



Dear friends,

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through our fall semester. This fall we welcomed our newest class of 277 J.D. students, a quarter of whom identify as first generation, represent 80 universities and 21 states.



The entering class was admitted from the largest application pool in the school's history — 2,366 applicants and **our enrollment numbers continue to climb** amid a national decline in law school applications.

Our class is majority-minority, with 45% identifying as Hispanic or Latino, 4% as Asian American and 3% as Black or African American. More than 30% join us from South Texas or rural areas of the state.

We are making strides toward a bench and bar more reflective of our population, and the diversity of our students shows it.

Moving forward

We have completed a five-year strategic plan with campaign priorities looking toward the School of Law's centennial in 2027, and forward into its second century. We will share our plans with you in the months ahead.

The American Bar Association will make its sabbatical visit for reaccreditation this fall. While it requires comprehensive work reviewing our programs, it also encourages us to reflect on how much progress we are making. This momentum includes a \$690,000 grant to support a new Housing Rights Clinic, which builds on the outstanding and impactful work of our Consumer Protection Clinic during the pandemic.

Getting back together

This month, we gathered for the first time since 2019 to celebrate nine new **Distinguished Law Graduates** at the exceptional dinner hosted by the Law Alumni Association and attended by more than 600 alumni and friends.

We will also renew our commitment to incorporating our Catholic and Marianist faith, mission and values into our work as members of the legal profession and guardians of the rule of law at **Red Mass** on Thursday, Oct. 27. We have so much for which to give thanks!

Warmly,

Patricia E. Roberts, J.D.
Dean, School of Law
Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law

Faculty and Staff Highlights: 2022 New Hires

St. Mary's School of Law continues to enrich our community with partners who bring national expertise and new energy to our law students' experience. Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty colleagues.

Rishi Batra, J.D., Professor of Law, is a nationally recognized speaker and scholar in alternative dispute resolution and was previously a professor at Texas Tech University School of Law and the U.S. Air Force Academy. He teaches contracts, property, intellectual property and negotiations.



Alexandra Klein, J.D., Assistant Professor of Law, researches and teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, and the death penalty and was previously a visiting assistant professor at Washington & Lee University School of Law.



Matthew "Match" Dawson (J.D. '13), Faculty in Residence and principal in Dawson Law LLP, which represents high-net-worth clients with complex estate and asset planning matters. He teaches courses in asset protection, property, trusts and estates and wills.



More who joined the law school in 2022:

Alyssa Leffall, J.D., Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs

Jennifer Stevenson, J.D., Assistant Dean for International Programs and Service Professor of Law

We've also welcomed several new instructors to our **Law Success Department**, which focuses on helping students from the start of their law school journey through the bar exam.

Amanda Stephens, J.D., Ph.D., Law Success Instructor

Wendi Wilson, J.D., Law Success Instructor

Jaime Aleman (J.D. '20), Law Success Instructor



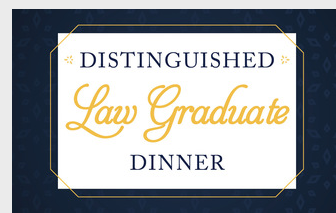
As you plan for your end-of-year giving please consider making a gift to the School of Law.

Gifts to the law school help support our award-winning programs and the value of your degree. Whether it's \$25 or \$2,500, you can support your school, law students and faculty.

Corporations, foundations and other funding sources look to alumni participation rates as a key measure of alumni satisfaction in their alma mater because they believe their philanthropic dollars should go to an institution with proven results.

Thank you for your continued support which enables us to provide an extraordinary educational experience for students.

Make a Gift Today



Congratulations to our 2020, 2021 and 2022 Distinguished Law Graduates.

2020 Distinguished Law Graduates

- The Hon. Dean Rucker (J.D. '80)
- Jodi Goodwin (J.D. '95)
- Fátima Menéndez (B.A. '08, J.D. '13)

2021 Distinguished Law Graduates

- The Hon. Julie Kocurek (J.D. '90)
- Sara Dysart (B.A. '74, J.D. '81)
- Alicia Grant (J.D. '16)

2022 Distinguished Law Graduates

- The Hon. Sid Harle (J.D. '80)
- Claude Ducloux (J.D. '76)
- Daniel Koeneke (J.D. '12)

Read the full story

View photos here

Upcoming Events

StMU 5K for the Neighborhood
Saturday, Oct. 22

70th Annual Red Mass
Thursday, Oct. 27

School of Law Mini Boo Bash
Friday, Oct. 28

St. Louis Reconnect
Thursday, Nov. 3

Rio Grande Valley Reconnect
Wednesday, Nov. 16

Houston Reconnect (Alumni Christmas Party-Joint)
Tuesday, Dec. 6

Fall 2022 Commencement
Saturday, Dec. 10

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