



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL OF LAW



## A SMALL, INTEGRATED PROGRAM

**VIRGINIA'S GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM** provides an American legal education to lawyers who have obtained their first law degree in their home countries. By maintaining a small and highly selective program of about 50 students, the Law School ensures a supportive atmosphere.

**LL.M. CANDIDATES** take classes alongside J.D. students, allowing participants to fully engage in the community, plan their own coursework and learn from some of the nation's top faculty.

**THE PROGRAM** provides a broad introduction to American law and legal theory, as well as advanced training in specialized areas of the law that are relevant to the individual student's planned career and interests.

“**At UVA, you get the best of both worlds:** Amazing academic opportunities surrounded by incredibly beautiful nature. The professors are genuinely interested in their students and are always available for questions and to give advice. The small classes allow for a lot of discussion about legal questions in the broader societal context. This creates a great environment for professional, but also personal development. As an additional benefit, Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Mountains offer amazing hikes and views for a change of pace on the weekends.”

—**Cosi Piehler LL.M. '19**  
Germany



“**The questions and interactions** between students and professors are brilliant. This — along with professors who are true experts in their areas and LL.M.s that bring knowledge and experience from around the world — makes the UVA Law classroom experience unique, as well as extremely challenging. The full integration between LL.M.s and J.D.s is something extraordinary.”

—**Daniel I. Parodi LL.M. '18**  
Chile



### FAST FACTS

**37** UVA Law graduates chosen to clerk at the Supreme Court, 2004-19 terms

J.D. enrollment **964** (fall 2019)

LL.M./S.J.D. enrollment **65** 2019-20

Student-faculty ratio **6.5:1** (fall 2019)

No. **2** in the number of graduates leading the nation's top 100 firms

No. **4** after Yale, Harvard and Stanford in placing clerks on the U.S. Supreme Court from 2005-19

Alumni **20,000+** worldwide in all 50 states and 60+ countries

No. **5** in largest endowment among law schools, at \$584 million

No. **4** in the number of partners in the National Law Journal's top 500 firms

No. **2** after Harvard in the number of chief legal officers in top 500 U.S. companies







## A TOP 10 LAW SCHOOL

**FOUNDED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON IN 1819**, the University of Virginia School of Law is the second-oldest continuously operating law school in the nation. Virginia is famous for fostering an academic and collegial environment that bonds students and faculty, and student satisfaction is consistently cited as among the highest in American law schools.

**UVA IS PERENNIALY RANKED** among the top 10 law schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. The 2020 Princeton Review ranked the school No. 1 in Best Professors, Classroom Experience and Quality of Life; No. 2 in Best Career Prospects; and No. 4 in Best for Federal Clerkships.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA** Home to 24,000 students and 17,000 faculty and staff members, UVA has been ranked among the nation's top four public universities since 1984. The University of Virginia Academical Village, including the Rotunda and surrounding buildings designed by Thomas Jefferson, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





# THE FACULTY

**VIRGINIA'S FACULTY INCLUDES** nationally and internationally recognized scholars in fields such as law and business, international law, taxation, constitutional law and criminal justice. Faculty bring practical knowledge from serving in senior roles at U.S. government agencies, including the State Department, Homeland Security, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. They frequently argue at the U.S. Supreme Court, participate in national dialogues on improving the justice system, and engage internationally by teaching abroad, visiting foreign universities and speaking at international conferences. Reflecting the school's emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of law, a number of faculty hold doctoral degrees in a variety of related fields, including economics, history, philosophy, psychology and medicine.

**AMONG THE TOP 100 FACULTY** in the country cited by the judiciary, Virginia ranked third in the number of professors included, a recent academic study found. The Supreme Court cited UVA Law professors' academic journal articles more than any other during the 2017 and 2018 terms, and UVA Law professor Caleb Nelson was the most-cited author.

**“In addition to the academic rigor** of a top 10 program, UVA Law provides students with opportunities to build strong professional and personal networks that will last a lifetime. Students and alumni of UVA Law are renowned for their kindness and collegiality. **”**

**—Maria Londono LL.M. '18**  
Colombia



**“I was positively surprised** by the versatile backgrounds of my professors and how accessible they are. **”**

**—Thierry von Aarburg LL.M. '18**  
Switzerland



Professor Douglas Laycock has served as lead counsel in six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Professor Anne Coughlin is an expert in criminal law.



Professor Greg Mitchell teaches courses in civil litigation and law and psychology.





# INTELLECTUAL LIFE

**GRADUATE STUDENTS** are enrolled in courses and seminars with upper-level J.D. students to encourage the exchange of viewpoints influenced by different cultural and life experiences.

**AMONG THE MORE THAN 250 COURSES** offered each year at the Law School, some are taught by leading U.S. practitioners in mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategy, human rights, emerging markets and litigation, among other topics. Many are offered as one-week courses that offer an intensive look at a focused subject. The faculty is also enriched each year by visitors from other leading law schools in the United States and abroad.

**OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM**, numerous lectures, conferences and other events supplement the intellectual life of the Law School and offer connection with fresh ideas and lawyers who are leaders in their fields. Among the Law School’s extra-curricular opportunities are more than 60 student groups, including an organization focused on the interests of LL.M. and S.J.D. students, and 10 academic journals, for which LL.M. students are eligible to try out.



## CONCENTRATIONS

Business  
Organization and  
Finance  
Commercial Law  
Communications  
and Media Law  
Constitutional  
Law  
Criminal Justice  
Employment and  
Labor Law  
Environmental  
and Land Use  
Law  
Family Law  
Health Law

Human Rights  
and Civil Liberties  
Intellectual  
Property  
International and  
National Security  
Law  
Jurisprudence  
and Comparative  
Law  
Legal History  
Litigation and  
Procedure  
Public Policy and  
Regulation  
Race and Law  
Tax Law

## PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

*The John W.  
Glynn, Jr.  
Law & Business  
Program*

*Program in Law  
and Public  
Service*

*International Law*

*Constitutional  
Law/Legal  
History*

*Criminal Law*

*Tax Law*

*Human Rights*

*Environmental  
and Land Use  
Law*

*Immigration Law*

*Intellectual  
Property*

*Health Law*

*Public Policy  
and Regulation*

*Animal Law  
Program*

*Center for  
Children,  
Families,  
and the Law*

*Institute of Law,  
Psychiatry and  
Public Policy*

*John M. Olin  
Program in Law  
and Economics*

*Karsh Center for  
Law and  
Democracy*

*Center for  
National Security  
Law*

*Center for the  
Study of Race  
and Law*

## ACADEMIC JOURNALS

*Journal of Law &  
Politics*

*Virginia  
Environmental  
Law Journal*

*Virginia Journal  
of Criminal Law*

*Virginia Journal  
of International  
Law*

*Virginia Journal  
of Law &  
Technology*

*Virginia Journal  
of Social Policy &  
the Law*

*Virginia Law &  
Business Review*

*Virginia Law  
Review*

*Virginia Sports &  
Entertainment  
Law Journal*

*Virginia Tax  
Review*



## THE UVA LAW CURRICULUM

**THE ASSISTANT DEAN FOR GRADUATE STUDIES** and the chair of the Graduate Committee work with students individually to design a course of study based on each student's personal and professional objectives. If a student is planning to take the New York bar exam following graduation, administrators work to ensure that his or her planned course selections meet the requirements prescribed by the New York Court of Appeals.

**INCOMING LL.M. STUDENTS** whose native language is not English are required to take Graduate Legal Research and Writing, but any LL.M. student may choose to take the course. Designed for LL.M. students unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system, this class introduces students to the fundamentals of U.S. legal research materials, methods and strategies as well as various forms of legal writing.

**ALL LL.M. STUDENTS** must satisfy the writing requirement (a substantial research paper). Beyond these requirements, students are invited to be creative in selecting courses and research topics. For example, students wishing to specialize in international human rights may register for the basic course and seminars offered in that area. But such students would enrich their understanding by sampling from the variety of courses that explore legal approaches to similar issues in an American context, including courses dealing with civil rights, employment discrimination and immigration law. Similarly, students planning a law practice in international business transactions may choose from a menu that includes foundational courses in American corporate, commercial and regulatory law, as well as courses with an explicit focus on international business, trade and litigation. This process can be repeated for virtually every other field of legal study.

### FIRST-YEAR J.D. COURSES OPEN TO LL.M. STUDENTS

Civil Procedure  
Constitutional Law  
Contracts  
Criminal Law  
Property  
Torts

“Being a part of UVA Law has broadened my perspective in many ways. Instead of taking courses that closely related to my practice as a corporate lawyer, I have used the opportunity of studying here to learn about subjects that are outside of my comfort zone, ranging from courses concentrating on implicit bias with Professor Dayna Matthew to human rights with Professor Mila Versteeg. ... All in all, UVA Law is not just your regular top 10 law school. It's a place where I will always call home because it was a place that helped me grow, not only as a lawyer, but as a better person.”

—Shafira Putri LL.M. '18  
Indonesia



Professor Frederick Schauer is one of the world's leading legal theorists.



## LAW AND BUSINESS

**BY INTEGRATING BUSINESS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS** into the law school classroom, the John W. Glynn, Jr. Law & Business Program prepares students to serve their future clients from day one. The program brings business school faculty into the Law School to teach the basics of accounting and finance.

**STUDENTS ALSO LEARN** the fundamental tools of business analysis through enhanced versions of core business law courses. In short courses taught by senior counsel and executive officers, students review key transactional documents and strategic decisions, using the quantitative tools of business analysis to structure solutions. This approach enhances their ability to understand complex transactions and business decisions.

**VIRGINIA'S LONGSTANDING STRENGTH** in corporate and commercial law is rooted in a faculty with exceptional expertise in transactional law and enhanced by close relationships with UVA's Darden School of Business and the McIntire School of Commerce, which are among the nation's leading graduate and undergraduate business programs.



## INTERNATIONAL LAW

**LONG KNOWN AS A PREEMINENT PLACE** to study international law, Virginia has one of the largest and most accomplished international law faculties in the United States. They teach courses covering all major subjects in the field, including international trade and finance, human rights and immigration, the law governing war and use of force, environmental law, international litigation and arbitration, and comparative constitutional law. Professors from other nations are regularly invited to the School of Law to teach seminars on topics such as European Union law and comparative law. The Law School also offers short courses in Paris and Tel Aviv.

**THE VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW** is the oldest continuously published, student-edited law review in the United States, and remains one of the most cited. The journal, along with the John Bassett Moore Society of International Law, organizes lectures and social events, as well as an annual symposium that brings distinguished academics and practitioners to the Law School.

**“ I worked for five-and-a-half years** as an associate at one of the leading law firms in Japan. My practice focused mainly on structured finance, real estate investment trusts and private equity. UVA Law offers a lot of courses concerning business organization and finance, which are strongly related to my current practice. In addition, the number of members in the LL.M. program at UVA Law is quite small in comparison to other law schools. This has helped me proactively involve myself in the UVA community and build close relationships with my classmates. ”

—**Satoko Miyashima LL.M. '16**  
Japan



## TAX LAW

**CONSISTENTLY RANKED BY U.S. NEWS** as one of the top law schools for tax, UVA Law prepares students for tax careers in government, private practice, business and the nonprofit sector. Among the nation's top scholars, the school's tax faculty are known for converting students who are fearful of studying tax into fans of the field. They bring experience from Congress, the Treasury Department and private practice. In addition to their scholarly endeavors, the faculty remain engaged with practice organizations such as the ABA Tax Section, the American Law Institute, Congress, the Treasury Department and the IRS.

**VIRGINIA OFFERS ONE OF THE STRONGEST** tax law curricula in the country, including courses in corporate, partnership and international tax; tax policy; taxation of private equity; gratuitous transfers; nonprofits; and employee benefits, among many others. The Law School is home to the Virginia Tax Review, the nation's leading student-edited tax journal. In addition to their work in the classroom and on the journal, students regularly win top tax prizes, both at home and abroad.

**MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:** [law.virginia.edu/academics](http://law.virginia.edu/academics)



**Professor Ruth Mason** is an expert on international tax and tax discrimination.

**Professor Mila Versteeg** is a pioneer in empirical study of the world's constitutions.





# AN UNMATCHED QUALITY OF LIFE

**THE UNIVERSITY** is located in Charlottesville, Virginia, a little more than two hours’ drive from Washington, D.C. With a metropolitan population of about 240,000, the area offers an unparalleled quality of life with a cost of living well below that of large U.S. cities. The University, designed by Jefferson, is itself a World Heritage Site built in the heart of one of America’s most historic regions.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE** is frequently ranked as one of America’s top small cities, a food lover’s paradise, and one of its happiest places. The area is known for its natural beauty and is surrounded by numerous vineyards, parks and hiking trails, as well as the Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Charlottesville’s airport offers direct flights to New York, Chicago and other major U.S. destinations.

**THE TOWN** has an abundance of walkable areas such as The Corner and the pedestrian Downtown Mall, parks, dining and shopping opportunities, and highly regarded public and private schools, which make the environment both family-friendly and appealing to urban dwellers. Washington, D.C., is a little more than two hours north, accessible by train, autos or plane; the Atlantic Ocean is just three hours away; and it’s a short walk or drive to the nearest beautiful scenic view.

“I can go from point A to point B smoothly while enjoying a beautiful campus.”  
—Pol Minguet LL.M. '18  
Belgium



“The life here is fantastic. I have plenty of time not only to study but also to spend with my family, to socialize, to do some exercise, because I can manage time by myself.”  
—Kanji Harada LL.M. '20  
Japan



Dean Risa Goluboff and Professor Richard Schragger welcome students to their home for a seminar on ethical values.



AT UVA LAW, COLLEGIALITY EXTENDS well beyond the classroom, resulting in a quality of life that is full of meaningful connection. THE LAW SCHOOL’S EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES include more than 60 student groups, 10 academic journals, an active Student Bar Association and an annual charity softball tournament that hosts teams from law schools across the country.



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICAL TRAINING

**THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE** works closely with students to craft a job-search strategy specific to their unique backgrounds and interests.

**THOUGH PEOPLE** who come to the United States on a student visa are not permitted to seek permanent employment in the United States, LL.M. graduates may seek permission to remain in the United States for a limited period of “practical training” following graduation. Students should be aware that securing such positions can be challenging and will require significant effort on their parts.

**THE LAW SCHOOL** offers assistance to foreign students in their searches for practical training internships with leading international law firms. The school participates annually in the Overseas-Trained LL.M. Interview Program coordinated each year by Columbia Law School and co-sponsored by UVA Law and the law schools at Chicago, Harvard, Michigan, Stanford and Yale.

## BAR ADMISSION

**THE LL.M. DEGREE ALONE** does not qualify foreign lawyers to practice law in the United States. Each state has its own criteria and procedures for admitting lawyers to practice, and requirements vary. Lawyers from abroad seeking information on these requirements should contact the bar examiners in the state in which they wish to practice. In recent years, approximately one-third of Virginia’s graduate law students have taken a bar examination following their graduation; most take the New York Bar.

## ALUMNI NETWORK

**THROUGH THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT**, students form connections that continue into the professional world — often resulting in life-long friendships. The Law School has an active network of more than 20,000 alumni in the U.S. and around the world.

“**The New York City Job Fair is extremely competitive** and hundreds of LL.M. students from top law schools in the U.S. attend it. I am positive that being a LL.M. student at UVA Law had a major influence in securing a foreign associate position in a tier-1 global law firm during the Optional Practical Training.”

—**Guilhereme Azevedo Alves LL.M. '18**  
Brazil



“**I cannot believe that I'm going back** and I'm going to teach. I'm going to send a message to a new generation. I want to be a good teacher for them. I love explaining the law.”

—**Maha Albesharah S.J.D. '19**  
joined the faculty of Kuwait University







“We study with J.D.s in the same classes, with the same requirements, and are graded with the same standards. We have to study all the time, much harder. However, the excellent and available professors, the diverse and high-quality courses, and the cohesive and friendly atmosphere make everything worth it.”

—Yumiao Wang LL.M. '20  
China



“I've been lucky to have not only one mentor, but three different mentors at UVA. It has been wonderful because they have nourished me in different subjects of public law that have allowed me to have a very complex and rich perspective of different subjects.”

—Ecuadorian lawyer Mauricio Guim LL.M. '14 S.J.D. '18  
joined the faculty at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México



## ADMISSION

**DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENCE** in prior law study is essential for prospective students. The Graduate Committee also considers evidence of an applicant's personality, accomplishments and potential for professional achievement as revealed through letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, personal interests and prior legal (or law-related) experience. The committee also considers the closeness of the fit between the applicant's professional interests and the Law School's resources.

### LL.M.

**VIRGINIA'S LL.M. PROGRAM** is a full-time master of laws program that students complete in residence in one year (two semesters). The Law School does not predetermine the curriculum; rather, LL.M. students can pursue their own interests in legal study.

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED** to take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and successfully complete at least 24 hours to be awarded the degree.

**ALMOST ALL CLASSES** offered at Virginia are open to LL.M. students.

### S.J.D.

**THE DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE (S.J.D.)** is the most advanced degree conferred by the Law School. It is designed for highly qualified, independent students who wish to pursue an extended program of research under the supervision of a faculty member, leading to the submission of a dissertation that makes an original and substantial contribution to legal scholarship.

**THE LAW SCHOOL'S S.J.D. PROGRAM** is intended primarily for aspiring legal academics. Graduates have joined the faculty of law schools and universities in many countries, including Canada, China, Egypt, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**OTHERS HAVE PURSUED CAREERS** in international organizations, governments and private practice worldwide.







## RESOURCES

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE / ALBEMARLE**

[law.virginia.edu/cville](http://law.virginia.edu/cville)  
[charlottesville.org](http://charlottesville.org)  
[albemarle.org](http://albemarle.org)

### **CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS**

[charlottesvillefamily.com](http://charlottesvillefamily.com)

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE SCHOOLS**

[charlottesvilleschools.org](http://charlottesvilleschools.org)

### **ALBEMARLE SCHOOLS**

[k12albemarle.org](http://k12albemarle.org)

### **FINDING A HOME**

[law.virginia.edu/housing](http://law.virginia.edu/housing)  
[caar.com](http://caar.com)

### **TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION**

[visitcharlottesville.org](http://visitcharlottesville.org)  
[virginia.org](http://virginia.org)

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE AIRPORT**

[gocho.com](http://gocho.com)

[facebook.com/uvalaw](https://facebook.com/uvalaw)

[youtube.com/uvalaw](https://youtube.com/uvalaw)

[instagram.com/uvalaw](https://instagram.com/uvalaw)

[twitter.com/uvalaw](https://twitter.com/uvalaw)

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