



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

# SCHOOL OF LAW





**Think you know  
the University of  
South Carolina  
School of Law?**



## Think again...

Yes, we have a 145-year tradition of excellence. But we're far from traditional. Our program emphasizes a hands-on approach that leads to a cutting-edge understanding and application of the law. From our *pro bono* program — open to first-year students — to our specialized Capstone courses for third-year students, you'll work alongside lawyers, judges, professors, and your peers on a wide array of projects, all designed to give you practical knowledge and instill in you a commitment to serve others.

**Your first week as a student here begins and ends with two events that will define your University of South Carolina School of Law experience:**

## One of Us

Day one, you immediately become a part of the law community, taking the Professionalism Oath administered by the Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. You will forge relationships with your classmates and meet your alumni mentors at a special reception held immediately afterwards — the first of many opportunities to develop your career network.

## One with the Community

The School of Law's commitment to community service begins the first Friday of the semester with the Incoming Student Day of Service. Together with your fellow students, and working alongside faculty and staff, you'll spend an afternoon volunteering with diverse non-profit groups around Columbia and learning how the legal profession fits into their organization. Over the next three years, South Carolina's extensive *pro bono* program will continue to open doors, helping you gain valuable and practical experience and igniting a passion for helping those in need.

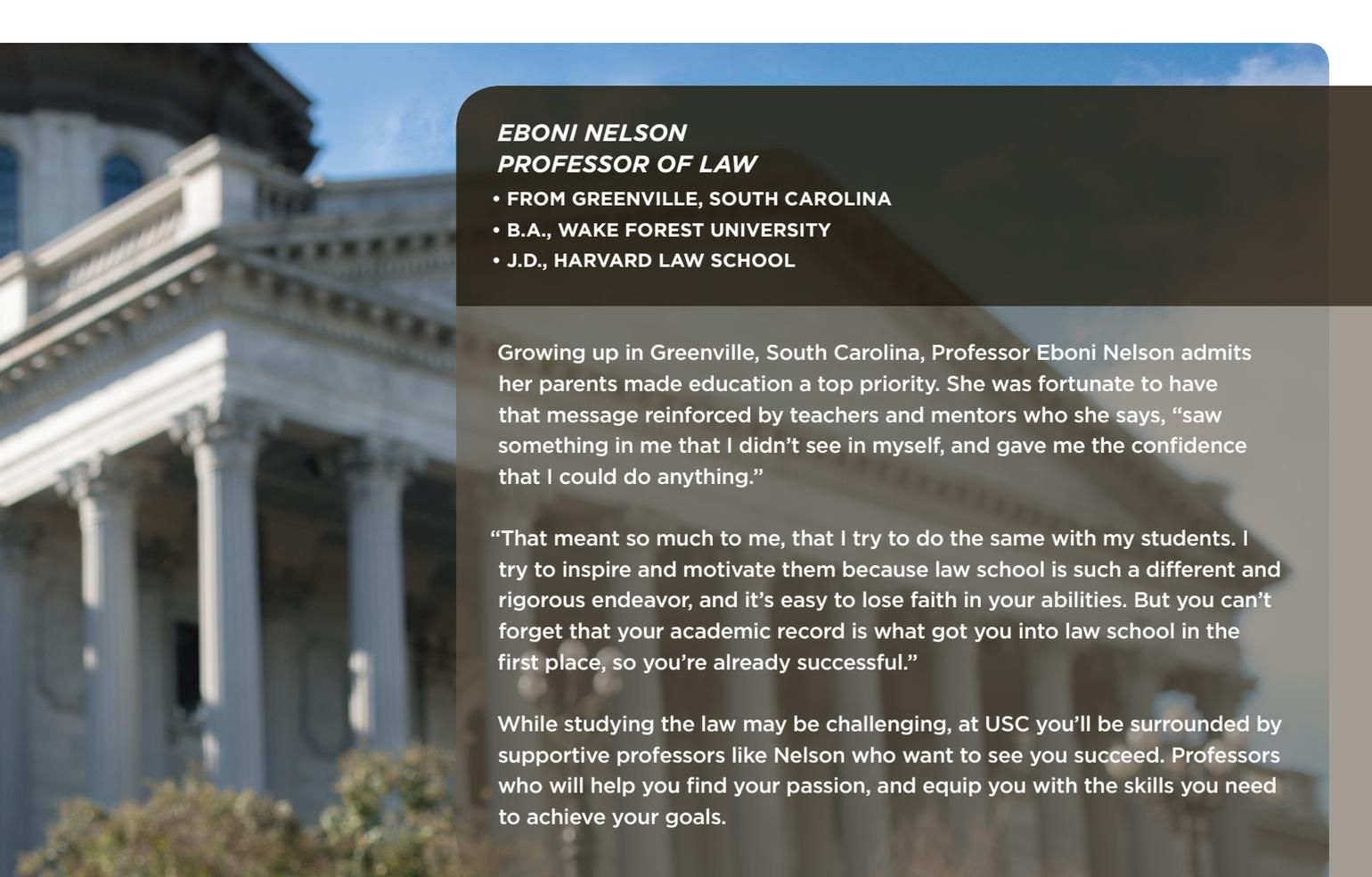


In or out of the classroom, Dean Robert Wilcox always makes time to stay connected with students.

## Table of Contents

Course Offerings/Dual Degree Programs	5
National Advocacy Center	9
Rule of Law Collaborative	10
London Maymester	11
Academic Success and Bar Preparation	13
Capstone Courses, Externships, and Clinics	14
Law Journals/Student Organizations	16
Pro Bono Program	17
Children's Law Certificate Program	18
Environmental Law	19
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism	21
About the University of South Carolina	22
About Columbia, South Carolina	23
Career Services	25
Contact Us	27
How to Apply	28
Financial Aid	29

*“Interacting with students and helping them find their own path is the best part of my job. Watching them blossom as they find their niche and discover that they can use their talents to truly make a difference in someone else’s life—that’s why I really love teaching.”*



**EBONI NELSON**  
**PROFESSOR OF LAW**

- FROM GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
- B.A., WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
- J.D., HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Growing up in Greenville, South Carolina, Professor Eboni Nelson admits her parents made education a top priority. She was fortunate to have that message reinforced by teachers and mentors who she says, “saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself, and gave me the confidence that I could do anything.”

“That meant so much to me, that I try to do the same with my students. I try to inspire and motivate them because law school is such a different and rigorous endeavor, and it’s easy to lose faith in your abilities. But you can’t forget that your academic record is what got you into law school in the first place, so you’re already successful.”

While studying the law may be challenging, at USC you’ll be surrounded by supportive professors like Nelson who want to see you succeed. Professors who will help you find your passion, and equip you with the skills you need to achieve your goals.



Curriculum and  
Dual Degree  
Programs

School of Law  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
EST. 1867



# First-Year Courses

- Criminal Law
- Contracts
- Torts
- Introduction to the Legal Profession
- Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing I & II
- Civil Procedure
- Property
- Constitutional Law

# Upper Level Courses

## Business Law

- Agency, Partnership, and LLCs
- Antitrust Law and Trade Regulation
- Bankruptcy
- Business Corporations
- Business Crime
- Business Torts
- Capital Markets
- Capstone Course: Small Business Organizations
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Law Seminar
- Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic
- Consumer Bankruptcy Drafting Workshop
- Consumer Law
- Corporations
- Corporate Finance
- Corporate Tax
- Drafting Business Agreements
- Government Regulation of Business
- Insurance
- International Business Transactions
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations Clinic
- Partnership and LLC Taxation
- Payment Systems
- Project Finance
- Sales
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulation
- Sustainable Business
- Topics in Insurance Law

## Children's and Family Law

- Advanced Family Law
- Child Protection Advocacy Clinic
- Child Welfare
- Children and the Courts
- Children's Law Externship
- Elder Law
- Family Law
- Juvenile Justice
- Parents, Children, and the Law
- Poverty Law
- Special Education Law

## Constitutional Law

- Civil Rights Seminar
- Commercial Speech Seminar
- Comparative Seminar on Judges
- Constitutional Issues in Property Law
- Constitutional Issues in Public Education
- Federal Constitutional Convention
- Federal Courts
- Federal Environmental Law
- Federal Indian Law
- First Amendment
- Free Speech and Democracy
- Liberty Seminar
- Media Law
- Race, Class, and Education
- Religion and the Constitution
- Statutory Interpretation
- The Constitution
- The Constitution and National Security
- The Warren Court

## Criminal Law

- Business Crime
- Criminal Adjudication
- Criminal Practice Clinic
- Criminal Procedure
- Criminal Regulation of Vice
- Criminal Trial Practice
- Ethical Issues in Criminal Practice
- International Criminal Law

## Environmental Law

- Administrative Law
- Coastal Law
- Coastal Law Field Lab
- Climate Change Seminar
- Energy Law
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Environmental Law of Natural Resources
- Federal Environmental Law
- International Environmental Law
- Land Use Planning
- Sustainable Business
- Water Law and Policy

## Health Law

- Bioethics
- Food and Drug Law
- Health Law and Policy
- Public Health Law

## Intellectual Property

- Copyright Law
- Cyberlaw
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Law
- Technology: The Law of the Newly Possible
- Trademarks and Unfair Competition

## International and Comparative Law

- Comparative Employment Discrimination Law Seminar
- Comparative Judicial Seminar
- Comparative Law
- Immigration and Family Law Skills Workshop
- Immigration Law
- International Business Transactions
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights Seminar
- International Human Rights Skills
- International Litigation
- International Trade Law
- Judges and the Rule of Law
- Rule of Law
- Russian Law and Legal System
- The American War on Terror: the U.S., Counter-Terrorism and International Law
- Transnational Dispute Resolution
- Transnational Law

## Labor and Employment Law

- Alternative Dispute Resolution in Employment Workshop
- Comparative Employment Discrimination Law Seminar
- Employment Discrimination
- Individual Employment Law
- Principles of Labor Law
- S.C. Worker's Compensation

## Law Practice and Professionalism

- Advanced Legal Profession
- Current Topics in Professional Responsibility Seminar
- Ethical Issues in Criminal Practice
- Foundations of Law Practice and Professionalism
- Law Practice Workshop
- New Models for Legal Services Delivery
- Problems in Professional Responsibility
- Technology and the Practice of Law

## Litigation

- Advanced Civil Procedure
- Advanced Evidence: Law and Strategy
- Advanced Legal Research
- Advanced Legal Writing
- Advanced Trial Advocacy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Advocacy
- Capstone Course: Civil Litigation
- Complex Litigation
- Conflict of Laws
- Construction Law and Litigation
- Criminal Trial Practice
- Discovery Practice
- Electronic Discovery
- Evidence
- Federal Courts
- Federal Litigation Clinic
- Fourth Circuit Practice
- Intensive Trial Advocacy
- International Litigation

- Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation
- Judicial Externship
- Legal and Equitable Remedies
- Legal Research for Practice Workshop
- Products Liability
- Tort Theory Seminar
- Trial Advocacy
- Writing for the Courts
- Writing in Law Practice

## Probate and Estate Planning

- Estate and Gift Tax
- Estate Planning
- Fiduciary Administration
- Income Tax
- Income Taxation of Trusts and Estates
- Wills, Trusts, and Estates

## Public Law and Policy

- Administrative Law
- Administrative Law Externship
- Civil Rights Seminar
- Education Law and Policy
- Federal Constitutional Convention
- Federal Courts
- Federal Indian Law
- Law and Social Justice Seminar
- Law, Society, and Justice
- Legislation
- Legislative Externship
- Legislative Process
- Poverty Law
- Public Law and Leadership
- Race and the Law
- Race, Class, and Education
- S.C. Administrative Law
- The Great Recession of 2008: Statutory Background and Legislative Response

## Real Estate Law

- Constitutional Issues in Property Law
- Federal Environmental Law
- Land Use Planning
- Real Estate Transactions I & II
- Taxation of Property Transfers

## Sports and Entertainment Law

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Entertainment Law
- Intellectual Property
- Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation
- Sports Law

## Taxation

- Corporate Tax
- Estate and Gift Tax
- Income Tax
- Income Taxation of Trusts and Estates
- Partnership and LLC Taxation
- State and Local Tax
- Taxation of Property Transfers

## Perspectives

- American Legal History
- English Legal History
- Law and Economics
- Law and Literature
- Poverty Law and Policy
- Religious Legal Systems: Jewish Law
- Women and the Law

# Dual Degree Programs

- Law and Accountancy, J.D./M.Acc.
- Law and Business Administration, J.D./M.B.A.
- Law and Criminology and Criminal Justice, J.D./M.A.
- Law and Earth and Environmental Resources Management, J.D./M.E.E.R.M.
- Law and Economics, J.D./M.A.
- Law and Environmental Law and Policy (from Vermont Law School), J.D./M.E.L.P.
- Law and Health Administration, J.D./M.H.A.
- Law and Human Resources, J.D./M.H.R.
- Law and International Business Administration, J.D./I.M.B.A.
- Law and Public Administration, J.D./M.P.A.
- Law and Mass Communication, J.D./M.M.C.
- Law and Social Work, J.D./M.S.W.

*“After three years in Columbia, many of my students want to stay and raise their families here,” said Alan Medlin, who lists the University of South Carolina’s historic Horseshoe as one of his favorite places in the city.*

FACULTY  
PROFILE





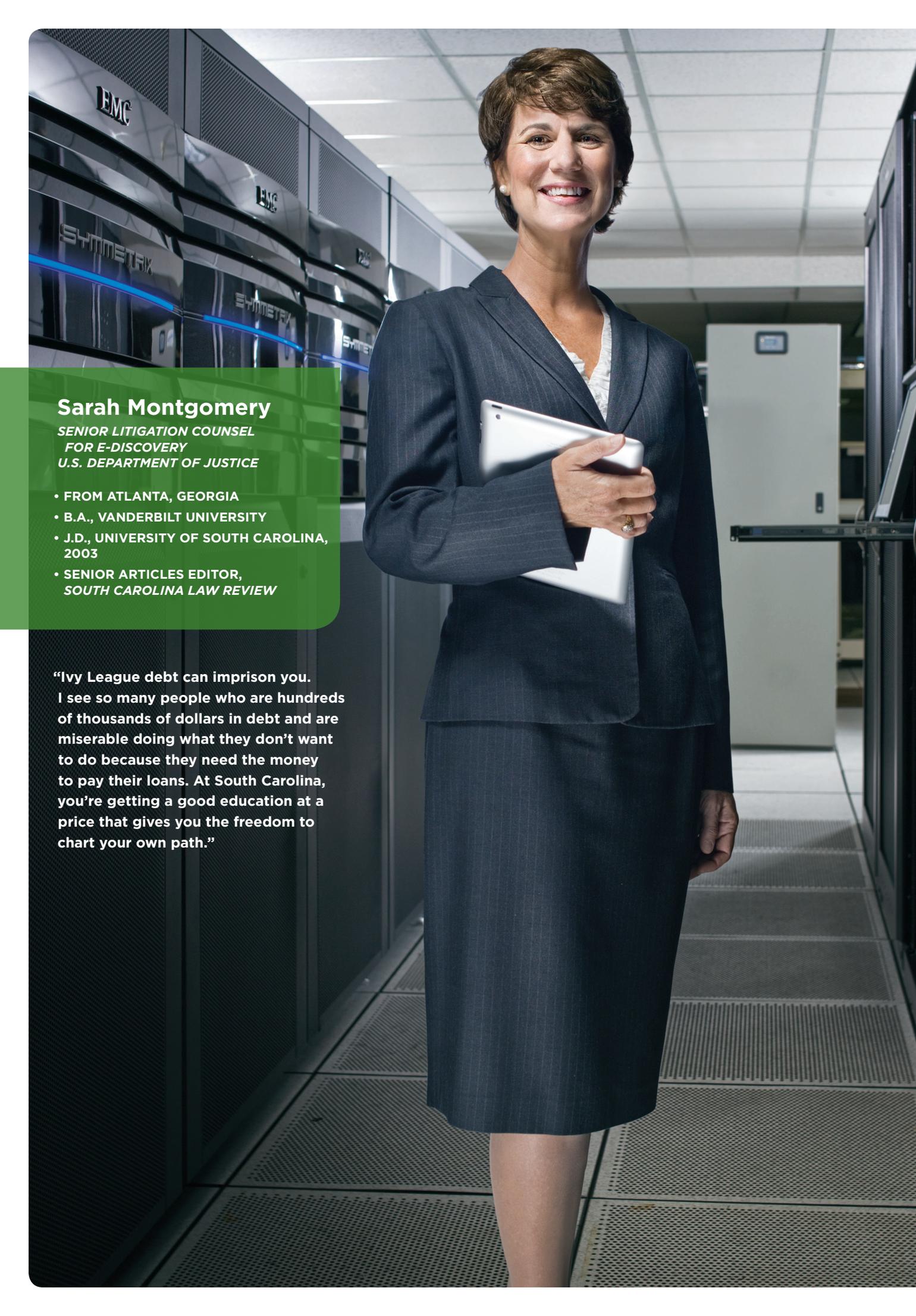
**ALAN MEDLIN, PROFESSOR OF LAW**

- FROM CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
- B.A., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
- J.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
- FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S *REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE AND TRUST JOURNAL*

Professor Alan Medlin had just finished his first year as a student at South Carolina Law when his father unexpectedly passed away. He spent the next two years immersed in probate law, settling his father's estate while still attending class. This personal experience fostered his zeal for probate law.

Having now taught transactional law for almost 30 years, Medlin's passion for the field has only increased with time. "It can be a very fulfilling practice, because you are helping people through a very difficult time in their lives, like the loss of a loved one, or a very positive experience, like creating a new business or buying their first home. And that's really why so many students come to law school — because they want to help people."

But more than that, transactional law is important for students to understand: "The practice of law will change for our graduates. To succeed right away, they will need to have a broad range of skills to draw upon. And that's something students get here at South Carolina Law."

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket and skirt, stands in a server room. She is smiling and holding a white tablet. The server racks behind her have "EMC SYMMETRIX" labels. The floor is a perforated metal grid.

## Sarah Montgomery

*SENIOR LITIGATION COUNSEL  
FOR E-DISCOVERY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE*

- FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA
- B.A., VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
- J.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 2003
- SENIOR ARTICLES EDITOR, *SOUTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW*

**"Ivy League debt can imprison you. I see so many people who are hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt and are miserable doing what they don't want to do because they need the money to pay their loans. At South Carolina, you're getting a good education at a price that gives you the freedom to chart your own path."**

## The largest law firm in the United States has its only training facility right on campus.

**As a South Carolina Law student, you'll have unique access.**



Each year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sends more than 10,000 federal, state, and local prosecutors and litigators to Columbia for training in criminal and civil advocacy at the National Advocacy Center (NAC).

As a second- or third-year student, you can participate alongside them in the lectures and intense training sessions, or contribute to DOJ legal textbooks and the *United States Attorney's Bulletin* as an intern.

And the NAC is where you'll meet Sarah Montgomery, the DOJ's Senior Litigation Counsel for E-Discovery, who also teaches at South Carolina Law.

Law was a second career for Sarah, who was 35 and married with children when she entered South Carolina Law. She had a successful broadcasting career, but always wanted to go to law school.

So when she had the opportunity to attend South Carolina Law, Sarah knew that, although it would be incredibly demanding, it was the right choice. She found herself being pushed to succeed not only by her peers, but by the faculty as well:

"I originally didn't think I could add the *Law Review* on top of handling my family responsibilities and my regular course load. But the dean really challenged me to do it because he knew how beneficial it would be for my career. And he was right."

Now, Sarah splits her time between the NAC and Washington, DC, where her duties take her to the White House, and she has an office down the hall from the Attorney General of the United States.

*"A career in law is a great adventure.  
You never know where it will take you."*

## John Tamasitis

- FROM PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
- B.S., AIR FORCE ACADEMY
- SOUTH CAROLINA LAW, CLASS OF 2014
- WILL JOIN HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AFTER GRADUATION

After six years in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations—including two tours in Afghanistan—John Tamasitis decided to attend South Carolina Law, in part because of what he witnessed overseas.

“We take for granted that we have this system of rules that people by and large just follow. My experiences in the military showed me that a lot of countries just don’t have this,” he said.

“What South Carolina is doing is differentiating itself from a lot of other schools, including its Rule of Law Collaborative.”

## Rule of Law Collaborative

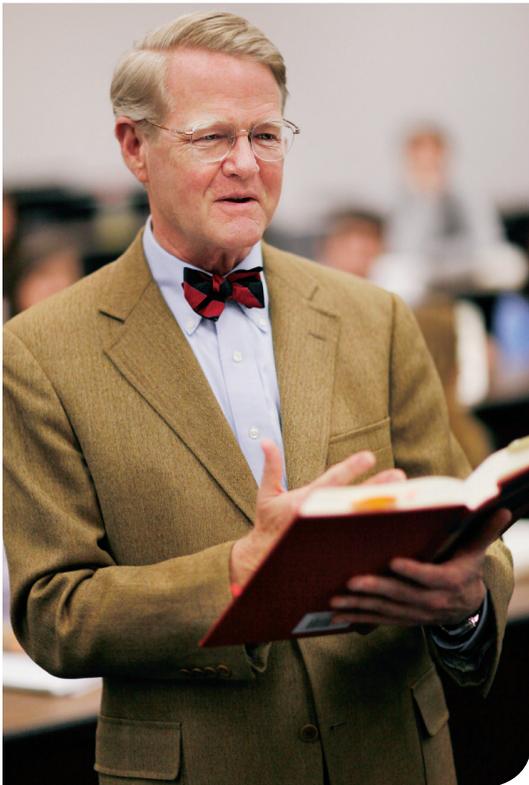
The Rule of Law is a principle of governance that no one, regardless of position or title, is above the law. South Carolina’s Rule of Law Collaborative is a university-wide initiative involving almost every school and college on campus, from education to public health to journalism.

Not surprisingly, the School of Law plays a prominent role, with Professor Joel Samuels serving as Director.

In classes such as International Human Rights, Transnational Dispute Resolution, Immigration Law, and International Trade Law, students can deepen their understanding of the world we live in, how different countries operate, and how U.S. entities operate within them.



## London Maymester



Professor Martin McWilliams, a Fellow of The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, has directed the annual London Maymester program since 2004.

Each May, South Carolina Law students spend three weeks studying in London at The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, one of the four Inns of Court that have functioned as the heart of the English judicial system for centuries.



The London Maymester program is designed around a four-credit-hour course, offering an intensive study of comparative U.S./English legal institutions, international civil litigation, and international arbitration.

South Carolina Law is the only U.S. law school that offers a course at the Inn. Our students have opportunities to get to know the Inn's barristers and student barristers while dining in the Inn's 16th-century Great Hall and participating in a parliamentary-style debate against their English counterparts.

In addition to their studies, participants get a tour of "Legal London," visit Westminster Palace, where Parliament is housed, and attend a court proceeding in the Royal Courts of Justice. With three-day weekends free, many students also make the most of the opportunity to visit cities across Europe.

*“Becoming a lawyer fundamentally changes how you see the world. But at USC Law we also encourage you to hang onto the person you were before you started.”*



**BEN MEANS, ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR OF LAW**

- FROM BETHESDA, MARYLAND
- A.B., DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
- J.D., UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# Law Imitates Art.

***At least that's the case for Associate Professor Ben Means.***

“Every law student should master a standard set of legal tools,” says Means, “but there is no one single way to be effective as a lawyer. Nor is practicing law simply a matter of looking up the answer in a statute or judicial opinion.

“Solving problems for clients requires creativity and judgment, and effective lawyers need to cultivate these qualities.”

For Means, that has meant continuing to work on his art. His artist grandfather sparked his interest at a young age, and drawing soon became a way for Means to take an idea and make it tangible.

As a law student, judicial clerk, corporate litigator, and now a member of the law faculty, Means says that continued involvement in the arts has helped him bring a fresh perspective to legal problems. In fact, as a law clerk for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Rosemary Pooler, he once drafted a bench memo that consisted entirely of an annotated diagram of the dispute. Now, his visual imagination helps Means to connect with students, who tell him they appreciate the cartoons and charts he uses in class to illustrate his points.

*“I wouldn't do this job if it was just teaching. I wouldn't do it if it was just research. It's about bringing those two together.”*

## Academic Success & Bar Preparation



**Work Smarter,  
Not Harder.**

**You've heard it over and over. But nobody ever tells you how to work smarter. Until now.**

As a student at South Carolina Law, you have access to its Academic Success Program, designed specifically to help you develop your skills and avoid pitfalls law students often face.

And when your grade might be based on a single exam, knowing how to prepare for it suddenly becomes even more critical. Studying the way you did for your undergrad courses just won't cut it anymore.

Eliminate your fears by learning how to create effective outlines, how to read and write case briefs, and even take simulated exams. With multiple workshops and tutoring sessions offered every week, we work with you throughout the semester to help you excel. Whether in a group setting or one-on-one, and whether it's a course-related question or just how to handle stress, our Academic Success Program is tailored to your specific needs.

And when you are ready to take that next step, we'll still be there for you, with additional workshops on how to study for — and pass — the bar exam.

For more on finding success in law school, go to [bit.ly/academicsupportblog](http://bit.ly/academicsupportblog), named one of the 50 most popular blogs edited by law professors in 2013. There you'll see posts by Alex Ruskell, director of the Academic Success Program, who is a contributing editor to the blog.

## Capstone Courses, Externships, and Clinics

As you prepare to graduate, South Carolina Law provides you many different ways to test your skills and knowledge by giving you the chance to represent clients — both real and simulated — through extensive Capstone courses, externship opportunities, and clinical programs.

*Understanding theory will only get you so far. It's the practical application that will make or break you.*

That's why South Carolina Law puts such an emphasis on helping you learn not only to "think" like a lawyer, but also to "act" like a lawyer, providing as much real-world experience as possible.

### Capstone Courses

Available during your third year, our Capstone courses provide a simulated environment where you and your classmates are partners at a firm and will have to solve complex problems, similar to those you'll face in your own practice.

In the Civil Litigation course, you'll take your client's complaint, work through the legal issues, and help resolve it. Or, in the Small Business Organizations course, you'll walk your entrepreneurial client through the process of setting up their company, from the time they walk through your door to the time they open their own.

The intricately designed cases will test your ability to work together and challenge your problem-solving skills. And by the time you're done, you will be able to confidently apply what you've learned in the professional arena.





## Externships

From FEMA and the Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, DC, to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Charlotte, North Carolina, to federal and state courts in South Carolina, students in externships do everything from drafting documents to observing court proceedings.

### ***EXTERNSHIPS INCLUDE***

- Administrative Law
- Children's Law
- Judicial
- Legislation

## Clinics

Third-year students enrolled in clinical courses represent actual clients and appear in court under the supervision of a faculty member, thanks to special student-practice rules adopted by the South Carolina Supreme Court, the United States District Court, and the United States Bankruptcy Court.

### ***CLINICAL COURSES INCLUDE***

- Child Protection Advocacy
- Criminal Practice
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Juvenile Justice Clinic
- Nonprofit Organizations

## Law Journals and Student Organizations



South Carolina Law has four scholarly journals and almost 30 student organizations for you to get involved with. And if you don't see an organization that fits your interest, we'll help you create one.

### Journals

- *ABA Real Property, Trust & Estate Law Journal*
- *Journal of Law & Education*
- *South Carolina Journal of International Law & Business*
- *South Carolina Law Review*

### Organizations

- American Constitution Society
- Black Law Students Association
- Carolina Equality Alliance
- Children's Advocacy Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Defense Research Institute
- Environmental Law Society
- Federal Bar Association
- Federalist Society
- G.O.P. Law Society
- Health Law Society
- Honor Council
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- James L. Petigru Public Interest Law Society
- Law School Democrats
- Mock Trial
- Moot Court
- Order of the Wig & Robe
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Phi Delta Phi
- Pro Bono Board
- Service Members & Veterans in Law
- South Carolina Association for Justice
- Sports & Entertainment Law Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association
- Women in Law

## Pro Bono

The decision to give back to the community is a personal one, and we believe the quality of volunteer work is higher when it comes from the heart — not from a prerequisite.

Which is why South Carolina Law was the first in the nation to institute a 100 percent voluntary *pro bono* program.

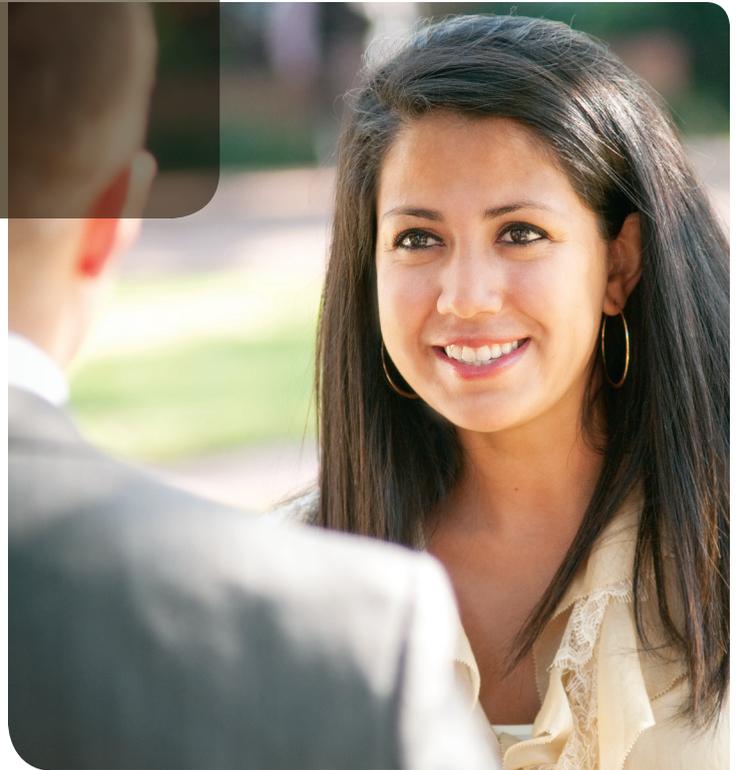
Opportunities are always available in select programs, including HELP (Homeless Legal Clinic), VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), tutoring at a local school, and participating in volunteer events like Good Deed Fridays.

And as your experience and knowledge grow, so do the opportunities to help in more advanced ways. The professional experience you'll gain is invaluable when you participate in innovative programs like Carolina Clerks, which teams you up with a South Carolina attorney who has taken on a real *pro bono* case. Or appear in Family Court, advocating on behalf of children in abuse and neglect cases through the Richland County CASA program. Or conduct research and field interviews for indigent criminal defendants who seek review of their convictions through the South Carolina Office of Indigent Defense.

**With more than 20 programs available, it's easy to find one that's right for you. But don't feel limited. If you have an idea you'd like to pursue, we will work with you to create your own service project.**

Not only will you add to your career skills and build crucial relationships with future colleagues, you will know that you have changed lives and made a tangible difference in the community in which you live.

And unlike some schools, our *pro bono* program is open to first-year students as well. We know that as college graduates and working professionals, you bring a wealth of skills and knowledge with you that can be used to make a difference on day one. So why make you wait?



### Pro Bono Programs

- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Carolina Clerks: Pro Bono Clerks for Pro Bono Lawyers
- Domestic Violence Legal Advocates
- Free Medical Clinic
- Harvest Hope Food Bank
- HELP-Homeless Legal Clinic
- Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program
- Mediation in Magistrate's Court
- Project Ayuda: Law Students Helping the Hispanic Community
- Public Defenders' Offices
- Richland County CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocates
- SC Access to Justice Commission
- SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
- SC Bar Pro Bono Program
- SC Department of Consumer Affairs
- SC Department of Juvenile Justice
- SC Office of Indigent Defense—Appellate Division
- SC Probate Court Special Visitors
- SC Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
- Team Advocacy
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

## Carmen Ledesma

- FROM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
- B.A., WHITTIER COLLEGE
- SOUTH CAROLINA LAW,  
CLASS OF 2015

The first in her family with a college degree, Carmen Ledesma always had aspirations to attend law school.

But it was the five years she spent working for the Alliance for Children's Rights that brought her future into focus.

"I had the opportunity to advocate for a family in front of a judge and conduct intake interviews to determine if a case was one our attorneys could take on.

"I feel really passionate about using my skills on a larger scale, and after graduating, I want to continue in child advocacy, working with older kids caught in juvenile delinquency cases.

*"It's great to be fulfilling the dream that I've had for so long."*

## Children's Law

South Carolina Law provides unique opportunities for students like Carmen, and is recognized for its leadership in children's law. Whether you want to work directly with children or help shape policies affecting them, our Children's Law Certificate will give you the knowledge and hands-on experience to tackle these specialized cases.

As an advocate for abused and neglected children through one of several clinic or externship opportunities, you will work side-by-side with lawyers and government agencies charged with protecting children in the court system.

And you'll benefit from the affiliated Children's Law Center, which annually trains more than 10,000 professionals across the state and helps everyone from prosecutors to judges to child protection caseworkers create the best possible outcomes for children.

## Environmental Law

*From beaches to mountains to forests to rivers, the high concentration of so many diverse — and pristine — environments in South Carolina provides a unique laboratory to explore the impact of environmental policy decisions on our natural resources.*

But it's not just about preservation. South Carolina has emerged as a leader in alternative fuel research, is home to a bustling port, and lists farming as one of its top industries.

So how do we create responsible laws that balance growing energy needs and economic development in ways that do no harm to the Earth?

South Carolina Law has many ways to get your feet wet in environmental law, including a unique “Law at the Beach” program, as well as two dual degree programs that equip our students to address these crucial issues.

### **Law at the Beach**

Spending spring break at the beach is not necessarily unusual. But receiving school credit for it? Now we're talking.

During the Coastal Law Field Lab—better known as “Law at the Beach”—you will visit different South Carolina beaches that have either been the subject of important litigation or lie at the center of high-profile coastal law issues. Staying at USC's Belle Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences near Georgetown, SC, you'll travel from Myrtle Beach to Charleston, and meet with officials who were involved in each case and can explain first-hand its impact on the environment, the residents, and the state.

### **J.D./M.E.L.P. with the Vermont Law School**

Through this partnership, you can receive a J.D. from South Carolina Law and a Master of Environmental Law and Policy (M.E.L.P.) from Vermont Law School, named the top environmental law program for 2015 by *US News and World Report*.

Focusing on the policy side of environmental law, the program prepares students for leadership positions in government, nonprofits, corporations, and private practice. Both degrees are earned in only three years through a combination of summer sessions in Vermont, distance learning courses, and supervised externships.

### **J.D./M.E.E.R.M. with the University of South Carolina's Environment and Sustainability Program**

This dual degree is for students who are more interested in the scientific/management aspects of environmental and natural resource protection, offering a J.D. from South Carolina Law and a Master of Earth and Environmental Resources Management (M.E.E.R.M.) from the University of South Carolina's Environment and Sustainability Program.

The four-year program provides an individually tailored curriculum for students interested in management positions in earth or environmental resources.

## Mark McLawhorn

LAW CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

- FROM COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
- B.A., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
- J.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 2009
- LL.M., CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



While studying for his LL.M. in Chinese business law on a full scholarship at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mark was invited by a former South Carolina Law professor to give a talk about U.S. law to her students in Shanghai.

*“One of the biggest things you should consider when looking at law schools is what kind of support structure they have,” says Mark McLawhorn, a 2009 graduate. “It makes a huge difference.”*

Mark should know. In his second and third years, he served as a tutor to first-year students, eventually becoming coordinator of the law school’s tutorial program.

“Law school is already stressful enough, but at USC, professors and your classmates are willing to help. You have small classes, and you get to know your colleagues on a more personal level. And the faculty is superb. Even years after graduation, I still keep in touch with my professors.”

For Mark, those continued relationships have been beneficial both personally and professionally.

Conversations with Professor Phil Lacy, who played a pivotal role in Mark’s development as a law student, continue to shape his practical application of the law.

Professors Bob Bockman and Danielle Holley-Walker were instrumental in Mark securing highly sought after judicial clerkships with the South Carolina Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In fact, he credits Bockman as a great mentor, and Bockman’s Appellate Advocacy course for sparking his interest in appellate law.

“South Carolina is definitely rigorous, but it has a great support system. The whole time I was there, I never felt alone,” said Mark. “Be prepared to work hard, meet people, build good relationships, and you’ll do just fine.”



### **Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism**

South Carolina Law’s exceptional attorney/student mentoring program is coordinated through the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism.

As a student, you’ll meet your attorney mentor at the Professionalism Oath Ceremony on your first day. Mentoring continues throughout your first semester, as your mentor shares his or her experiences and answers your questions about practicing law.

And during your third year, as you prepare to enter the working world, you’ll again have the opportunity to be paired up with a practicing attorney who can help provide direction, and offer advice and counsel.

In addition to coordinating the first and third year mentoring programs, the NMRS Center on Professionalism also supports the first-year required course, “Introduction to the Legal Profession,” by bringing in a diverse group of attorneys to help you explore the roles and responsibilities that different types of lawyers have; and by arranging court visits for all 1L students.

South Carolina Law’s focus on professionalism has paid off. Our students and graduates regularly take on leadership positions in the profession. In fact, their recent record of service to the American Bar Association includes:

- President of the ABA
- President of the American Bar Foundation
- Chair of the ABA House of Delegates
- Law Student Division Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates
- Law Student Division Representative to the ABA Board of Governors
- ABA Law Student Division Vice-Chair
- Editor-in-Chief, ABA *Student Lawyer* magazine
- Student Liaison, ABA Section on Labor and Employment Law
- Student Liaison, ABA Committee on Affordable Housing and Community Development
- Student Liaison, ABA Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar
- Law Student Division Mental Health Initiative Project Director
- ABA Law Student Division Fourth Circuit Lieutenant Governor

# University of South Carolina



When you are a student at the School of Law, you are part of something much bigger. You are part of the flagship university for the Palmetto State, which has maintained a tradition of excellence since 1801.

The University of South Carolina is one of only 35 universities — and the only one in the state — to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s designation as an institution of “very high research activity.” It was also listed as one of the 50 “best value” public universities in the Princeton Review’s *100 Best Value Colleges for 2011*.

The Columbia campus has 319 degree programs through its 14 colleges and schools, giving you the opportunity to take advantage of the 11 dual-degree programs available through the law school.



Feeling stressed? Work out your tension at the Strom Thurmond Health and Wellness Center, less than a block away from the law school. The center is a world-class facility with indoor/outdoor pools, a climbing wall, basketball, squash, racquetball and sand volleyball courts, a running track, cardio room, and classes featuring everything from Bodypump™ to Zumba®.

And if you love college sports, you can use your student ticket to soak in the game day atmosphere. The South Carolina Gamecocks baseball team recently won back-to-back national championships and the football team has become one of the powerhouse teams in the premiere Southeastern Conference, ranked regularly in the top 25 nationally. Its women’s basketball team advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen, while the equestrian team became the Southern Equestrian Champions.



## USC School of Law’s New Home



The University of South Carolina School of Law will soon have a new home. With construction underway, the building is set to open in 2017, coinciding with the school’s 150th anniversary.

The way law is taught and practiced is rapidly changing, and the new three-story law school has a deliberately flexible design to meet the evolving needs of legal education and maximize interaction among students, faculty, and members of the legal community. The building will also feature a dining area, a beautiful courtyard, and a dedicated study and collaboration space, accessible 24 hours a day.

Its new location is just steps from the Children’s Law Center, the National Advocacy Center, as well as the South Carolina Statehouse and Supreme Court, forming a legal corridor in the state’s capital.

# Columbia



The largest city in South Carolina, Columbia is still small enough to feel like home. And living in the state's capital makes it easy for our students to find externships and summer positions at the State House, located just down the street. Many federal, state, and municipal courts, including the South Carolina Supreme Court, are also in Columbia.

Whether you're passionate about the arts, spending time outdoors, or just relaxing with your family, Columbia has it all. And with the explosion of the local restaurant scene, the cuisine can't be beat.



Located just three blocks away from the law school is the Vista, an area of town boasting more than 60 restaurants and bars, 40 art galleries, and specialty shops. The Midlands of South Carolina is home to 130 cultural organizations, including 16 dance companies, 12 theatre groups, the South Carolina Philharmonic, and much more.

Mild winters — with average temps in the 50s — and warm summers mean there's never a bad time to explore the outdoors in South Carolina. Whether you prefer fishing or sailing on Lake Murray, or floating down one of Columbia's three rivers in a kayak or inner tube, there are ample opportunities to reconnect with nature. Prefer to stay dry? Check out the hiking and biking trails at the Congaree National Park, Harbison State Forest, or even the Three Rivers Greenway and Riverfront parks. And if you're looking for a weekend getaway, you can dip your toes in the Atlantic or trek the foothills of the Appalachians with just a two-hour drive.

With the South's largest children's museum, EdVenture, the nationally renowned Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden, and frequent performances at the Columbia Marionette Theatre and Columbia Children's Theatre, Columbia is perfect for young families. And of course, spending an afternoon in one of Columbia's 56 city parks is a great way to let kids burn off that limitless energy.



For a complete list of things to do in Columbia, including signature events, shopping, dining, and recreation, visit [www.columbiacvb.com](http://www.columbiacvb.com). Photos courtesy Columbia Metropolitan CVB.

## W. Lee Johnston

ASSOCIATE, CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP  
NEW YORK

- FROM TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
- B.A., VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
- J.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 2010
- M.Sc. IN LAW & FINANCE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY
- ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *SOUTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW*



*“I get a lot of ‘Pardon me, but you don’t sound like a New York corporate lawyer,’” says Lee Johnston, a 2010 graduate who worked in the New York office of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and recently joined the firm’s London office.*

During the fall of his second year, Lee was in the enviable position of having top firms court him, and he credits his professors and experiences at South Carolina Law for helping him land in the world’s financial capitals, working in securities law.

“Professors Martin McWilliams and Ben Means made some calls and got me interviews in Washington, DC and New York,” said Lee. “I had a lot of interviews during the fall of my second year, which was in 2008, just after the recession hit. It wasn’t an easy time to find a job, but I was very fortunate.”

According to Lee, the job interview can be a great opportunity to show what you’ve learned.

“If you’re near the top of your class, the best firms are willing to give you an opportunity, even without an Ivy League degree. And if you put in the hours at law school and can show them you know your stuff, you can compete with anyone and practice anywhere you please.

“You just have to be prepared to commit yourself to working extremely hard all the time for three years. South Carolina has everything you need to succeed, from a great faculty to a collegial atmosphere. But it’s up to you to take advantage of it and put the effort in.

*“I wouldn’t have traded it for anything else. I couldn’t imagine being in a better place.”*



## Career Services

*“Please, bother me!” is Yvonne Visser’s response every time a student pokes his head in and says, “I hate to bother you, but...”*

*“That’s why I’m here,” she continues, “so I can help you.”*

Visser is the associate director of career services, part of South Carolina Law’s team that works with current students to define their career goals and to equip them with the skills and information necessary to find the right job.

Our counselors have years of experience in law practice and the education of lawyers, and they provide students with expert guidance on resume preparation, interviewing, and job-search strategies. In fact, first-year students are required to rewrite their resumes to help them prepare to find their first summer employment opportunity.

Multiple on- and off-campus interview programs are hosted each year, attracting law firms, judges, government agencies, and public interest employers looking to hire South Carolina Law students for summer or post-graduation employment.

And with almost weekly networking sessions and presentations on career paths in the law, Career Services is committed to helping you prepare for life after law school.

## Kathryn Mansfield

- FROM IRMO, SOUTH CAROLINA
- B.A., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE
- SOUTH CAROLINA LAW, CLASS OF 2013
- IS NOW CLERKING FOR SOUTH CAROLINA CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE ALISON RENEE LEE.

*“My major in chemical engineering prepared me for law school more than I expected. Both are very challenging and demanding fields.”*



*So, you're thinking about law school but aren't a poli-sci major? Don't worry. You don't have to be. Law students come from diverse educational backgrounds and find great success.*

Just ask Kathryn Mansfield, a 2013 alumna with a B.S. in chemical engineering.

After graduation, Kathryn quickly found a good job doing regulatory compliance work at the Savannah River Site nuclear facility in Aiken, South Carolina. She found that she really enjoyed researching the federal regulations and learning about intellectual property laws. After less than six months on the job, she was studying to take the LSAT.

"I liked my job so much, I wanted to go deeper and learn more," said Kathryn. "It was the first time I thought seriously about going to law school."

The best thing about South Carolina Law, according to Kathryn, is the friendly atmosphere.

"I love it here because everyone in your classes is like you — very intelligent, high achieving, and hard working. It's competitive, but in a push-you-to-do-your-best kind of way. Everyone is so supportive.

**"If I was going to leave my career and make this kind of change, I knew 100 percent where I wanted to go. If I didn't get into South Carolina Law, I would have waited and applied again. It just felt like home."**



**As a student at the University of South Carolina School of Law, your success is our priority. You're here to make a difference in the world. We're here to help.**

You will be challenged to think critically, to find creative solutions to today's complex problems. You will have access to distinguished faculty members who will engage you in and out of the classroom, and beyond graduation. You will be immersed in a tight-knit legal community and given practical, real-world experience that will prepare you to work anywhere in the world. And through our Career Services office and a support network of over 10,000 alumni, you can.

*We are looking for the brightest minds who are committed to becoming tomorrow's leaders. Think you have what it takes to become one of them?*

**Contact us:**

Office of Admissions  
University of South Carolina School of Law  
701 South Main Street, Suite 105  
Columbia, SC 29208

**p** 803-777-6605

**f** 803-777-2847

**e** [usclaw@law.sc.edu](mailto:usclaw@law.sc.edu)

**w** [www.law.sc.edu](http://www.law.sc.edu)

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

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

## Admissions

Interested in being a part of the South Carolina Law community? If you like what you've seen, we invite you to apply for admission. The School of Law is looking for students who are ready for a rigorous academic experience, and who, as students and graduates, will take their place as leaders in our profession, our community, and the world.

Ours is a holistic approach to admissions, taking into account all information available about a candidate. No single factor is conclusive. While undergraduate academic performance and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score are important, our decision is also influenced by the strength of the applicant's undergraduate curriculum, trends in grades, information gained through the applicant's personal statement, work or life experience, military service, graduate study, residency, contributions to campus or community through service or leadership, the assessment of recommenders, and the applicant's potential for contribution to a diverse educational environment.

### To Apply for First-Year Admission

A candidate must have, or expect to receive by the date of enrollment in the School of Law, a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The only exception to this requirement is for participants in the University of South Carolina Honors College Six-Year B.A./J.D. plan. All applicants are required to take the LSAT and to register with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Credential Assembly Service (CAS). All applications and supporting materials should be received by the School of Law by March 1 of the year in which you expect to enroll. Late applications will be reviewed fully, but places in the class may be limited by that time. All applications to the School of Law are submitted through the LSAC electronic application service. You can find information about the LSAC e-app service at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). It is your responsibility to read all application instructions to ensure that each question is answered accurately and completely.

### Applicants for admission as a first-year student must submit the following:

**A completed application form**, including a personal statement, resume, and any attachments required in response to questions on the application. The application and all supporting materials should be received in the Office of Admissions by March 1.

**A nonrefundable \$60 application fee**, which is paid by credit card through LSAC's secure server. The application fee is automatically waived for any student who receives a waiver of LSAT or CAS fees from LSAC. No separate request is required; the waiver will apply automatically when you submit the e-app. Any prospective student who is serving in the Peace Corps, Teach for America, Americorps/VISTA, City Year, or any established public service program, or for whom the application fee poses a financial hardship, or who would otherwise be deterred from applying, is encouraged to contact the Admissions Office at [usclaw@law.sc.edu](mailto:usclaw@law.sc.edu) to request a fee waiver. Please include your LSAC account number.

**A complete LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report**, forwarded directly from LSAC. Instructions for obtaining the LSAC/CAS report are available on the LSAC website at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). A transcript from each college and university attended should be sent directly to:

Law School Admission Council  
Box 2700, 662 Penn Street  
Newtown PA 18940-0981  
215-968-1001

LSAC will analyze and duplicate student transcripts and will send a copy to the School of Law with your LSAT scores and letters of recommendation. It is the applicant's responsibility to see that all transcripts are mailed directly to LSAC.

Students who are admitted and enroll will be required to provide to the School of Law an official final transcript from each degree-granting college or university.

**Two letters of recommendation**, which should evaluate your potential as a law student. Letters from members of your college or graduate school faculty who can discuss your academic performance are particularly helpful. If you have been out of school for a number of years and have difficulty securing an academic reference, you may substitute letters from employers or others who have worked closely with you. In any event, letters should address the skills necessary for rigorous, advanced academic work: the ability to read complex textual material closely, to analyze it carefully, and to present reasoned conclusions in writing and orally; maturity; self-discipline; commitment; and professionalism. We strongly recommend that letters be submitted through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation service. This service is included in the LSAC/CAS registration subscription. Letters are copied and sent to the School of Law with the LSAC/CAS report. Directions for submitting letters can be found at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

Applicants are notified by e-mail when we receive the application, and again when the application is complete and ready for review. Please be sure that we have a current e-mail address and promptly advise the Office of Admissions of any change. You are responsible for ensuring that all required materials are received by the Office of Admissions.

### **To Apply for Transfer Admission**

An applicant who has successfully completed a minimum of 26 credits of law study at an American Bar Association-accredited law school may apply as a transfer student. The School of Law accepts a maximum of one year's credit toward a J.D. degree for work completed at another law school. Although graded hours may exceed 30 hours, no more than 30 earned hours will be accepted toward the 90 hours required for graduation. Please see the School of Law admissions website at [www.law.sc.edu/admissions](http://www.law.sc.edu/admissions) for detailed instructions on transfer application requirements. We recommend that you file a transfer application no later than June 15.

### **To Apply for Transient (Visiting Student) Admission**

A student currently enrolled at another ABA-accredited law school may apply to attend the University of South Carolina School of Law for one or two semesters as a transient (visiting) student and receive credit toward the J.D. from their "home" law school. Transient student applications should be completed by July 1, if applying to visit in the fall semester, or November 15, if applying to visit in the spring semester. Please see the School of Law admissions website at [www.law.sc.edu/admissions](http://www.law.sc.edu/admissions) for detailed instructions on transient student application requirements.

### **Character and Fitness Requirements for Admission**

Lawyers are held to the highest standards of integrity and professionalism, and admission to the practice of law will include an inquiry into your past conduct, financial responsibility, and character. Application questions concerning these matters are the first step in assessing your fitness for the legal profession, and how you respond to them can have important implications not just for your admission to law school, but for your admission to the practice of law. It is critically important that you be completely honest and forthcoming about any past conduct that is the subject of questions on the application. You can find a comprehensive discussion of character and fitness issues for applicants on our website at [www.law.sc.edu/admissions](http://www.law.sc.edu/admissions), and we encourage you to consult that information if you have questions about how to respond.

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

## **Financial Aid**

A legal education is a significant investment, and most law students depend on scholarship or loan assistance to help with the cost of attendance, which includes tuition, a living expense budget, books, and an optional allowance to purchase a laptop computer. Available sources of financial aid include:

**Scholarships:** The generous support of alumni and friends of the School of Law, together with funds committed to law school scholarship assistance by the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, allow us to offer scholarship assistance to students who have outstanding academic credentials, records of leadership or community service, or other factors established by the donor. All admitted students are automatically considered for scholarship assistance; no separate application is required. Scholarships may be based on merit or on a combination of merit and financial need.

**Loans:** Federal and private educational loan programs provide financial assistance to help meet the costs of education. You can borrow \$20,500 each year through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan program; remaining costs may be financed through the Federal Direct GradPLUS loan program, the Perkins Loan program, or through private lenders. Interest rates and other terms are set by the federal government for Direct Stafford, Direct GradPLUS, and Perkins Loans, and by the lending institution for private loans. Applicants for educational loans must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available on the web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and designate the University of South Carolina as a recipient of your Student Aid Report. The Federal School Code for the University of South Carolina is 003448.

Detailed information about scholarships and loans can be found on the School of Law website at [www.law.sc.edu/admissions](http://www.law.sc.edu/admissions).



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

School of Law

1801

