law and Business Program, created new scholarships and endowed new faculty positions.

But Vanderbilt alumni provide much more than financial support. They recruit our students, help students network with prospective employers, teach courses as members of our adjunct faculty, and take an active role in decisions about the law school’s academic programs, curriculum and governance. They also interview J.D. applicants during the admission process, and mentor and hire our students and graduates.

“I highly recommend the journal experience. U.S. law school requires so much reading and independent analysis of cases, and working on the editorial staff of a journal really promotes those skills.”

Shen Zhang, Class of 2013

Shen, a Chinese national, became interested in studying law in the U.S. while working as an associate at Hogan Lovells in Beijing. His supervisor, Sarah Zhang, LL.M. 2010, encouraged him to apply to Vanderbilt. Shen, who holds law degrees from Peking University and Kyushu University in Japan, is serving as executive articles editor for the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law during 2012-13.

Charlie Trumbull, Class of 2006, shown above with Vice President Joe Biden, clerked for Judge M. Blane Michael on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 2006-07 and then joined the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser after an internship with Judge Philippe Kirsch, president of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. In 2010, Charlie served in Baghdad, where he was one of two attorneys supporting State Department staff. “The Iraqi parliamentary elections, which were the first held under their new constitution, consumed a lot of our time,” he said. Charlie co-authored an article based on his experiences in Iraq, “Elections and Government Formation in Iraq: An Analysis of the Judiciary’s Role” (43 Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, 2011, with Julie Martin), which examined the role Iraqi courts played in resolving disputes related to the election.

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Samar Ali, Class of 2006 (VU’03), a White House Fellow during 2010–11, was Vanderbilt University’s first Arab-Muslim student body president. She was a founding member of the first U.S. Delegation to the World Islamic Economic Forum and serves on the Advisory Board of the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. Samar has joined Tennessee’s Department of Economic & Community Development as its international director.

“At Vanderbilt, I was fortunate to have people with nothing to gain do things to help me, and I want to pay it forward.”

Mike Phifer Class of 1983

A Houston-based litigator, Phifer endowed the Phifer Scholarship in honor of his parents.

To underscore the value they place on their Vanderbilt education, alumni often return to campus to recruit future graduates. Intellectual property law pioneer Bill Fenwick, Class of 1967, is a founding partner of Fenwick & West in Palo Alto, California. Justin Hulse, Class of 2010, earned his undergraduate degree at Stanford and worked as a software designer for Microsoft before law school. “I was elated to learn that a Vanderbilt alum helped start a leading intellectual property firm,” Justin said. He joined Fenwick & West as an associate in 2010.

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Law students are understandably concerned about the impact of the economic downturn on the job market. As one of the nation’s top law schools, Vanderbilt entered the downturn in a strong position in the legal marketplace. The school’s longstanding reputation for producing highly talented and well-trained professionals continues to attract employers from across the nation, including a global network of devoted alumni who seek to hire Vanderbilt graduates. Although its position is fortunate, Vanderbilt has taken several steps in response to the uncertain employment climate to further strengthen one of the most successful career services programs among leading law schools. The school has stepped up outreach to legal employers and alumni nationwide and expanded Career Services staff and resources.

In addition, the array of summer and semester opportunities that allow students to gain professional experience through externships and summer stipend opportunities anywhere in the world has been expanded. After graduation, Vanderbilt’s Public Interest Initiative provides stipends for graduates who take positions with public service organizations. Each fall, recruiters from law offices throughout the United States and abroad and from the Armed Services visit campus to interview second- and third-year students, and each spring, the on-campus interview program for first-year students seeking summer positions also attracts employers to campus. Before interviews, most students take advantage of one-on-one sessions with an experienced career counselor and group workshops on building résumés, interviewing skills, career strategies, job-search tactics and other useful topics. In addition to on-campus interviews, career counselors and faculty actively promote student applications to hundreds of employers who solicit letters of interest and résumés from Vanderbilt students each year. Students may also participate in New York and Washington, D.C., job fairs and other job fairs nationwide related to minority hiring and public service employment. More than 700 prospective employers, including alumni, receive the Recruitment Handbook, which provides profiles of second and third-year students to employers who contact students directly.

“Wherever we travel, employers tell us how highly they regard Vanderbilt graduates. They’re well-trained lawyers who are also good people.”

Elizabeth Workman
Assistant Dean for Career Services
Steve Berneman CLASS OF 2010

Steve earned his undergraduate degree at Princeton University and taught history and worked in sports management before law school. He joined Vinson & Elkins in Austin, Texas, as an associate in 2010.

Margaret Artz, Class of 2013, took through Vanderbilt in Venice in summer 2011 gave her a “tremendous advantage” when she interviewed for a position as a summer associate in the dispute resolution group at Freshfield’s in Frankfurt, Germany, where she worked during summer 2012. “I’d taken a course in commercial arbitration and could discuss it in a job interview at the beginning of my 2L year,” she said.

“I love that there are lots of career paths you can take with a law degree, and Vanderbilt’s Career Services department is one of its greatest assets. They were incredibly helpful. Anywhere I wanted to go, they were willing and able to help.”

Steve Berneman CLASS OF 2010

Vanderbilt is recognized by a number of sources that gauge career prospects for graduates of American law schools in different ways:

- 10th (tied), National Law Journal look at where new partners in 2009 went to law school, 2010
- 11th, Top 25 Law Schools, Vault survey of 400 law firm hiring partners across the nation, 2008
- 12th, National Law Journal “Go-to” law schools with the highest percentage of graduates hired by NLJ 250 firms, 2010

Career Services organizes two “OCI” (on-campus interview) sessions each year during which students interview for summer and permanent jobs: a fall session for 2Ls and 3Ls, and a spring session for 1Ls.
Where do you go from here? Vanderbilt Law School J.D. Graduates at a Glance

Vanderbilt is a small law school with an expansive reach and longstanding relationships with legal employers across the nation. New graduates choose employment in a wide variety of locations coast to coast and abroad. Collectively, the last five graduating J.D. classes reported employment at graduation in 41 states; Washington, D.C.; 1 U.S. territory; 8 foreign nations; and the military.

2011 graduate John Foster qualified as a Presidential Management Fellow and joined the U.S. State Department’s International Organizations Bureau in summer 2011. “It was my dream to get a job with the U.S. State Department coming out of law school,” he wrote to Professor Michael Newton. “I want to thank you for your role in making that happen. Without doing the summer internship in the Office of Peacekeeping, Security and Counterterrorism back in 2009, I know this opportunity would have never come about.”

For detailed information about recent graduates’ employment, please visit the Prospective Students section of our website.

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**International/Worldwide/U.S. Territories**

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International/Worldwide/U.S. Territories

- Ethiopia
- China
- Chile
- China
- United Arab Emirates (2)
- Japan
- United Arab Emirates
- England
- England
- U.S. Army JAG
- Rep. of Korea
- U.S. Army JAG
- Somalia
- U.S. Army JAG
- U.S. Navy JAG (2)
- U.S. Virgin Islands

United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
U.S. Army JAG (3)
JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS
Serving as a judicial clerk is one of the most valuable, career-advancing experiences available to recent law graduates. Professor Michael Bressman, who heads Vanderbilt’s Clerkship Program, works intensively with students to identify clerkship opportunities and facilitate the competitive clerkship application process. In recent years, Vanderbilt graduates have clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court, each of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, other federal courts, and state courts across the nation.

In the past five years, Vanderbilt Law graduates have secured 193 clerkships with the following courts and judges:
- 1 with the Supreme Court of the United States
- 49 with U.S. Court of Appeals judges
- 88 with U.S. District Court judges
- 6 with U.S. District Court magistrate judges
- 7 with U.S. Bankruptcy Court judges
- 1 with a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces judge
- 10 with state Supreme Court justices
- 31 with state appellate court and trial court judges

Twenty-four members (12.3 percent) of the Class of 2012 secured 26 clerkships with:
- U.S. Court of Appeals judges on the Third, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits
- U.S. District Court judges in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas
- The Tennessee Supreme Court
- State appellate court judges in Colorado, Oregon and Tennessee

Eight other recent graduates secured clerkships this past year with:
- U.S. Court of Appeals judges on the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District judges in Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee
- Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals

MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS, CLASSES 2008–12
- Tennessee, 19.9%
- New York, 10.8%
- Washington, D.C., 8.4%
- Georgia, 7.3%
- California, 5.7%
- Texas, 5.5%
- Illinois, 4.3%
- Alabama, 3.1%
- Florida, 3.1%
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.

“What a great city! You feel the Southern sense of community and hospitality everywhere!”

Katlyn Miller CLASS OF 2014

Katlyn, a native of Anchorage, Alaska, spent two years working on the staff of the U.S. Supreme Court after graduating from American University. There, she met Kate Tarbert ’05, who clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts during 2010–11, whose positive experience at Vanderbilt encouraged Katlyn to apply. “Within the first hour after I arrived at Vanderbilt for Admitted Students Day, I knew I would come here,” Katlyn said. “The community as a whole and the feel of Vanderbilt won me over.”
**A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

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.

“Nashville has an easygoing hipness that comes from the perfect mix of culture and counterculture. And it’s the perfect size—big enough to have a robust legal culture apart from the law school, but small enough to allow Vanderbilt students to influence that culture through clinics and volunteer work. As someone who grew up out West and went to school back East, I feel funny saying this, but Nashville feels like home.”

Rebecca Haw  
Assistant Professor

Professor Haw joined Vanderbilt’s law faculty in 2011. Her research focuses on antitrust law.
Found 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 Southeastern Conference 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 Sarratt 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. Outdoor courtyards, 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, spelunking, 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.

Three Vanderbilt players—Festus Ezeli (left), Jeff Taylor (with ball) and John Jenkins (behind Taylor)—were among the first 31 chosen in the 2012 NBA draft.
"Achieving social goals with legal tools requires a sound understanding of human behavior. In today’s world, that requires integrating cutting-edge insights from both the life sciences and the social sciences. No other law school matches Vanderbilt’s commitment to such integrative, innovative and cross-disciplinary thinking.”

Owen Jones  New York Alumni Chancellor’s Chair in Law and Professor of Biological Sciences

Professor Jones directs the Law and Neuroscience Project, a national interdisciplinary research project headquartered at Vanderbilt University. The project, which is examining the impact of modern neuroscience on criminal law, is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. “A primary goal is to help the legal system assess and evaluate the new brain science in ways that contribute to the fair and effective administration of criminal justice,” Professor Jones said.

Vanderbilt University is comprised of 10 schools, all located on the school’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

The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt. Each year, the law school hosts the First Amendment Center Moot Court Competition in conjunction with the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, the nation’s largest media-related foundation. The competition brings moot court teams from all over the nation to Vanderbilt.

A SOURCE OF UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Vanderbilt Chancellor Nick Zeppos 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 who is also the university’s general counsel, also teaches on Vanderbilt’s law faculty.

Mark Dalton, Class of 1975, became chair of Vanderbilt University’s Board of Trust in spring 2011, and Jack Moore, Class of 1973, became one of two vice-chairs of the board. Dalton is co-chairman and CEO of Tudor Investment Corporation. Moore recently retired as executive chairman of Regions Financial Corporation, one of the 10 largest bank holding companies in the U.S.
We’d like to meet you.

More information promotes better decisions. That’s why we offer in-person interviews as part of the J.D. application process. An interview allows us to know more about you as a prospective student, and allows you to meet individually with a Vanderbilt representative and learn more about our community. Interviews also help us support and maintain the cooperative professional culture prized by our students and alumni.

More than 700 VLS alumni conduct in-person interviews with applicants in 37 states, D.C., and 12 foreign locations, and VLS admissions officers interview applicants at dozens of scheduled events on university campuses and in major cities from coast to coast.

A great way to discover whether Vanderbilt is the right law school for you is to visit. Prospective students are always welcome to contact the Admissions Office to arrange a visit that may include a tour of our building, observing a first-year class, and a meeting or interview with an admissions officer. We believe that you will find, as so many students past and present have found, that a visit to Vanderbilt can change your future.

“During my visit to Vanderbilt, I realized it was the place I wanted to be for the next three years.”

Noah Coakley Class of 2013

Noah, who is a Dutch national, spent spring 2011 as an extern at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and summer 2011 working in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. He has also earned an LL.M. in European Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands.
The Law School Admissions Office is located in the Beasley Admissions Suite on the first floor of the Law School building.

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Getting to Vanderbilt Law School via the Interstates

**From the north,** take I-65 to I-40 east to exit 209B. Turn right on Broadway (U.S. 70S).

**From the east or south,** take I-40 west to exit 209A. Turn left on Broadway (U.S. 70S).

**From the west,** take I-40 east to exit 209B. Turn left on Broadway (U.S. 70S).

**Once you have turned onto Broadway,** stay on the right. When Broadway splits into West End Avenue, follow West End to 21st Avenue South. Turn left onto 21st (a one-way street). Pay parking is available near the law school in Terrace Park Garage or in Wesley Place Garage.