

Villanova University School of Law

299 North Spring Mill Road

Villanova, PA 19085

Phone: 610.519.7010; Fax: 610.519.6291

E-mail: admissions@law.villanova.edu; Website: www.law.villanova.edu

■ Introduction

Today, as never before, there is a need for law schools to teach far more than the letter of the law. They must give future lawyers a sense of the importance of their role in the larger society, and they must prepare lawyers to work in an environment of burgeoning technology with issues of global importance.

With its Catholic roots, Villanova offers a legal education designed to teach the rules of law and their application; to demonstrate how lawyers analyze legal issues and express arguments and conclusions; to inculcate the skills of the counselor, advocate, and decision maker; and to explore the ethical and moral dimensions of law practice and professional conduct. The school is also providing leadership in information technology, law and psychology, taxation, and international law, among other fields.

Few law schools are located in a more beautiful and tranquil environment. Adjacent to the university campus is Philadelphia's Main Line. The school is at the approximate midpoint of east coast legal centers in New York and Washington, and only 20 minutes by commuter rail from the center of Philadelphia.

Opened in 1953, the school is approved by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Students are graduates of more than 124 colleges and universities; many have significant work experience outside of the law. The atmosphere of the school is noted for its collegiality.

■ Faculty

While Villanova faculty members are recognized nationally and internationally for their legal scholarship and for their contributions to the study and practice of law, they are also deeply committed to teaching. The student-faculty ratio is 18 to 1.

■ Library and Physical Facilities

In the law library, students have access to 130 computer workstations located in a state-of-the-art computer lab and throughout the library's stacks. There are an additional 40 computers dedicated to student usage throughout the remainder of the law school. In addition, all students with laptops can access Villanova University's high-speed Internet connection and all of the technology resources throughout the law school via wired and wireless connections. Finally, the law library contains more than 500,000 volume-equivalents in books and microforms, along with subscriptions to numerous legal databases to which students have ready access.

■ Joint JD/MBA Program

The Villanova University School of Law and the College of Commerce and Finance offer a joint-degree program permitting simultaneous study for the Juris Doctor and the Master of Business Administration degrees. The College of Commerce and Finance is one of the few colleges of business in the nation whose Master of Business Administration and Department of

Accountancy program have been approved by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

In the program, credit is given for certain courses by both the School of Law and the College of Commerce and Finance. Through this program, degrees may be completed in less time than it would take to obtain them separately.

■ Joint JD/PhD Program in Law and Psychology

In cooperation with Drexel University, Villanova Law School offers an integrated program in law and psychology leading to a Juris Doctor from Villanova and a PhD in clinical psychology from Drexel. Villanova offers the only program in the country with a PhD component in clinical psychology, which is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. The program has three major purposes—(1) to produce lawyer-psychologists who can participate in the development of mental health policy in the legislature and the courts; (2) to develop scientist-practitioners who will produce legally sophisticated social science research to assist the legal system in making better, more empirically based decisions; and (3) to educate highly trained clinicians who can contribute to the advancement of forensic psychology in such areas as criminal law, domestic relations, and civil commitment.

■ LLM in Taxation

This interdisciplinary program is conducted under the auspices of the School of Law and Villanova's College of Commerce and Finance. The program enriches the tax curriculum available to JD candidates, who are able to enroll in LLM courses, as well as participate in the joint JD/LLM program.

■ Special Programs

Beyond the skills of written and oral expression developed in the first-year writing program and the required upper-level moot court program, drafting, and seminar courses, Villanova students acquire the fundamental skills of the practicing lawyer—including counseling, negotiation, advocacy, mediation, dispute resolution, conciliation, and mature judgment. Hands-on clinical opportunities allow students to apply classroom experiences to real-world client representation, often while performing public service. Clinical programs include Federal Tax; Civil Justice; Asylum, Refugee, and Emigrant Services; and Farmworkers Legal Aid.

■ Student Activities

The *Villanova Law Review* is a scholarly journal prepared and edited by law students. Members are selected on the basis of academic rank or through an open writing competition.

The *Villanova Environmental Law Journal* publishes both student and outside articles dealing with environmental issues. Students are selected for membership by an open writing competition.

The *Villanova Sports and Entertainment Law Journal* contains articles prepared by practitioners and professors in sports and entertainment law as well as by students. Membership is earned by selection through an open writing competition.

Each year, second- and third-year students have the opportunity to practice lawyering skills through the Client Interviewing and Counseling Competition, the Reimel Moot Court Competition, and several outside moot court competitions.

Student organizations include Asian-Pacific American Law Students, Black Law Students Association, Civil Rights Law Society, Corporate Law Society, Criminal Law Society, Environmental Law Society, Family Law Society, Gay-Straight Alliance, Health Law Society, Intellectual Property Protection Society, International Law Society, Jewish Law Students Association, Latin American Law Student Association, Justinian Society, Phi Delta Phi, Public Interest Law Society, St. Thomas More Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Tax Law Society, and Women's Caucus.

■ Career Strategy and Advancement

The mission of the Career Strategy and Advancement Office is to provide career planning education, recruitment programs, and individual counseling as the foundation for future career

development and satisfaction of our students. Distinctive features and programs include three attorney-advisors, including a public service/pro bono specialist; an open-door policy, including a daily "on call" advisor for walk-ins and "quick questions"; small group workshops for 1Ls; dozens of career workshops and panel programs on topics ranging from interviews, résumés, and networking, to public interest careers, judicial clerkships, and a multitude of practice specialty areas; "Practice Specialty Expo," which brings nearly 100 attorneys to the law school for a networking experience; recruitment programs throughout the year, including a diverse array of employers in private practice (large and small firms), government, nonprofits, the judiciary, and corporations; special recruitment programs designed to enhance diversity in the profession; job fairs targeting unique geographic or practice preferences; and job search coaching for new graduates on the job market. Pro bono programs, such as "Lawyering Together" and other projects, provide students with the opportunity to serve the disadvantaged while developing skills and positive relationships with practicing attorneys.

Applicant Profile

Villanova has chosen not to provide prospective students with an admission profile based on individual undergraduate GPAs and LSAT scores. The Admissions Committee seeks to create a diverse community by adhering to a comprehensive evaluation

of a candidate's file that includes academic performance as well as professional promise. Each candidate's background, interests, accomplishments, and goals are considered before a decision is made.