

St. Thomas University School of Law

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■ Introduction

St. Thomas University School of Law, founded in 1984, is one of the most culturally diverse and technologically advanced law schools in the country. St. Thomas emphasizes professional ethics throughout its programs, provides intensive academic support on an individual and small-group basis, and offers a broad curriculum, including an array of clinical experiences.

St. Thomas University is located on a 140-acre campus several miles northwest of Miami. Fifteen miles southeast, in downtown Miami, stands the federal courthouse, the location of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. State trial and appellate courts are several blocks away. Approximately 20 miles to the north of the law school is the city of Ft. Lauderdale, another venue for state and appellate courts.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

The St. Thomas University Law Library furnishes students with an online catalog to assist them in locating both digital content and traditional materials. The library meets the needs of students in the twenty-first century by providing them with a wide array of online databases to assist them with their research needs and to allow them to pursue their interests in scholarship. Moreover, the library has a large microform collection to provide added collection depth. A wireless network enables students, through their laptops or through one of 30 library workstations, to access digital information resources from within the law school or from without in the beautiful natural environs of the campus. Students may also access most of the databases from home through the school's proxy server. The library has an equivalency of over 270,000 volumes and seating for over 270 patrons. A professional reference staff provides instruction in performing online and traditional research. Reference services are also available to assist students in the evenings and on weekends.

■ Clinical Legal Education Programs

The law school offers five clinical programs: the Bankruptcy Clinic, the Family Court Clinic, the Field Placement Clinic, the Immigration Clinic, and the Tax Clinic. Each clinic is a year-long program for which third-year students receive eight hours of credit.

In the **Bankruptcy Clinic**, students represent bankruptcy petitioners in Federal Court, under the guidance of adjunct professors who are experienced bankruptcy practitioners.

In the **Family Court Clinic**, second-year students assist *pro se* litigants in family court matters, and third-year students, under the close supervision of a faculty member, represent victims of domestic violence.

In the **Appellate Litigation Clinic**, a one year-long program is open to third year students. This clinic provides experience in handling criminal cases in state appellate courts.

In the **Immigration Clinic**, third-year students, under the supervision of an experienced faculty member, represent indigent immigrants, detained at a federal facility, in deportation and exclusion hearings and in other immigration matters before immigration judges.

In the **Tax Clinic**, second-and third-year students provide legal assistance to low-income taxpayers and handle controversies with the Internal Revenue Service. It is one of the components of the law school's skills training program.

■ Graduate Degree Programs

St. Thomas offers an online **LLM in International Taxation**, delivered via the Internet. The program focuses on practical training in offshore finance, global commerce, and international taxation. The faculty includes experts from 20 jurisdictions and students from approximately 30 jurisdictions. For information, e-mail the program office at Williambyrnes@hotmail.com, or go to www.llmprogram.org.

The **LLM/MA in Intercultural Human Rights** offers in-depth instruction on the critical issue of our time: the protection of human dignity across political, cultural, and religious lines. The faculty of global distinction includes top-level United Nations experts, outstanding scholars, judges, and practitioners in the field.

■ Special Programs

- **Summer-in-Spain Program**—Law students have the opportunity to take six credits at the Royal College University Escorial Maria Cristina, a part of the University of Madrid. The program is designed to prepare students for practicing law in the globalized twenty-first century, broadening the understanding of foreign legal systems.
- **Summer Conditional Program**—Applicants who may not have strong academic credentials, but nonetheless possess the abilities necessary to succeed in a rigorous program of legal study, may be invited to participate in a summer conditional program. Students who successfully complete the Summer Conditional Program are offered admission in the fall entering class.
- **Joint-degree Programs**—The law school offers four joint-degree programs in cooperation with other graduate divisions of the university. A JD/MBA in Accounting couples skills traditionally in great demand in the corporate, tax, and accounting worlds. The joint JD/MBA in International Business opens the burgeoning field of international transactional law to the new attorney. The JD/MS in Marriage and Family Counseling, one of the only programs of its kind in the country, fills a serious need in the family lawyer's repertory of skills. A joint JD/MS in Sports Administration prepares participants for a diverse set of positions in the world of sports. St. Thomas was a pioneer in the sports administration field. The undergraduate sports program was started in 1973 and today offers one of the most esteemed programs in the country.
- **Academic Support Program**—The law school has a commitment to the success of its students. The school has a comprehensive program of Dean's Fellows, tutors, practice examinations, lectures, and a Dean for Academic Support designed to assist students individually and in small groups. The law school also provides a program to assist graduates with the bar examination.

■ Career Services

The Office of Career Services is dedicated to assisting students in identifying and attaining their professional goals. It offers a range of traditional and innovative services, including a career services resource center; on-campus interviews with major law firms, corporations, and government agencies; interviewing and résumé-writing workshops; networking opportunities; and speakers drawn from various areas of legal practice.

■ Student Activities

The *St. Thomas Law Review* is a student-operated scholarly journal, publishing articles submitted by law faculty and members of the bench and bar nationwide. Membership is determined on the basis of academic excellence and demonstrated writing ability.

The Student Bar Association sponsors various social and educational programs for the student body and otherwise represents student interests. In the student-run Moot Court Program, teams of student advocates compete in interscholastic tournaments across the country, preparing written briefs and presenting oral arguments in simulated appellate cases presided over by members of the bench and bar. Numerous student organizations are active on campus.

■ Housing

Law students can reserve on-campus housing at the University Inn, which offers private rooms with private bath and a choice of meal plans.

For law students desiring to live off campus, numerous apartment complexes are located within minutes of the law school.

Applicant Profile

St. Thomas 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170-174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165-169	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
160-164	2	2	2	1	7	6	7	5	7	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	30	25
155-159	10	10	15	14	20	20	39	32	26	25	17	13	19	19	9	6	5	5	1	0	161	144	
150-154	22	21	51	49	85	82	77	71	90	83	71	67	48	44	10	9	5	5	3	2	462	433	
145-149	28	25	89	71	149	101	192	119	178	62	132	42	79	32	27	6	9	0	7	2	890	460	
140-144	17	11	38	22	84	23	116	25	107	13	98	14	63	4	38	2	3	0	12	2	576	116	
135-139	8	2	13	2	27	6	42	3	41	2	47	3	32	0	15	1	7	0	15	0	247	19	
130-134	0	0	3	1	12	1	18	1	17	0	13	0	10	1	10	0	3	0	8	0	94	4	
125-129	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	8	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	22	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	
Total	87	71	212	161	388	239	493	256	467	192	389	142	256	102	113	25	33	11	48	6	2486	1205	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 98% of the total applicant pool.