

St. Mary's University School of Law

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■ Introduction

St. Mary's University School of Law was founded in 1927 as part of the oldest and largest Catholic university in the Southwest. St. Mary's is located in the beautiful, unique, and legendary city of San Antonio. San Antonio combines a diverse blend of historic sites, natural beauty, charming vistas, and urban amenities. With its culturally rich population and environment, San Antonio is the perfect backdrop for the mission and goals of the School of Law. Enriched by the spirit of the Society of Mary (Marianists), the school imparts to its students the knowledge and attributes of mind and character essential to public service. St. Mary's is vigilant of the need to preserve a tradition of excellence in legal education, with development of new programs and methodologies for the changing world. St. Mary's is committed to academic excellence rooted in a deep tradition of faith and striving for attainment of justice within the legal system.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The Sarita Kenedy East Law Library is a modern award-winning building. The collection includes primary legal documents from the federal government, all states and territories, the United Kingdom, and most commonwealth countries. St. Mary's Mexican collection is significant. Access to primary and secondary sources through the latest technology, including digital format and microfilm, is provided. The new library utilizes both DocuShare and wireless Internet.

The Law Classroom Building contains four amphitheater-style classrooms with electronically retractable walls and a modern courtroom as its center. Electrical outlets and data ports are at each student's seat, and the public lounges provide wireless access.

The law school's four primary buildings are located around an oak-shaded quadrangle, forming a central gathering spot. The recently completed Alumni Athletic and Convocation Center provides 135,000 square feet of wellness and fitness options. The center provides for ceremonial facilities as well as athletic endeavors.

■ Curriculum

Required first-year courses are Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Legal Research and Writing, Civil Procedure, Property, and Torts. All students must also take the following required courses: Professional Responsibility, Evidence, and Texas Civil Procedure (only required of those planning to take the Texas bar examination), and a specified number of courses from a menu-style core curriculum. Students must also complete a research paper. The size of first-year sections provides personalized attention and instruction from faculty.

■ Clinical Legal Education

The Clinical Program at St. Mary's offers three classes: Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, and Immigration/Human Rights. The clinics teach lawyering skills and responsibilities through supervised representation of low-income clients and through development of community-based projects. Civil Justice offers

three components: community development, homeless issues, and representation; crime victim issues and representation; and housing, including landlord-tenant. Students engage in office practice, family law, wills and probate, and housing law. Criminal Justice students defend low income individuals of any age in misdemeanor and low-felony cases. Immigration/Human Rights students represent indigent foreign nationals and refugees. Students appear in Immigration Court and assist clients with applications for residence, asylum, and benefits under the Violence Against Women Act.

■ International Law

The St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems is conducted at the University of Innsbruck in Austria during July and August. The program is designed to provide law students with a broader understanding of global issues and the role that law can play in their peaceful resolution.

Five justices of the United States Supreme Court have participated in the program as distinguished visiting jurists (former Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Antonin Scalia, Justice John Paul Stevens, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor). The program draws students and faculty from all parts of the United States and abroad. It has included students from at least 100 American law schools, as well as from Austria, Hungary, China, and Russia. More than 40 visiting professors from law schools in the United States and several foreign countries have participated in the institute.

The Innsbruck Institute is part of the law school's program in international and comparative law, which also includes an LLM in international and comparative law and cooperation with Mexican law schools.

St. Mary's now houses a new **Center for Terrorism Law**, a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution dedicated to the study of legal issues associated with terrorism, with particular emphasis on cyberspace and information assurance technologies.

■ Judicial Internships

St. Mary's students participate in a wide range of pregraduation judicial internships with outstanding state and federal courts. Students work under the supervision of a judge or staff attorney performing legal research and writing projects, which often include the drafting of orders that will be used to decide pending cases, composing jury instructions, researching evidentiary questions, or attending settlement conferences.

■ Admission Standards

St. Mary's goal is to create an intellectually stimulating student body composed of persons with diverse backgrounds who share a desire for academic excellence and accomplishment in the practice of law. In addition to academic ability, St. Mary's seeks evidence of qualities such as leadership ability, maturity, community organization skills, knowledge of other languages and cultures, a history of overcoming disadvantage, public interest accomplishments, or success in a previous career. A faculty committee reviews all applications. No one is automatically rejected. All files are read.

■ Student Activities

St. Mary's has over 30 active student organizations. Student organizations are a key part of the collegial environment of the law school.

St. Mary's has two law reviews—the *St. Mary's Law Journal* and *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues*. The reviews offer students excellent opportunities to develop advanced legal research and writing skills. The *Law Journal* has been cited as persuasive authority in hundreds of court decisions.

St. Mary's students are active in moot court and mock trial competitions. During the spring semester, first-year students participate in a school-wide moot court competition. Second- and third-year students can compete in on-campus tournaments and in St. Mary's External Advocacy Program (EAP). St. Mary's EAP students travel throughout the US to attend the ABA National Moot Court, National Mock Trial, ATLA Mock Trial, and negotiation competitions.

■ Career Services

The role of the Office of Career Services is to assist law students and graduates with their self-directed career searches

by informing them of career options and job search strategies and connecting them with potential employers. Career Services does so by sponsoring programs designed to educate, facilitate, and connect students with potential employers during and after law school.

One-on-one confidential strategy sessions with the director provide a unique opportunity for students to develop a personal plan to assess and meet their career goals. The office maintains a job bank and a résumé bank. The office also publishes *Professional Pathways*, a weekly e-newsletter with job information and career advice. A Student Resource Center offers an extensive and up-to-date library of career resources and directories of attorneys, as well as computer terminals with employer databases to help students direct and begin their careers in legal and nontraditional positions. Students have extensive opportunities to interact with alumni, who assist with career programming throughout the year.

For the students in the class of 2004 who reported employment status, 85 percent are employed, with almost all of them in the legal field.

Applicant Profile

St. Mary's University School of Law

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

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total			
	3.75 +		3.50 - 3.74		3.25 - 3.49		3.00 - 3.24		2.75 - 2.99		2.50 - 2.74		2.25 - 2.49		2.00 - 2.24		Below 2.00		No GPA		Apps	Adm		
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm		
175-180	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
170-174	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
165-169	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	19	18
160-164	8	8	15	14	18	18	19	18	12	12	15	15	5	5	3	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	97	94
155-159	26	26	31	31	57	54	48	48	54	54	24	24	17	13	10	5	0	0	2	1	269	256		
150-154	28	27	69	68	116	88	129	78	96	47	80	26	36	1	12	1	7	0	6	2	579	338		
145-149	31	6	50	3	109	10	114	13	91	4	91	4	37	1	18	1	3	0	7	0	551	42		
140-144	7	0	32	1	53	0	71	0	67	3	51	2	31	1	16	1	4	0	4	0	336	8		
135-139	3	0	7	0	14	0	39	0	22	0	25	0	6	0	9	0	4	0	4	0	133	0		
130-134	1	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	8	0	9	0	7	0	8	0	1	0	3	0	45	0		
125-129	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	8	0		
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	110	72	209	121	375	174	425	158	352	122	300	75	143	25	79	12	20	0	31	4	2044	763		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.