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.

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“If you don’t put the words ‘excitement’ or ‘passion’ and ‘the law’ in the same sentence, this might not be the career for you,” said Danielle Holley-Walker, associate dean for academic affairs. “Law is a passion, and being a lawyer is one of the most important things anyone can do.”
Danielle Holley-Walker practically grew up in the halls of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, where her father was a professor (and now serves as dean), and it was here that she discovered her love for the law at a very young age.

“At five years old, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer,” she said. “Now, I wake up in the morning and go to my dream job.”

Fortunately, it’s okay if you don’t already know what you want to do. In fact, your second- and third-year courses are specifically designed to let you chart your own path and pursue an area of law that speaks to you.

“We can help you find your passion,” said Holley-Walker.

South Carolina Law’s broad curriculum allows you to choose among a wide range of concentrations, from environmental policy to family law to business and finance.
### 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
- Capstone Course: Small Business Organizations
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Law Seminar
- Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic
- Consumer Bankruptcy Drafting Workshop
- Consumer Law
- Corporate Finance
- Corporate Tax
- Drafting Business Agreements
- Insurance
- International Business Transactions
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations Clinic
- Partnership and LLC Taxation
- Payment Systems
- 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
- Family Law
- Juvenile Justice
- Parents, Children, and the Law
- Poverty Law

#### Constitutional Law
- 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
- 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 Trial Practice
- Ethical Issues in Criminal Practice
- International Criminal Law
- Environmental Law
- Administrative Law
- Coastal Law

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

#### Intellectual Property
- Copyright Law
- Cyberlaw
- Intellectual Property
- Trademarks and Unfair Competition

#### International and Comparative Law
- Comparative Employment Discrimination Law Seminar
- Comparative Judicial Seminar
- 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
- 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
- Problems in Professional Responsibility

#### Litigation
- 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
- Products Liability
- Tort Theory Seminar

#### 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
- Race and the Law
- Race, Class, and Education
- S.C. Administrative Law

#### 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
- 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./A.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./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.
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.”
“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

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 Deputy 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.
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.”

FACULTY PROFILE

BEN MEANS, ASSISTANT 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 Assistant 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

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.

Visit our blog for a taste of this innovative program, set up to help you not just make it through law school, but to thrive: success.scschooloflaw.org.
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.
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
- Federal Litigation
- Nonprofit Organizations

Externships


EXTERNSHIPS INCLUDE
- Administrative Law
- Children’s Law
- Judicial
- Legislation
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
- 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

• Carolina Clerks: Pro Bono Clerks for Pro Bono Lawyers
• Free Medical Clinic
• Harvest Hope Food Bank
• HELP-Homeless Legal Clinic
• Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program
• Literacy Project
• Logan Elementary School Tutoring
• 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 Immigrant Victim Network
• SC Office of Indigent Defense—Appellate Division
• SC Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
• Team Advocacy
• VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)
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 Center

South Carolina’s Children’s Law Center provides a unique opportunity for students like Carmen. Annually training more than 10,000 professionals across the state, the Center’s mission is to be a resource that helps everyone from prosecutors to judges to child protection caseworkers create the best possible outcomes for children.

Faculty affiliated with the Children’s Law Center offer a series of classes for second- and third-year students, and South Carolina Law is finalizing its certification program for students who want to specialize in children’s law.

Beyond the classroom, opportunities in clinics and externships allow students to act as advocates for abused and neglected children and work side-by-side with lawyers and government agencies charged with protecting children in the court system.
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 developed two environmental law dual degree programs that equip our students to address these crucial issues.

**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 in 2012 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.
MarkMcLawhorn

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 after three years, 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.

Professor Bob Bockman and Associate Dean 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.”

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 hand-selecting the mentors, the director of the NMRS Center on Professionalism — who is also a faculty member — coordinates one of your first semester courses, “Introduction to the Legal Profession.” A requirement for all first-year students, the class brings in a diverse group of attorneys to help you explore the full breadth of legal practice and the different roles and responsibilities lawyers have in their respective areas.

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 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
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.
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. 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.”

“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.
“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 third-year student 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.”
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 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. 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.
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 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 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, and we encourage you to consult that information if you have questions about how to respond.

Each jurisdiction has its own process for evaluating the character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the Bar of that state, and we encourage you as an applicant to law school to determine what those requirements are in the state in which you intend to practice.

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 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.