

# VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

## 2010–11 CATALOG

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Vermont Law School is committed to promoting an employment and educational environment free from unlawful harassment, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Unlawful harassment or discrimination of the basis of age, color, disability (including duty of reasonable accommodation), ethnicity, HIV-positive status, national origin, place of birth, race, religion, sex/gender (including gender identity/expression), sexual orientation, or veteran status as defined by applicable law (“protected characteristics”) is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

## **AN OVERVIEW OF VERMONT LAW SCHOOL**

Vermont Law School, founded in 1972, is one of a handful of independent, private law schools in the United States and is the only law school in Vermont. Vermont Law School offers a strong and varied Juris Doctor (JD) curriculum, experiential programs, and a nationally recognized environmental program in law. The JD curriculum emphasizes the public-serving role of lawyers. The school also offers a Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) for lawyers and nonlawyers alike, and two post-JD degrees, the LLM in Environmental Law and the LLM in American Legal Studies (for international students).

Vermont Law School is dedicated to educating students in the understanding, skills, and values needed for private practice and public service. Emphasis is placed on developing professional responsibility and judgment, together with respect for the dignity of all people and the integrity of the natural environment.

Vermont Law School Motto:

Lex pro urbe et orbe: “Law for the community and the world”

Accreditation and Memberships:

American Bar Association, Association of American Law Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

### **LEGAL EDUCATION AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL**

Three features distinguish legal education at Vermont Law School:

- 1) A core JD curriculum that focuses on legal doctrine and analysis, emphasizes the broader social context of the law, and provides education in the skills and values needed for effective law practice;
- 2) Experiential programs that complement traditional classroom instruction by enabling students to learn the law in small group environments using transaction-based teaching in the context of attorney-client relationships;
- 3) The Environmental Law Center, which provides an area of specialization through an interdisciplinary program in environmental science, law, policy, economics, and ethics.

The Vermont Law School JD curriculum is similar to the classic law school curriculum. The first-year program includes required courses regarded as essential components of a legal education. The advanced offerings similarly cover and expand on the basic elements. The curriculum includes substantive courses that deal with diverse subject matters and introduce students to different analytical skills. These courses

include interdisciplinary offerings and professional skills courses. Teaching is characterized by a range of styles, including the Socratic method, lectures, seminars, problem solving, simulation, and analytical skills training.

Experiential programs, designed to provide practicum-based learning experiences that prepare students for the actual practice of law, are important components of the JD curriculum. These programs offer practical exposure to the law, ranging from a three-credit internship/externship to an entire semester devoted to the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, the South Royalton Legal Clinic, or Semester in Practice. The transaction-based General Practice Program simulates a general practice law firm environment and includes an externship experience.

#### **THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER**

Vermont Law School offers one of the nation's leading environmental law and policy programs through its Environmental Law Center (ELC). The ELC administers the Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) program, the LLM in Environmental Law program, the 10-week Summer Session, and the MELP/LLM internship program. The ELC also includes the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, the Institute for Energy and the Environment, the Land Use Institute, the Land Use Clinic, the U.S.-China Partnership for Environmental Law, and the Environmental Tax Policy Institute.

#### **LEGAL INFORMATION FACILITIES AND RESOURCES**

The Julien and Virginia Cornell Library is a beautiful, comfortable research and study center for students, faculty, and the legal community. It provides a rich collection of over 230,000 volumes, with one of the best collections of environmental materials in the country. The library also provides access to numerous online resources, including Westlaw/Dialog and LexisNexis, environmental and international law resources, and indexes and databases for legal and nonlegal books and journals.

Library technology is state-of-the-art, with a premier library automated system, wireless communications, and a computer lab fitted with new computers every year. National bibliographic databases are used to identify supplemental materials to our collections and may be delivered rapidly to the library via the Internet.

Librarian/lawyers teach first-year legal research and provide additional training and instruction throughout the year. Research and reference assistance is available when needed, including virtual reference during daytime and evening hours.

The library is an active member of the New England Law Library Consortium, through which it shares resources with other members, including all of the academic

law libraries in New England, as well as Cornell, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Albany, NYU, and Fordham University.

For more information, visit the library website at [www.vermontlaw.edu/library](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/library).

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### **JURIS DOCTOR (JD)**

Recognizing the important roles played by lawyers at all levels of decision making and policy making, Vermont Law School provides students with a thorough understanding of the nature and function of law in society and equips them to serve their communities in positions of leadership and responsibility. The law school believes that lawyers should be professionals in the fullest sense of the word, thus pursuing, in the words of Roscoe Pound, “the learned art in the spirit of a public service.” To this end the curriculum encourages students to become sensitive to the relationships between law and other disciplines by emphasizing questions of process, policy, and principle, in addition to the assimilation of skills, values, and substantive knowledge.

### **The First Year**

The first-year curriculum provides a solid foundation for the study of law by introducing the student to basic subject areas, techniques of legal analysis, fundamental legal skills, and perspectives on the origins, function, and development of the legal system. Required courses and credits awarded include:

#### Fall Semester:

- Civil Procedure I (3 credits)
- Constitutional Law I (3 credits)
- Contracts (4 credits)
- Torts (4 credits)
- Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research (2 credits)

#### Spring Semester:

- Civil Procedure II (3 credits)
- Constitutional Law II (3 credits)
- Criminal Law (3 credits)<sup>1</sup>
- Legal Writing II: Theory and Practice (3 credits)
- Property (4 credits)

Each student is assigned a faculty advisor at the beginning of the first year. The advisor’s function is to help the student clarify long-term goals and plan a sequence of courses and clinical experiences to further those goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint degree JD/MELP students have the option of taking Environmental Law instead of Criminal Law in their first year. Criminal Law remains a required course, however.

## **The Second and Third Years**

During the second and third years, students are free to design their own curricula but must successfully complete the following:

- Appellate Advocacy
- Evidence
- Legal Profession
- One perspective course
- One skills course or clinical program
- An advanced legal writing project

In addition, satisfactory completion of two of the following courses is also required:

- Corporations
- Criminal Procedure (either Constitutional Criminal Procedure or Criminal Procedure and Practice)
- Estates
- Family Law or General Practice Program I: Domestic Relations
- Remedies
- Sales

The second and third years provide opportunities for significant exposure to the legal rights of individuals, businesses, and society, as well as to the problems inherent in enforcing those rights. The curriculum for these years includes both theoretical and clinically oriented work in a broad spectrum of contexts. The curriculum's breadth and scope sufficiently prepares students for professional competence and for the other traditional uses of legal education.

In selecting courses, students are encouraged to achieve a balanced program, including courses involving public regulation, courses focusing on relations between private parties, courses emphasizing the development of the common law and those primarily involving statutory and regulatory interpretation, courses that stress the development of practical legal skills and values, and those that offer a broad overview of the law and legal institution. Even for the student who intends to specialize, it is important to take courses in a variety of subjects outside the intended area of specialization. The core curriculum includes Administrative Law, Corporations, Estates, Evidence, Income Taxation, and one Uniform Commercial Code course.

## **Perspective Courses**

Perspective courses substantially and systematically expose students to the broader foundations of law, including its social, cultural, historical, philosophical, comparative, or scientific contexts. Each student is required to enroll in at least one course or seminar

that satisfies this requirement. Courses that meet the perspective requirement are listed in each semester's registration handbook.

### **Advanced Legal Writing Requirement**

Every student must satisfactorily complete a substantial written project during the second or third year. The project provides students with an opportunity to enhance their writing skills on a more sophisticated project with the assistance of detailed and individualized instruction from a faculty member. (For additional details, please refer to the Handbook of Policies and Regulations for Students.)

### **Academic Requirements**

Vermont Law School offers the Juris Doctor degree through a three-year, full-time, day program. The school operates on a semester calendar. Six semesters of full-time attendance are required. The last four semesters must be spent in residence at Vermont Law School, although residence credit is given to students who participate in the Semester in Practice program, the Judicial Externship program, or who attend another law school under the Law School Exchange Program. Students can earn course credit during summer sessions, but not residency credit, unless they are eligible for the accelerated schedule option. The JD degree is granted upon regular attendance during three academic years and successful completion of a minimum of 87 semester hour credits with a cumulative academic average of at least 2.20.

### **Reduced Course Load Option**

Students are required to take a minimum of 10 credits per semester and may take a maximum of 17 credits per semester. Students who want to take fewer than the normal 16 credits per semester in the first year should contact the assistant dean for academic affairs prior to the beginning of the semester. Second- and third-year students may register for any number of credits between 10 and 17 and should discuss their curricular plans with their faculty advisors.

A student who takes a reduced credit load in more than one semester may not have sufficient credits to graduate in six semesters. Such a student may earn the required credits in Summer Session or may extend attendance to a seventh or eighth semester.

### **Accelerated Scheduling Option**

Vermont Law School offers a flexible scheduling option that will allow JD students to accelerate graduation. This option allows a limited number of students to complete the JD degree in five semesters plus at least one summer session or in four semesters and two summer sessions. Interested students should apply after completing their first semester of law school and no later than during the fall semester of their second year. Applicants must be in the upper half of the class at the time of application, and other restrictions and conditions apply.

### **Extended Schedule Option**

Vermont Law School offers a “flexible scheduling option” that will allow JD students to extend the JD program over eight semesters. Interested students should apply prior to the commencement of their first year in the JD program. The extended schedule course modifies the standard schedule as follows:

- First Year: Torts; Contracts; Property; Criminal Law; Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research; and Legal Writing II: Theory and Practice
- Second Year: Constitutional Law I and II; Civil Procedure I and II; plus upper level courses. Students cannot enroll in Appellate Advocacy until completion of Constitutional Law I and II, except with prior approval of the assistant dean of academic affairs and the director of Legal Writing.

Tuition: students agreeing to remain enrolled in the extended scheduling option for eight semesters will be billed 80 percent of the standard tuition fee each semester. Other restrictions and conditions apply.

### **JD Registration**

First-year students must confirm their matriculation in person at the law school during Orientation in August. Transfer and visiting students confirm their matriculation in person on the first day of classes of the semester in which they enroll. Second- and third-year students are required to register for fall and spring semester courses on the dates announced each semester. A student must elect at least 10 credits and no more than 17 credits per semester.

Prior to initial registration at the law school, new students must arrange for the registrar to receive official undergraduate transcripts showing the degree conferred and the date(s) of degree receipt. The transcripts must be sent directly from the schools to Vermont Law School.

Elective course schedule changes may be made during the periods described in the Handbook of Policies and Regulations for Students. Special rules governing the addition of or withdrawal from clinical and other limited-enrollment courses are also set forth in the handbook. For any course schedule changes to be effective, written notice of the change must be received by the Registrar before the close of office hours on the day indicated. Special rules apply in the case of Summer Session courses.

### **Joint JD/MELP**

Approximately 170 students enrolled in the JD program at Vermont Law School are joint JD/MELP degree candidates. Joint degree students can complete the MELP degree in two Summer Sessions or choose from other flexible options. The first session is composed of elective and required distributional courses. In the second session, students have the option of taking additional courses or completing internships. Joint

degree students may take courses toward the MELP degree during the fall and spring of the second and third years of law school. Joint JD/MELP candidates may apply up to nine credits of approved environmental courses from their JD program to the MELP degree. Joint degree candidates work with assigned faculty advisors to design their programs.

### **MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (MELP)**

The MELP degree is a distinctive, interdisciplinary program in environmental law, policy, ethics, and science that benefits both law and nonlaw students. Students may pursue this 30-credit degree on a full-time, part-time (up to five years), or summers-only basis. MELP students include environmental professionals who wish to broaden their expertise, as well as law students and lawyers seeking a concentration in environmental law. Over 1,000 students have earned their MELP degrees since the program began in 1978. They now serve as policy analysts, environmental managers, consultants, journalists, educators, and community leaders throughout the world.

#### **Expertise**

The MELP program is adaptable to career objectives in both public service and the private sector. The specific skills students will acquire include the ability to gather and organize facts; understand and interpret policies, statutes, judicial opinions, and regulations; conduct legal research; draft legislation and other legal documents; negotiate and mediate disputes; and communicate with environmental professionals across multiple disciplines.

#### **Student Profile**

The MELP program is open to both law and nonlaw degree candidates. Each year students from a variety of backgrounds—liberal arts, sciences, social sciences, law, and management—enter the MELP program. MELP candidates range from recent college graduates to environmental professionals seeking to advance their careers to midcareer professionals transitioning to the environmental field.

#### **Degree Options**

Students enrolled in the MELP program may elect to complete the degree requirements during 12 months of full-time study, or over a period up to five years of part-time study. Students also may complete the degree on a summers-only basis. This is an ideal option for teachers and other professionals who are unable to take classes during the fall or spring semesters. Students in law school elsewhere may complete the MELP degree during two or more summers.

#### **Orientation**

A special 3-day preorientation program gives MELP candidates an intensive introduction to law school teaching methods and the language of environmental law.

During Orientation, MELP candidates meet individually with the Environmental Law Center's academic counselors to plan their courses of study. Joint degree candidates attend an academic planning workshop and meet with their faculty advisor in the spring of their first JD year. Close faculty-student interaction continues throughout the program.

### **Transfer Credits**

Students may transfer a maximum of 6 credits toward the 30-36-credit degree requirement. These credits must be from an accredited law school or graduate program. Only environmental courses comparable to those offered by Vermont Law School are eligible for transfer. Transfer of credits is by approval only. Transfer credits will be included in the student's academic plan, which is developed upon enrollment in the program. Vermont Law School's joint JD/MELP students are allowed to share either nine credits of JD coursework at Vermont Law School with their MELP program or six credits from other graduate programs.

### **Curriculum**

The traditional sequence begins in the fall with a concentration of required courses, followed in the spring semester by both required and elective courses (including optional internships and independent research projects), and concludes in the summer with advanced electives. MELP students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits, but may take up to 36 credits with no extra tuition charges. The structure of an individual's academic plan will vary, depending upon his or her academic background, work experiences, goals, and objectives. The curriculum is designed to establish an interdisciplinary foundation. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the MELP degree.

### **Required Courses**

MELP degree candidates must complete the following basic set of environmental courses:

- Introduction to Legal Studies
- Natural Resources Law
- Ecology
- Environmental Law
- Environmental Writing and Advocacy
- an Ethics and Philosophy course
- an Alternative Dispute Resolution course

Introduction to Legal Studies and Environmental Writing and Advocacy are not required for those students who are enrolled in or have completed a JD program. A degree candidate may have a required course waived by approval. Although

requirements may be waived, the minimum number of credits required for degree completion remains 30.

### **Registration**

Entering candidates receive course schedules and registration information a few weeks before beginning the semester. Academic planning workshops are held during Orientation for MELP-only students and during the spring semester for joint-degree students. Before registration, students meet individually with an academic counselor, who reviews and approves the course sequence.

### **Independent Research Project**

Students may undertake independent research projects in areas of law in which they have a particular interest. Such projects require intensive research and the completion of a major piece of legal writing. The experience includes close work with a faculty sponsor who provides supervision in both the research and writing stages.

### **Experiential Learning**

#### MELP and LLM Internships

Internships are an excellent way for MELP and LLM students to gain real-world experience. Our students explore environmental law, science, and policy in a wide variety of settings both locally and worldwide. Activities may include counseling, drafting regulations and legislation, preparing legal memoranda, drafting or commenting on environmental or land use plans, and fieldwork related to wetlands, endangered species, and other natural resource management and preservation issues.

Recent master's degree students earned credit while working as interns for the following organizations:

- Natural Resources Conservation Authority, West Indies
- Biodiversity Group of Environment, Canberra, Australia
- National Park Service, Boulder, Colorado
- National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
- Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Juneau, Alaska
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Boston, Massachusetts
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Waterbury, Vermont
- Environmental Defense Fund, Boulder, Colorado
- Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- American Wildlands, Bozeman, Montana
- Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green, Manchester, New Hampshire
- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, Eugene, Oregon
- The Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, Florida

### The Conservation Law Foundation Internship

The Conservation Law Foundation is a nonprofit, public interest, environmental advocacy group using law to improve environmental protection throughout New England. The Foundation's Montpelier office is devoted to addressing critical environmental issues facing the region.

Current issues include energy conservation, transportation and planning, prevention of water and air pollution, solid waste management, and protection of lakes and rivers. Student interns earn academic credit by providing support to the Conservation Law Foundation attorneys, performing legal research, and drafting memoranda and litigation documents.

### **MASTER OF LAWS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (LLM)**

The LLM in Environmental Law degree is designed for a select group of post-JD candidates seeking to specialize in the practice of environmental law, or pursue careers in teaching, research, or public policy.

#### **Student Profile**

LLM applicants must have a JD from an American Bar Association accredited law school, or if they graduated from non-United States law schools, must demonstrate academic credentials comparable to graduates of American Bar Association accredited law schools. LLM candidates include recent law school graduates and practicing lawyers who wish to develop an environmental specialty.

#### **Degree Options**

Students enrolled in the LLM program have the option of beginning their studies in the summer or fall semester. Full-time students, taking 6 to 14 credits per semester, complete the degree requirements during three consecutive semesters (fall/spring/summer or summer/fall/spring). Part-time students have up to five years from the date of matriculation to complete the degree.

#### **Orientation**

There is a brief Orientation for LLM candidates before the fall semester begins. Students, particularly international students, are also welcome to attend the MELP preorientation and the week-long JD Orientation as a refresher course on law school teaching methods and the basics of the United States legal system.

#### **Curriculum**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits, but may take up to 36 credits with no extra tuition charge. The faculty of the Environmental Law Center assist LLM candidates in developing programs of study that best meet their personal,

academic, and career goals. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

### **Required Courses**

Students must complete a basic set of environmental courses. These requirements may be waived on an individual basis at the discretion of the Director of the Environmental Law Center upon showing completion of equivalent coursework. The required courses are: Administrative Law, Ecology, Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, and the Graduate Seminar, in which students consider a variety of current environmental issues.

### **Thesis, Teaching, and Research Projects**

LLM candidates have the option of completing a thesis, teaching, or research project. None of these is required. A thesis must be six credits; a teaching or a research project may range from four to six credits. Students work with a faculty advisor to develop a thesis or project.

### **Registration**

Entering candidates receive course schedules and registration information a few weeks before beginning the semester. Before registration, students meet individually with their faculty advisors or the Environmental Law Center's academic counselors to plan their courses of study.

## **THE MASTER OF LAWS IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES (LLM) DEGREE PROGRAM**

The LLM in American Legal Studies is designed for candidates who already hold a first law degree from an institution outside the United States. This LLM prepares the returning lawyer or recent law graduate with the skills and knowledge required for transnational practice or other legal work requiring knowledge of multiple legal systems and competency in several languages. The LLM prepares the lawyer for private practice, for public service, and for law school teaching.

### **Student Profile**

LLM applicants must have successfully completed a first law degree at an institution outside the United States and demonstrate a high level of competence in English.

### **Schedule**

Students enrolled in this LLM program must begin in the fall semester and take the full set of required courses. Because some courses in the spring are a continuation of fall semester courses, students may not begin their coursework for the LLM in the spring semester.

### **Orientation**

Students in the LLM program participate in the Orientation for JD students the week before the fall semester begins. This orientation includes an introduction to the basics of the United States legal system and a session on teaching methods at the law school. Sessions specifically designed to assist our foreign LLM candidates are also held that week.

### **Curriculum and Required Courses**

Each LLM candidate must satisfactorily complete the following courses, which total 16 credits in the fall and 13 in the spring: Constitutional Law I and II, Civil Procedure I and II, Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Property, and Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research. LLM students have the option of enrolling in one additional course during their second semester, with prior approval of the director of international programs. For students interested in taking a U.S. bar examination, we recommend taking or auditing the course in Evidence in the spring semester. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

### **Registration**

Entering candidates receive information on visas, housing, and other details several months before the fall semester, along with course information. Each student's course schedule is distributed during Orientation.

### **Eligibility to Take Bar Exams in the U.S.**

Many students in our LLM program are interested in taking a U.S. bar exam. Each state in the U.S. has its own eligibility requirements; our staff can assist in identifying them. Most of our students take the New York or Washington, D.C. bar exam.

### **THE SUMMER SESSION PROGRAM**

The Summer Session creates a unique atmosphere for learning that reflects the values of Vermont Law School and its Environmental Law Center. Faculty and staff are accessible and the atmosphere is informal. Most summer classes have an enrollment of fewer than 30 students, encouraging discussion and participation. Participants acquire a working knowledge of the law and science on which environmental policy is based, and explore cutting-edge environmental issues with leading national experts in a collaborative environment. The summer session also offers some courses from the traditional JD curriculum.

### **Student Profile**

Students attending Summer Session include Vermont Law School JD, LLM, and MELP candidates, JD candidates from other law schools, nonlaw graduate students,

teachers, citizen advocates, and practicing attorneys, planners, and state and federal agency personnel.

### **Schedule**

Summer Session offers intensive two-week, three-week, four-week and eight-week courses. Both two-credit and three-credit courses are offered. Due to the intensity of the coursework, it is not recommended that students enroll in more than one two-week course in each term. Exceptions are made for students attending only one two-week term.

### **Curriculum**

Summer Session offers over 30 courses. All courses are ABA-approved and may be audited or taken for JD or nonlaw graduate credit. A standard schedule for full-time students is one course per term plus one eight-week course.

### **Nondegree Educational Opportunities and Continuing Legal Education (CLE)**

Many practicing attorneys take summer courses for CLE credit to keep abreast of this dynamic field of law. Nonlawyers working on community issues, state and municipal government employees, public interest advocates, and students in environmental management, science, and engineering graduate degree programs can take courses as auditors or for transfer credit.

### **Registration**

Summer Session catalogs are available in January. Registration forms for Summer Session should be submitted by May 1. Thereafter, registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis.

Questions? Call or write:

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Fax: 802-763-2940

Website: [www.vermontlaw.edu/elc](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/elc)

## DUAL DEGREES AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

### JD Dual Degrees

#### JD/MEM with the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University

VLS and Yale University offer a dual JD and Master of Environmental Management (MEM). Students may earn the two degrees in four years by spending two and a half years at VLS and one and a half years at Yale University. Candidates for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by both schools.

#### JD/MBA with Thunderbird School of Global Management

VLS and Thunderbird offer a dual JD/MBA degree that allows for completion of both degrees in three and a half years, or three years if the applicant is eligible for both schools' accelerated programs. Because both Vermont Law School and Thunderbird offer courses in summer session, several sequencing options are available. Candidates for this dual degree must apply to, and be accepted by both institutions.

#### JD/MA-GAM or MS-GM with Thunderbird School of Global Management

VLS and Thunderbird offer JD/Master of Arts in Global Affairs and Management and JD/Master of Science in Global Management dual degrees. These options appeal to JD students who want some exposure to business, but less than the MBA degree. Either dual degree is normally completed over the three and a half years. Candidates for this dual degree must apply to, and be accepted by both institutions.

#### JD/French Master's II with University of Cergy-Pontoise

The four-year program combines two years of study at Vermont Law School with two years at two leading French universities: as degree students at the University of Cergy-Pontoise, just outside Paris, and as visiting students at the University of Montpellier, in the south of France. Students also complete two month-long internships at French law firms.

Students who complete the program earn a JD degree from Vermont Law School and an advanced level master's degree in business organization law from the University of Cergy-Pontoise. Graduates are eligible to sit for the bar examination in the U.S. and France, according to the requirements of each country. Successful bar candidates in France can practice in any European Union member state, due to EU's reciprocity rules.

#### JD/MPhil with Cambridge University

Vermont Law School's arrangement with the Department of Land Economy of the University of Cambridge, England, enables selected Vermont Law School students to

earn in three or three and a half years a Juris Doctor degree from Vermont Law School and a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge. The master's degree is currently offered in one of the following areas: Real Estate Finance; Environmental Policy; or Planning, Growth and Regeneration.

Students must apply separately to and be accepted by VLS and the University of Cambridge for admission to each element of the program. Application to the University of Cambridge will ordinarily occur during the student's second year of study at VLS.

#### JD/Master en Derecho Constitucional with the University of Seville

VLS and the University of Seville offer a dual JD and "Master en Derecho Constitucional." Students selected for participation in the program will spend two years at Vermont Law School, followed by a full year at the University of Seville, studying Spanish Constitutional law.

#### **MELP Dual Degrees**

##### MELP/MSNR with the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont

VLS and the University of Vermont offer a dual MELP and Master of Science in Natural Resources. Students may share nine credits between the two programs, allowing them to earn both degrees in two years. Candidates for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by both schools.

##### MELP/MBA with Tuck School of Business

Vermont Law School and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College offer a dual MELP/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a four-year period. Dual degree candidates must apply separately to, and be admitted to both programs.

##### MELP/MBA with Thunderbird School of Global Management

Vermont Law School and Thunderbird School of Global Management offer a dual MELP/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently, generally over a four-year period. Dual degree candidates must apply separately to, and be admitted to both programs.

##### MELP/MA or MS with Thunderbird School of Global Management

Vermont Law School and Thunderbird School of Global Management offer a dual MELP/Master of Arts in Global Affairs and Management and MELP/Master of Science in Global Management degree programs enable students to earn two master's degrees concurrently, generally over a two-year period. A candidate for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be admitted to both programs.

## **MELP/JD with Other Institutions**

### MELP/JD with the University of South Carolina School of Law and the University of South Dakota School of Law

JD students from the University of South Carolina and the University of South Dakota may earn two degrees in three years: a JD from their home institution and an MELP from VLS. This dual degree program is comprised of courses taught during VLS's Summer Session or a combination of summer courses and internships. Students may transfer nine of their JD credits to the MELP degree. Students apply to VLS for the MELP portion of the degree during their first year of law school.

### MELP/JD with Northeastern University School of Law

Through a combination of transfer credits and an environmental law co-op work placement that provides internship credit, Northeastern University School of Law (Northeastern) and Vermont Law School (VLS) will allow students who meet degree requirements at both schools to receive a dual degree of JD and MELP within the three-year term of the JD degree.

## **LAW SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

Vermont Law School has established student exchange programs with a diverse group of institutions:

- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Connecticut School of Law
- Franklin Pierce Law Center (New Hampshire)
- Hastings College of the Law (University of California)
- Howard University School of Law (Washington, D.C.)
- McGill University Faculty of Law (Canada)
- New York Law School
- Universidad de Puerto Rico School of Law
- University of Paris (France)
- University of Trento (Italy)

Through the exchange programs, a limited number of second- and third-year JD students may spend a semester at one of these law schools to take advantage of curricular offerings unavailable at Vermont Law School. Vermont Law School also permits qualified students to register for a limited number of courses at the Thayer School of Engineering or the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

Details about international exchange programs are available from the director of International and Comparative Law programs. Information about domestic exchanges

is available at office of the assistant dean for academic affairs. All exchange programs have enrollment limits and other requirements.

### **Norwich University - Air Force ROTC**

Through a dual-enrollment agreement with Vermont Law School and Air Force ROTC, we are able to provide commissioning opportunities to students who wish to become United States Air Force Judge Advocates. Students in their first or second year of law school are eligible to compete in the Graduate Law Program or One Year College Program respectively. For more information, contact the Unit Admissions Officer at Air Force ROTC Detachment 867, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, Vermont.

Call 1-800-468-6679 (press “1” for admissions, then ask for the Air Force ROTC Department) or on the web at <http://www.norwich.edu/cadets/airforcerotc/index.html>.

For more information on the Air Force Judge Advocate program, visit <http://www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil/EDprgrms/howtobecome.htm> on the web.

### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND FOCUSED STUDIES**

Many students spend more than a full semester engaged in a combination of clinical and other experiential courses. Before they graduate, VLS students choose to put theory into practice in a variety of different ways each year—from on campus clinical work to externships in law firms, corporations, nonprofits, courts, and government offices, at home and abroad. Twelve VLS faculty teach our clinical and experiential programs, which offer students a wealth of practical, hands-on opportunities to deepen the knowledge and skills they acquire in class.

#### **General Practice Program**

The General Practice Program (GPP) bridges the gap between theory and practice by integrating substantive law and professional skills in a transactional model, creating a learning experience that simulates the circumstances encountered in a general practice. Classes are structured to operate as a law firm, with professors in the role of senior partners, providing instruction and supervision for the student “associates.” Students learn as they meet the legal needs of their simulated clients.

The General Practice Program addresses the educational needs of JD students who will become general practitioners and must, therefore, be prepared to provide a range of legal services, often for the same client. Although the GPP is designed to train students with career objectives in the general practice area, it also provides an excellent foundation for students who ultimately decide to specialize.

A limited group of students is selected at the end of the first year to continue with a concentration in general practice courses during their second and third years. The students can also choose from a range of electives from the general curriculum to round out their legal education. Limited enrollment permits each student to participate in numerous exercises that simulate the tasks that general practitioners perform: client interviewing and counseling, negotiating and drafting agreements, structuring business transactions, conducting pretrial discovery, drafting briefs, arguing motions, and trying cases.

The following is the course structure for the program:

Fall Semester Second Year:

- Domestic Relations

Spring Semester Second Year:

- Commercial Transactions
- Environment Problem Solving
- Real Estate Transactions

Fall Semester Third Year:

- Business Planning
- Criminal Law
- Employment Law/Pre-Trial Litigation

Spring Semester Third Year:

- Students have an option to take a semester externship working at a general practice firm or to take a final course simulating general practice.

## **Clinics**

### Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic

Students who want to gain hands-on experience with environmental organizations and law firms may enroll in Vermont Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic. The clinic builds on our expertise in environmental law and our extensive connections with environmental advocates and policy makers. Student clinicians work on significant environmental law and policy issues and learn from some of the best environmental lawyers in the country and around the world.

Projects for the clinic are provided by local, state, national, and international environmental advocates in need of enthusiastic, knowledgeable legal assistance. Student clinicians are exposed to a range of skills and role models for environmental advocacy.

The clinic, offered in the fall and spring semesters, begins with a menu of projects selected by the clinic director. Each student chooses a project as the focus of the

practicum, then meets with the lead attorney to develop a work plan and schedule for the semester's work. The clinic director reviews work plans and guides students in their research and other preparation.

A required class develops student skills and substantive knowledge related to the projects undertaken in the practicum and to the ethical obligations of being a legal professional. Students are also trained in media relations, since the media plays a pivotal role in environmental policy and advocacy. Environmental faculty and lead attorneys are consulted and included in the seminar as appropriate.

#### Institute for Energy and the Environment

The Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) serves as a center for graduate research on energy issues with an environmental awareness. Students in the JD, MELP, and LLM degree programs may participate in the world of the IEE as members of the institute's research team.

#### Land Use Clinic

The Land Use Clinic provides students with the opportunity to improve legal research, writing, oral and written advocacy, analysis and implementation of land use case law, regulations, plans, and policy. They apply substantive knowledge of land use issues to create practical and innovative land use solutions. Students attend weekly seminars to discuss projects, research strategies, professional and ethical considerations, and community partnerships.

#### Land Use Institute

The Land Use Institute (LUI) addresses the legal and planning aspects of current land use issues. This work includes special, though not exclusive reference to the problems of nonurban areas. Students in the JD, MELP, and LLM degree programs may participate in the work of the LUI as members of the institute's research team.

#### South Royalton Legal Clinic

The South Royalton Legal Clinic offers second- and third-year JD students opportunities to represent clients in actual civil cases. Student clinicians provide help for persons otherwise unable to afford counsel in areas such as Social Security, welfare and unemployment compensation, family law, civil rights and civil liberties, landlord-tenant relations, consumer protection, juvenile law and children's rights, and federally subsidized health care and housing.

Federal and Vermont student-practice rules allow students to file pleadings, conduct discovery, and make supervised appearances in court evidentiary hearings and in appeals. Students also conduct evidentiary hearings in a variety of administrative settings.

Under the guidance of four experienced, full-time attorneys, clinicians learn to integrate their knowledge of civil procedure and substantive law with practice skills. These include interviewing, counseling and negotiation, case and statutory analysis, case preparation, research and writing, discovery, and trial practice. The clinic student quickly becomes aware of the importance of overview, organization, and independent and critical thought, and benefits from experiencing the interaction between the development of evidence and applicable legal theories. Student associates have consistently praised the clinical experience for allowing them to learn, for the first time, how to develop a real case from the outset. Clinic students have been involved in numerous Vermont Supreme Court and U.S. District Court cases that have set precedent or clarified important points of law.

The clinic is partially supported by two major grants from the Department of Justice, through the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Vermont Legal Aid. Additional significant support is also provided this year by the Vermont Community Foundation, the Upper Valley Community Foundation, and the Bissell Foundation. It is estimated that the clinic contributes up to a half million dollars in free legal services each year to the Windsor-Orange County region.

Student associates may work in the clinic either full-time (13 credits) or part-time (6 credits) during a semester. Clinical training provides excellent preparation for whatever type of practice the student enters after graduation because the knowledge gained in learning to marshal evidence and unravel complex statutes, regulations, and appellate decisions is transferable to any subject area and any type of firm.

The clinic features a substantial in-house library, interview/conference rooms, and ample individual work areas.

#### Legislative Clinic

The law school's proximity to Vermont's capital, Montpelier, allows JD and MELP students to take advantage of externships in the Vermont General Assembly. Students are assigned to a standing committee of the state legislature. Under the supervision of the committee's chair and a legislative counsel, they complete legal research and draft projects relating to pending legislation.

#### Mediation Clinic

Through intensive training, classroom seminars, and mediation observation and practice, students in this three-credit course learn to mediate various civil disputes in Vermont Superior Court, Small Claims Court, and the Environmental Court. Students also mediate conflicts in which the parties choose to avoid court or postpone filing a court action until attempting mediation. Mediators are second and third-year law students, who mediate in pairs as co-mediators. During the weekly seminar in addition

to discussing court procedure and mediation theory, and conducting skills exercises, students participate in rounds—sessions in which students present the mediation situations they experienced during the week and exchange ideas about strategies, process, ethical issues, etc.

## **Externships**

### Semester in Practice

The Semester in Practice is a field-based, experiential clinic providing JD students with a semester of credit for 15 weeks of full-time work in lieu of a semester in the classroom. The director of the clinic makes personalized student-mentor matches designed to meet the specific curricular needs of each student and the teaching/practice interests of the mentor. Students are matched with individual mentors, not agencies or firms.

Students work with mentors working throughout the U.S. and the world. They learn from participation in and reflection on the working life of experienced mentor attorneys or judges. In recent semesters, students have been involved in work as diverse as prosecution of white collar crime in the office of a United States Attorney, analysis of health insurance issues from the perspective of in-house counsel to Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and protection of human rights through work with the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights. They have protected Maine's Atlantic shoreline, addressed issues of indigenous people through work with the United Nations, and been involved in all aspects of private and corporate practice with mentors in law firms, in-house counsel, and counsel for groups as small as the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and as large as Corporation Counsel for the City of New York and the U.S. Department of Justice. Students interested in the legislative process have worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and in Montpelier, Vermont.

### Judicial Externship

The Judicial Externship Program provides students with the opportunity to obtain field-based experience in a judge's chambers as a student law clerk. Under the supervision of judges and their law clerks, students perform the tasks of a graduate law clerk, including research, judicial opinion writing and courtroom observation. The Judicial Externship is divided into two components: practicum and academic. All judicial externship students complete the Judicial Externship Academic Component, which concentrates on judicial and legal ethics, but which also provides instruction on judicial philosophy and history, judicial decision-making and judicial discretion, and judicial opinion writing. There are opportunities to perform "distant judicial externships" (those judicial externships outside of New England). Students have recently performed judicial externships with judges of several federal district courts and state appellate and trial level courts.

### Part-time Externships—JD Degree

Externships allow a limited number of JD students to gain practical experience in a variety of legal settings, such as private practice, the judiciary, governmental and nonprofit agencies, and businesses and corporations. Under the supervision of a faculty member and a field supervisor, second- and third-year students may participate in an off-campus externship for academic credit.

### Internships—MELP Degree

Students in the MELP program or the joint degree program may explore environmental law, science, and policy in a wide variety of settings either locally or worldwide.

Activities may include counseling, drafting regulations and legislation, preparing legal memoranda, drafting or commenting on environmental or land use plans, and fieldwork related to wetlands, endangered species, and other natural resource management and preservation issues.

Recent master degree students earned credit while working as interns for the following organizations:

- American Wildlands, Bozeman, Montana
- Biodiversity Group of Environmental Australia, Canberra, Australia
- Environmental Defense Fund, Boulder, Colorado
- Environmental Enforcement Section, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
- Fund for International Environmental Law and Development, London, England
- Kentucky Department of Planning and Environmental Management, Louisville, Kentucky
- Law firm of Sheehan, Phinney, Bass and Green, Manchester, New Hampshire
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Boston, Massachusetts
- National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
- National Park Service, Boulder, Colorado
- National Wildlife Federation, Boulder, Colorado
- Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Natural Resources Conservation Authority, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies
- Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Juneau, Alaska
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Waterbury, Vermont

Students design their own MELP internship with the advice and consent of a faculty member. A typical internship earns between up to nine credits. Each internship is carefully defined in a contract with the sponsoring organization. Internship contracts must meet the approval of the director of the MELP and LLM Internship program and the faculty member supervising the internship.

## **Focused Studies**

### Dispute Resolution

Although traditional legal education emphasizes litigation as a means of resolving disputes, Vermont Law School is also committed to the study of alternative means of dispute resolution. Dispute Resolution courses help students explore the theoretical and practical aspects of more efficient and cooperative processes for dispute resolution through a variety of summer and academic-year courses, conferences, and research offerings. Course offerings include: Alternative Dispute Resolution; Arbitration, Mediation, and Negotiation; and Environmental Dispute Resolution.

### Independent Research

Independent research during the second or third year allows a limited number of JD students to undertake (for credit) intensive study in a field of particular interest. Projects are supervised by faculty and culminate in a major piece of legal writing.

### Energy Certificate

The Certificate in Energy Law is designed to add value to the traditional JD or LLM degree by focusing on energy and the environment through the concentration of selected courses.

Early in the traditional degree program a student “declare” an intention to earn the certificate by the completion of a minimum of 17 credits:

#### 9 credits from required courses

- Energy Law I
- Energy Law II and
- Administrative Law

#### 4 credits from

- “Energy Summer in Vermont”

In addition, each candidate must complete one project approved by the director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment.

Suggested projects include:

- Advanced Energy Writing Seminar
- Advanced Writing Requirement on an Energy Topic
- Independent Research Project on an Energy Topic
- LLM Thesis on an Energy Topic
- LLM Internship or JD Externship in Energy Law
- Participation in the IEE Research Associate Program

### International and Comparative Law Certificate

The certificate program is designed to provide VLS students with the opportunity to pursue a curricular concentration while in law school and to develop the skills and

substantive knowledge needed for professional careers involving international and transnational law. The program responds to the increased demands that globalization has imposed on law professionals and the increasing importance of transnational practice.

Participants must earn 18 credits in international and comparative law, including required courses in public international and comparative law, and must satisfy a study abroad requirement. Certificate recipients must also earn a grade of B or above in the designated required courses and graduate with a minimum of an overall B average.

Students interested in earning a certificate must ordinarily declare their intent to participate in the program during spring semester of their first year, during the April registration period. To declare their participation, students complete the declaration form, receive a signature from the Office of the Registrar, and file copies of the declaration form with the Office of the Registrar and the International and Comparative Law Programs department.

#### Writing and Research

The development of strong writing and research skills is considered a fundamental part of a Vermont Law School education. The Legal Writing Program is a highly individualized program that familiarizes JD students with legal research techniques and develops writing and reasoning skills.

During the fall of the first year, students are introduced to the techniques of legal writing. In the spring the focus is on persuasive legal writing and the lawyering skills necessary to resolve legal disputes. Students draft memoranda of law to the court and present oral arguments. In the fall of the second year, students take Appellate Advocacy. Each student researches a case currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court and writes an appellate brief. At the end of the semester, students present oral arguments before a panel of practicing lawyers and judges. Every student must also complete a substantial written project during their second or third year.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### ADMISSIONS

The Office of Admissions recruits and processes applications for the JD, LLM, and MELP programs. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the office with questions regarding the application process or the Vermont Law School programs. Campus visits are scheduled through the office and may include:

- An informal interview with an admissions counselor
- A campus tour
- Sit in on a first-year class
- Meeting with other departments of interest

### Deferred Admission

Deferred admission for one year is considered only after an offer of admission has been made. Admission in one academic year does not ensure admission in a subsequent year. Offers of financial aid cannot be deferred.

### Exchange Students

Students enrolled at other law schools that participate in the Law School Exchange Program (see the Vermont Law School application form) should contact their home law school exchange coordinator for application instructions.

### International Students

International students should complete the regular application form. Students for whom English is not the first language should take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

### Reapplication

Vermont Law School keeps application materials on file for one year. Individuals who applied more than a year ago should follow regular application instructions. Individuals who applied within the past year must file a new application, new financial aid forms, and pay the \$60 application fee; resubscribe to the Law School Data Assembly Service (if a JD applicant); submit at least one new letter of recommendation from someone who has not written previously and submit transcripts covering any academic work undertaken since the time of last application.

### **Transfer Students**

Vermont Law School admits JD transfer students to begin study in the fall and spring semesters of the second year. Transfer students must be in residence for two full years at Vermont Law School to earn the JD degree.

### **Visiting Students**

Visiting students from other law schools are considered for one or two semesters of study at Vermont Law School. Attendance requires approval of the home institution.

### **Admission Questions**

Please contact Vermont Law School if you have questions about admission or programs. It is easiest for us to respond quickly if you telephone or email us.

Office of Admissions  
Vermont Law School  
PO Box 96  
168 Chelsea Street  
South Royalton, VT 05068-0096

Toll Free: 888-277-5985  
Phone: 802-831-1239  
Fax: 802-763-7071  
Email: [admiss@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:admiss@vermontlaw.edu)  
Website: [www.vermontlaw.edu](http://www.vermontlaw.edu)

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Student Affairs and Diversity**

The office for Student Affairs and Diversity serves as the primary focal point for addressing student needs, issues, and concerns and serves as a resource and referral office for all faculty, staff, and students. The associate dean for Student Affairs and Diversity represents the student's perspective to the Vermont Law School community.

This office works with all segments of the Vermont Law School community to help students develop through opportunities, advice, and assistance. The associate dean:

- provides support to and supervision to all student groups, including VLS's affinity groups: Alliance (association for gay, lesbian, transgender students and their allies); Asian and Pacific American Law Students Association; Black Law Students Association; Jewish Law Students Association; Latin American Law Students Association; Native American Law Students Association;
- publishes the Student Handbook;
- advises the SBA (Student Bar Association);

- assists the dean in processing cases of discriminatory personal conduct, including sexual harassment;
- provides human relations programming and sexual assault/safety education;
- coordinates campus wide community meetings and supervises orientation;
- coordinates with the dean's crisis intervention and emergency response strategies;
- promotes the academic and personal growth and development of underrepresented student groups;
- chairs the Diversity Committee;
- chairs the Student Services Committee.

The main function of the office includes sponsorship or participation in programming such as the annual Martin Luther King Celebration, African American Heritage Month, the annual Sexual Orientation and the Law conference, the annual Women's Law Group's conference, and other activities that focus on various ethnic, religious, and international law student populations. Programming is scheduled year-round in the arts, law, history, and literature.

### **Academic Success Program**

Vermont Law School's comprehensive Academic Success Program is designed to empower students, stimulate learning, and augment the classroom experience. The program's director, assistant director, and student mentors help students develop methods to conceptualize course content, work to increase comprehension of subject matter and legal methods, and stress legal analysis proficiencies related both to exam performance and skillful lawyering.

The program encourages students to approach the study of law systematically and holistically: systematically developing coordinated, structured methods, extending from preclassroom reading through examination strategy, holistically interweaving consideration of principles of law, ethics, policy, philosophy and justice. Advanced study skills addressed in group and one-to-one sessions include:

- Reading "like a lawyer"
- Case briefing—why and how
- Effective, efficient classroom note taking
- Preparing complete outlines and subject summaries
- Developing skeletal outlines and flow charts
- Goal-focused time management
- Managing study time resourcefully
- Maximizing the power of study groups
- Writing "like a lawyer"
- Examination strategies and techniques

The Academic Success Program office is located on the second floor of Waterman Hall. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this resource in order to develop an individualized methodology for success in law school.

The director coordinates a program to assist students with their bar examination preparation during their second and third years, including interactive workshops on preparing for the Multistate Performance Test and on how to manage the tasks of bar examination preparation. The office coordinates Multistate Bar Examination reviews for students during their third year of law school.

### **Career Services**

The Office of Career Services assists Vermont Law School students and alumni/ae in their initial job searches and throughout the development of their professional careers. The Office prides itself on being accessible to and highly conscious of the unique needs and desires of, each student it serves. Because the student body at the law school is small, the staff maintains close contact with students throughout their tenure at the school and after graduation.

With this in mind, the staff provides individual counseling to students on all aspects of their professional development. The office maintains extensive computer databases of current job listings and of potential employers, both in general practice settings and in specialized practice areas such as environmental law. Books, directories, periodicals, and listings of alumni/ae contacts are also available to assist students. Current law-related positions are announced to students on a regular basis and are forwarded to graduates in a bimonthly newsletter. In addition, the Office of Career Services sponsors workshops, guest speakers, and career panels on campus, bringing students together with graduates and other professionals to discuss career options and job search strategies.

### **Child Care**

The Magic Mountain Child Care Center is an independently operated and fully licensed day care facility on the Vermont Law School campus for children in the age range of six weeks to five years. The center, which opened in 1988, meets the special needs of law school students, faculty, staff, and members of the South Royalton community. For more information call 802-763-7908. Space is limited and a fee is charged.

### **Health Insurance**

All Vermont Law School students enrolled in five or more credits must be covered by a health insurance policy. Vermont Law School offers three student insurance plans with deductible amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Vermont Law School will exempt students from purchasing one of the available Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont plans under the following conditions: 1) the student is covered by a parent's policy; 2) the student is covered under a spouse's policy; or 3) the student has a policy that is comparable to one of the plans offered. In all three circumstances, the student must submit proof of insurance and file the appropriate waiver request form with Vermont Law School well in advance of the start of the coverage period. The waiver request is reviewed and if the existing plan is found to be comparable to or better than the appropriate BCBS plan, the student will be granted a waiver for one year. Waivers must be renewed each year.

Information about the VLS policy and the various plans currently offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont are available on our website at [www.vermontlaw.edu](http://www.vermontlaw.edu). For further information on health insurance please contact Clarke Collins, Senior Benefits Administrator, at [cscollins@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:cscollins@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Housing**

Students choose from a wide variety of housing options in the South Royalton area including village houses, farmhouses, modern apartments, and rooms in country inns and private homes. Most students live within walking distance of the law school. The Housing Office solicits and publishes listings of available rentals and assists students individually in making housing arrangements. You can also visit our website at [www.vermontlaw.edu/housing](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/housing).

### **Security Report**

In September of each year we publish, as required by law, a current security report containing crime statistics, policies, and a description of campus safety programs. You may request a copy of our most recent report from the Admissions Office. Vermont Law School enjoys a very low incidence of serious crime.

### **Office for Institutional Advancement**

The Office for Institutional Advancement (OIA) includes alumni relations and serves as a bridge between the world of Vermont Law School students, faculty, and staff and its alumni, parents, and friends. The closeness and human scale of the Vermont Law School academic experience, along with the sense of attachment, create exceptional alumni appreciation for the school. OIA maintains this community connection through our online alumni community, *Loquitur*, the alumni magazine, and by organizing class reunions and regional receptions and events.

The office helps alumni stay in touch personally and professionally by keeping up-to-date on their address and career changes and maintaining an alumni web site. The alumni help the Career Services and Admissions offices identify prospective employers and applicants. Some help with the school's gift programs, while others serve as class

secretaries, members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, moot court judges, and trustees of the school.

## **TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID**

### **Tuition and Expenses**

#### 2010–2011 Annual Tuition

JD	\$ 41,795.00
Fall Semester – MELP/ LLM	\$ 12,190.00
Spring Semester – MELP/ LLM	\$ 12,190.00
Summer Semester – MELP/ LLM	\$ 12,190.00
Per Credit – MELP/ LLM	\$ 1,219.00
Student Bar Association Fee	\$ 125.00
Graduation Fee	\$ 110.00
Transcripts (each, after the first)	\$ 5.00
Student Administration Fee	\$ 300.00

(\$150 per semester)

Parking Fine	\$ 5.00
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(Failure to register a car, to display a parking decal, or to abide by school parking regulations)

Interest on all overdue accounts	12 percent
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#### 2011 Summer Session

Per credit	\$ 1,219.00
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(MELP Summer credit, JD credit, Transfer to other JD/LLM program per credit)

Joint Degree Program Fee 2011	\$ 12,799.50
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#### Living Expenses

Although living styles vary, the estimated expenses for a single student for the nine-month academic year are: room and board \$10,080, books and supplies \$1,500, personal expenses \$2,380, and transportation \$2,480. Health insurance is required for all new students. See the chapter on Student Services for details.

#### Payment

Students planning to finance their education through outside grants and scholarships, or through private, state, or federal loan programs, must make final arrangements for such aid, with written notice of approval, well before the academic year begins. A student's payment may be in the form of a personal payment, grants/scholarships,

loans, or an approved payment plan. Vermont Law School offers a 10-month, no interest payment plan, which may be customized for specific needs. All deposit paid students are sent information on health insurance and payment plans. Any amount not covered by such aid or payment plan programs identified above must be paid when tuition is due. Interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum is charged on all overdue accounts.

Full-time MELP tuition is billed in three equal installments at the beginning of each semester. Joint JD/MELP degree students are billed for the MELP portion of their program in two installments (in May of the first year and May of the second year). Each installment represents one half of the total program cost.

The release of grades, diplomas, and transcripts is contingent on the satisfaction of all financial obligations to the law school. A student not meeting financial commitments may not attend classes and will be dropped from the enrollment. Questions about financial charges should be directed to the Business Office.

#### Withdrawals and Refunds

Students should inform the law school immediately of a decision to withdraw prior to the start of classes. After classes start, a student withdrawing from the school must complete an official withdrawal form and obtain the registrar's signature. A student may receive a tuition refund for the semester in which he or she withdraws, minus the nonrefundable deposit.

The semester tuition charges will be adjusted according to the following schedule. If the official withdrawal date is prior to the first day of classes, 100 percent of the tuition charge will be removed. Otherwise, the percent of the semester's tuition to be retained will be determined on a daily pro-rata basis, beginning with the first day of classes until the date of withdrawal. After 60 percent of the semester has been completed, there will be no adjustments to the tuition charges and no refunds. The daily pro-rata calculation follows the guidelines set forth in the Federal Return to Title IV Funds regulations.

An example of this calculation is available in the Financial Aid Office. Students who withdraw prior to the 60-percent point in the semester, and who received Federal Title IV aid, will owe a prorated repayment to these funds. Vermont Law School will calculate and return money owed to Title IV programs as part of the refund process. Refunds due the federal aid programs are first allocated to the Federal Family Educational Loans, and then to the Federal Perkins Loans. Nonfederal student financial aid refunds are first allocated to institutional programs, then to alternative loans, then to outside scholarship sources, and finally to reimburse personal payments (unless otherwise dictated by prior arrangement with an outside funding program). If the student is due a refund, any nonrefundable deposits are subtracted from the refund.

## **Financial Aid**

Currently over 90 percent of Vermont Law School students receive some form of financial assistance. Merit Scholarships for entering students are awarded through the Office of Admissions. Merit Scholarships for second and third year students are awarded after class rankings are determined. Students must apply for financial aid to be considered for any type of grants, loans, and work-study funds administered by the law school.

Financial aid is granted annually and awards are subject to student eligibility, availability of funding, and program limits. A new application must be completed each year.

### Application Process

Timely applications are considered first in situations where funding is limited. Applications completed before March 1 are given priority for limited campus-based financial aid funds. Note that the FAFSA form requires income tax information for the previous year and cannot be filed before January 1. Because application processing takes several weeks, we recommend that students file before February 15.

Supplemental data is collected on the VLS Financial Aid application for campus-based aid because of funding limitations. We recommend that all new financial aid applicants provide supplemental data to ensure consideration for all programs. Supplemental data does not change eligibility for Federal Family Educational Loans (FFEL) or alternative loans. All information submitted in application for financial aid is confidential.

Enrolled students who have received financial aid from Vermont Law School are required to provide updated information each year on the Vermont Law School Financial Aid Application and the FAFSA.

### Eligibility

To be considered for federal financial aid, a student must:

- 1) be enrolled at least half-time and making satisfactory academic progress in the Vermont Law School JD, MELP, or LLM program;
- 2) be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (see FAFSA instructions for definition of eligible noncitizen);
- 3) not be in default on a previous federal loan or owe a refund on federal financial aid received in the past;
- 4) be registered with Selective Service (if applicable); and
- 5) have educational expenses and demonstrated financial need.

Applicants for Vermont Law School financial aid must be enrolled at least half time and have demonstrated financial need exceeding educational expenses. Because institutional funds are limited, Vermont Law School financial aid funds will not cover the entire cost of education. Most students borrow educational loans to finance these additional costs. Students who are not eligible for federal loans will need to borrow funds through alternative loans. Additional information regarding borrowing alternative loans is available at the financial aid office.

## **External Programs**

### Federal Family Educational Loans (FFEL)

Because government and institutional funds available to the law school for financial aid are limited, all financial aid applicants (except merit award only recipients) must also complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans. The federal Stafford loan interest rates are fixed at 6.8 percent.

Vermont Law School determines eligibility for Stafford Loan programs. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized Stafford loans while you are in school and the six months following graduation, withdrawal or classification as less than a half-time student. Students who do not qualify for the maximum available subsidized Stafford loan may borrow an unsubsidized Stafford loan. The combined total borrowed through the Stafford loan program (subsidized and unsubsidized) cannot exceed the annual maximum of \$20,500 or the aggregate maximum of \$138,500. The maximum subsidized portion is \$8,500 per academic year to an aggregate maximum of \$65,500.

With a Grad PLUS loan, you may borrow up to the full cost of your education, less other financial aid received including Federal Stafford loans. The Federal Grad PLUS loan interest rate is fixed at 8.5 percent. Students borrowing the Stafford and Grad PLUS loans must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for each program. These notes can be completed electronically on your lenders website. The MPN needs to be completed just once for multiple years of borrowing through the Stafford or Grad PLUS loan programs.

## **Other Programs**

### Outside Loan and Scholarship Sources

Students should investigate scholarship, grant, and loan sources through their state or local bar associations and civic organizations, and search the reference section of local libraries for information. A listing of outside loan and scholarship resource books is available from the Financial Aid Office. Vermont Law School is approved under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program.

### Campus-Based Programs

Students are expected to apply for a Federal Subsidized Stafford Student Loan (described previously) in addition to campus-based funds. Due to American Bar Association guidelines, first-year JD students are not considered for Federal Work-Study jobs, and thus are eligible for larger Federal Perkins Loans than second- and third-year students. During the second and third year, eligible students are awarded a combination of Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Work-Study. All needy second- and third-year students are expected to work during the academic year, as well as during the summer.

Funding limitations compel Vermont Law School to collect supplemental data from applicants for campus-based aid to ensure a more equitable distribution of grants, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loans, and fellowships. Supplemental data includes asset information, projected earnings, information from prospective spouse, and an academic index (for JD students) based on prior academic accomplishments and standardized test (LSAT) scores. This supplemental data is used to direct institutional funding sources to students with lower financial resources and higher probability of academic success. This information does not adversely affect eligibility for Federal Family Educational Loans or alternative loans.

### **Loans**

#### Federal Perkins Loans

The Federal Perkins Loan program (formerly NDSL) enables students with demonstrated financial need to borrow limited amounts with no interest until nine months after graduation or withdrawal from school, or upon classification as a part-time student. The current interest rate during repayment is 5 percent. Students may not borrow more than \$18,000 in Federal Perkins funds for post-secondary education. The availability of such funds for students depends not only upon the applicants' need, but also on the amount of federal funds allocated to the law school and the amount collected from past students. Federal Perkins funds are applied to the student tuition accounts.

### **Employment**

#### Federal Work-Study Program

The Federal Work-Study Program offers employment opportunities for second- and third-year JD students and MELP or LLM students who have demonstrated need.

Employment is generally not advised for students during their first year of legal studies. On-campus work-study students may be employed as faculty research assistants, library aides, grounds workers, and office workers. Off-campus work-study students

may be employed by nonprofit or public organizations. The availability of Federal Work-Study depends on the amount of federal funds allocated to the law school.

### **Grants, Scholarships and Awards**

#### Alden Trust Scholarship

This endowed fund was established by the Alden Trust to provide scholarships to needy students.

#### Alumni/Alumnae Scholarship Fund

This fund provides scholarship support to one student in each class with financial need and a strong commitment to community service work as demonstrated through current and past work as well as future plans. The fund was established as the class gift by the class of 1991.

#### Dean's Scholarship Awards

Following the first year of law school, students ranking in the top 20 percent of the class with demonstrated financial need may qualify for supplemental scholarship support through Dean's Scholarship Awards. Funding from this scholarship is used to supplement existing tuition grant awards to bring the scholarship funding to the following levels:

Ranking	percent of tuition funded by institutional scholarship (all sources)
15 – 20 percent	1/8 tuition
10 – 15 percent	1/4 tuition
5 – 10 percent	3/8 tuition
Top 5 percent	1/2 tuition

#### Debevoise Family Scholarship Fund

The Debevoise Family Scholarship Fund provides grants to qualified minority and disadvantaged applicants with demonstrated financial need. These grants are renewable if the student continues to demonstrate financial need.

#### Governor Ernest W. Gibson Scholarship

This endowed scholarship fund was established in memory of Governor Ernest W. Gibson. Awards from this fund are given to students who are residents of Vermont that have financial need with a preference given to students attending law school who express an intent to locate in the State of Vermont.

#### Vermont Law School Tuition Grants

The Vermont Law School Tuition Grant Program provides grants to applicants based on financial need and academic potential. Eligibility is determined on an annual basis.

### Waterman Memorial Scholarships

Deserving and needy Vermonters are considered for funds from the Sterry R. Waterman Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established in recognition of the Honorable Sterry R. Waterman, former chief judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, and long-time president of the Vermont Law School Board of Trustees.

### Windsor County Scholarships

This endowed fund was established to provide scholarship aid to needy graduates of Vermont high schools. Preference is given to students from Windsor County.

### **Fellowships**

Fellowship applications are available in October. One application can be used to apply for all fellowships. However, eligibility criteria and application deadlines may vary.

### Barrister's Bookshop Fellowship

This fellowship awards supports summer employment with an organization that serves the public, the poor, or traditionally underrepresented groups that offer little or no pay to legal interns. The fellowship seeks to increase awareness of the lawyer's obligation to serve the public and encourages students to consider careers in public service.

### Jonathon B. Chase Memorial Fellowships

This endowed fund was established by members of the Vermont Law School community in memory of Jonathon B. Chase, dean of Vermont Law School from 1982–87. Scholarships from the fund are awarded annually to that student, or students, whose proposed activities in the area of civil rights or public interest advocacy promise to contribute significantly to the cause of social justice. Chase Scholarships are available to Vermont Law School students following completion of their first year. Typically they will support part- or full-time work in an appropriate legal setting during either the summer or the academic year.

### Lexis Publishing Fellowship

The Lexis Publishing Fellowship provides a summer stipend to a student pursuing summer employment in the public interest sector.

### Environmental Law Center International Fellowship

This fellowship provides a full tuition waiver to one international student in the LLM in Environmental Law degree program each year. Applicants should submit a statement of their interest, qualifications, and financial need along with the LLM application.

### Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinical Fellowship

This two-year fellowship for students in the LLM in Environmental Law degree program provides a full tuition waiver and a living stipend. Fellows are expected to work

20 hours per week at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic while pursuing the LLM degree part time.

#### Institute for Energy and the Environmental LLM Fellowship

This two-year fellowship for students in the LLM in Environmental Law degree program provides a full tuition waiver and a living stipend. Fellows are expected to work 20 hours per week at the Institute for Energy and the Environment while pursuing the LLM degree part time.

#### Land Use Institute LLM Fellowship

This two-year fellowship for students in the LLM in Environmental Law degree program provides a full tuition waiver and a living stipend. Fellows are expected to work 20 hours per week at the Land Use Institute while pursuing the LLM degree part time.

#### The George Perkins Marsh Conservation Fellowship

This fellowship seeks to further the values and ideas of the man many consider “the first environmentalist.” Born in 1801 in Woodstock, Vermont, Marsh inspired an international conservation movement with his book, *Man and Nature*. His writing led directly to the formation of the first forest reserves in the nation.

Educated at nearby Dartmouth College, Marsh taught, farmed, practiced law, and conducted business before finally settling on a career in politics and diplomacy. As a member of the United States Congress, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution; he believed history should reflect the activities of the people, not only those of their leaders. A renowned linguist and world traveler, Marsh was ambassador to Turkey in the early 1850s and to the newly united Kingdom of Italy from 1861 until his death 20 years later.

The Marsh Fellowship provides tuition stipends to one or more MELP or LLM students each year. Recipients are expected to undertake projects that contribute in a meaningful way to the conservation of natural resources. Projects may include writing and presenting scholarly papers, developing practical manuals, teaching a seminar, or providing community service. Examples of past projects include a water quality plan for the Gulf of Maine, a conservation guide for Vermont’s Long Trail, and a report to the National Park Service on establishing a binational heritage corridor in the Lake Champlain/Richelieu River Valley.

Applicants for the Marsh Fellowship must include a separate letter with the MELP or LLM application containing information on their qualifications, experience and need, and a brief project proposal. The proposal should describe the objectives of the project and how they will further the conservation ethic espoused by Marsh.

### First Nations Environmental Law Fellowship

American Indian tribal governments have sovereign rights to manage their lands and natural resources. Each tribe also has the right to maintain its unique cultural heritage. Federal environmental laws recognize important roles for Indian tribal governments in pollution control, cultural resources management, and the review of proposed federal actions. Many tribal governments have made environmental protection a high priority matter, but developing the governmental capacity to perform leading roles in environmental protection nevertheless presents many challenges. The First Nations Environmental Law Fellowship Program seeks to help tribal governments meet these challenges by helping a select group of Native American students acquire specialized knowledge in the field of environmental law.

This fellowship provides financial assistance for tuition and living expenses to up to two candidates for the MELP or LLM program each year. The purpose of the fellowship is to enable members of federally-recognized Indian tribes to pursue careers in environmental protection and resource conservation, with the expectation that each fellow will become directly involved in developing the legal and institutional framework for tribal environmental programs. Graduates are expected to perform one year of service to their respective communities at the completion of the degree. The fellowship was made possible by start-up grants from the Freeman Foundation, the Educational Foundation of America, Laurance S. Rockefeller, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

To apply for the First Nations Environmental Law Fellowship, applicants must show membership in a federally-recognized Indian tribe, financial need, good academic standing, and a demonstrated commitment to environmental issues that affect tribal communities. Applicants must submit a personal statement describing how the MELP will further the applicant's career goals and community service, and two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's tribal community.

### Equal Justice Foundation Fellowships

Founded by students to encourage public interest legal service, the Equal Justice Foundation Fellowships are awarded by vote of membership to public interest projects encouraging public service and diversity in professional experience.

### Zander Rubin Fellowships

This endowed fund was established in memory of Zander Rubin, the first director of the South Royalton Legal Clinic. This fund provides an annual stipend to support a student's summer legal work on behalf of clients who are disadvantaged or members of traditionally underrepresented groups. Application deadlines are announced each fall. Priority is given to students who will be working in Vermont.

## **Other Programs**

### Vermont Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program

The law school has established a loan repayment assistant program. The program was initiated to assist alumni who would like to enter low paying public interest legal employment but whose debt level might preclude such a choice. Additional information is available from the Financial Aid Office.

### George Frederick Hurd Student Loan Fund

This revolving loan fund provides emergency, short-term assistance to students when there is serious need and all other available sources of aid have been exhausted. These short-term loans carry 8.5 percent interest from the date of issue. Generous donors have made this memorial fund available. Any student needing emergency aid should call the Financial Aid Office for an appointment.

## **Notices, Rights, and Responsibilities**

- A. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 requires that Vermont Law School, as a recipient of student aid funds under federal programs, inform all students of the purposes and uses to be made of the information that is solicited and of their rights vis-à-vis access to and disclosure of this information.
  1. The financial information requested by Vermont Law School is needed and used to determine a student's eligibility for the financial aid for which he/she has applied. It is also used to verify the identity of the applicant, to permit servicing of loans, and, in the event it is necessary, to locate missing borrowers and collect on delinquent or defaulted loans.
  2. Guidelines and information concerning access to and disclosure of educational records are outlined in the Vermont Law School Student Handbook. These regulations are given to each student during orientation and are always on reserve in the library.
  3. Disclosure of information will be made without the student's prior written consent in connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received. This information will only be disclosed as necessary to do the following: a) determine the eligibility of the student for financial aid, b) determine the amount of financial aid, c) determine the conditions that will be imposed regarding the financial aid, or d) enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid.
- B. Federal Work-Study wages are paid biweekly by check or direct deposit. Federal Perkins Loans are applied to student tuition accounts at the beginning of each

semester. Federal Stafford and Supplemental Loans are disbursed through copayable checks or electronically transferred funds at the beginning of each semester. Vermont Law School Scholarships are deducted from tuition charges.

- C. Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford, and Federal Supplemental Loans are repayable over a period of not more than 10 years, beginning at the expiration of a grace period. Students are generally required to make minimum monthly payments of \$40 for Federal Perkins Loans and \$50 for Federal Stafford Student Loans. These loans may be prepaid in whole or in part, at any time without penalty. Some sample repayment schedules appear below.
- D. A student's continued eligibility for any financial aid program at Vermont Law School is contingent upon his/her a) being enrolled as at least a half-time student, b) maintaining satisfactory progress as defined in the Academic Regulations, c) not being in default on any previous federal or institutional loans, and d) not owing a refund on any previous federal aid.
- E. All students are required to report any of the following changes to the Vermont Law School Financial Aid Office: a) withdrawal from Vermont Law School, b) change in student enrollment status, c) change in address, d) change in name, or e) change in financial situation.
- F. Students are responsible for providing the Financial Aid Office with any supplemental information requested, and the following required documentation:
  - 1. All students who are applying for Federal Stafford Student Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, or Federal Work-Study must submit copies of their federal income tax returns upon request. Students filing as independent must submit their most recent tax returns.
- G. In the event a student fails to make scheduled loan payments, Vermont Law School will use every legal means to collect. The student will be held liable for reasonable attorney's fees and other costs and charges incurred by Vermont Law School in collecting the loan.
- H. For further information contact David Myette, Director of Financial Aid, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont 05068-0096. Office hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. You may schedule an appointment by emailing or calling Deb Becker at [dbecker@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:dbecker@vermontlaw.edu), 802-831-1235.

### Policy on Release of Student Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 applies to institutional policies governing access to and release of student educational records maintained by Vermont Law School. In accordance with the act, the law school accords students access to the educational records directly related to them, offers students an opportunity to petition the Board of Review to challenge such records as inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate, and requires the student's written consent or request before releasing identifiable information from his or her educational record to persons outside the school. Vermont Law School may release directory information (address, telephone number, dates of attendance, class schedule, and degree and honors earned) unless the student has specifically requested to the registrar, in writing and within two weeks of the start of the academic year, that no such information be released. Guidelines for access to educational records may be obtained from the registrar. Each student has the right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning the alleged failure by the institution to comply with the Act.

## **SELECTED REGULATIONS AND POLICIES**

### **Policies and Regulations for Students**

A Student Handbook containing all student policies and regulations is given to each student. Students should familiarize themselves with its content. All rules and regulations, including the Academic Regulations; the Honor Code; the Code of Conduct; and the Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination are subject to continuing review and may be changed by the faculty at any time. When changed, notice is given before inclusion in the Student Handbook.

### **Student Conduct**

Student conduct is governed by the Vermont Law School Code of Conduct; the Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination; and the Honor Code, which are published in the Student Handbook. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the contents of the codes and conform their conduct to these principles.

### Honor Code

Vermont Law School is a community of adults and professionals committed to the principles of academic integrity and honesty, which are the underpinnings for the responsible exercise of academic freedom. As an expression of this commitment, Vermont Law School has developed this Honor Code with attendant procedures to deal with instances of academic dishonesty and misconduct that may occur in connection with any aspect of a student's work and performance in curricular (e.g., courses, experiential programs) or cocurricular (e.g., law review, moot court) endeavors.

### Code of Conduct

Vermont Law School students are citizens of an academic and social community whose members are expected to show respect for the person, property, and rights of others. This code prohibits: 1) Any conduct that evidences fraud, deceit, dishonesty, any intent to harm or to obtain unfair advantage of another, or a gross disregard for the rights of others; and 2) any conduct that violates VLS's regulations or policies contained in the Student Handbook; and 3) any conduct that raises serious doubts about the student's honesty, integrity, or fitness to practice law.

### Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination

Vermont Law School is committed to promoting an employment and educational environment free from unlawful harassment, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability (including duty of reasonable accommodation), ethnicity, HIV-positive status, national origin, place of birth, race, religion, sex/gender (including gender identity/expression), sexual

orientation, or veteran status, as defined by applicable law (“protected characteristics”), is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Vermont Law School does not discriminate on the basis of disability. No limitations are placed on the number or proportion of persons with disabilities who may be admitted or enrolled. Any information concerning an applicant’s disability provided during the admissions process is voluntary or optional and is maintained in accordance with laws relating to confidentiality. Vermont Law School recognizes its legal obligation to make reasonable accommodations to provide overall educational program accessibility for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities.

The law school seeks to accommodate students with disabilities on an individual basis. Individual students are given reasonable and necessary accommodations based on specific information and assessment data documented by a professional from outside the law school who, in the judgment of the school, is qualified to provide such information and assessments. While the law school will strive to accommodate students as fully as possible, reasonable accommodations do not include measures that fundamentally alter the academic program of the law school or that place undue administrative or financial burdens on the law school.

To the extent deemed reasonably possible and readily achievable, the location of programs within the physical plant will provide equal access to mobility- and visually-impaired students. The law school physical plant is a 13-acre complex of buildings, many of which were built over one hundred years ago. Some areas within older buildings are inaccessible to mobility-impaired students or difficult to access. However, as the school renovates older buildings, efforts are made to improve accessibility.

For a complete copy of the Policy and Procedures for the Provision of Services to Students with Disabilities, please refer to the Student Handbook.

### **Academic Regulations**

The Student Handbook, containing all academic regulations, is distributed to students at the commencement of every academic year. Students must familiarize themselves with the graduation requirements of their academic program, as well as with academic regulations of general application to all VLS students.

### **JD Grading System**

Each student’s academic standing is determined at the end of each semester and at the end of the academic year in accordance with the following grading system.

A.....	4.0
A-.....	3.666
B+.....	3.333
B.....	3.0
B-.....	2.666
C+.....	2.333
C.....	2.0
C-.....	1.666
D+.....	1.333
D.....	1.0
F.....	0.0

Pass (no effect on average).....	P
Pass-Honors (no effect on average).....	P-H
Low-Pass (no effect on average).....	L-P
Unexcused absence from examination.....	FABs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements, including attendance, papers, etc.....	F-Wd
Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement.....	I
[The student must complete the required work by the end of the following semester (in the case of a fall semester course) or by the beginning of the following semester (in the case of a spring semester course), or an additional grade of F will be entered.]	
Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course.....	Wd
Year-long course.....	Y
Administrative Delay.....	AD
The passing grade in an individual course is.....	D (1.0)

The following courses are graded Pass/Pass-Honors/Low-Pass/Fail:

- Advanced Bar Studies
- Deans Fellows
- Environmental and Natural
- Resources Law Clinic
- Legal Research and Writing
- Mediation Field Work
- South Royalton Legal Clinic

The following courses are graded Pass/Fail:

- Environmental Semester in Washington Practicum
- Part-time JD Externship
- Judicial Externship practicum
- Law Review

- Legislative Clinic
- Semester in Practice practicum
- Trial Practice
- Vermont’s Journal of Environmental Law

Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter, and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students successfully completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to the receipt of a diploma.

Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded for cumulative averages as follows:

cum laude .....	3.25
magna cum laude .....	3.50
summa cum laude .....	3.75

JD Probation and Dismissal

To be in good academic standing, JD candidates must maintain an overall average of at least 2.20.

JD Course Load

The minimum course load is 10 hours per semester, and the maximum course load is 17 hours per semester. Although there is no per semester “classroom hour” requirement, students must, in the course of six semesters, complete a minimum of 900 hours (65 credits) of course work requiring actual attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions.

JD students may enroll in one nonlaw course. Credits so earned may be applied toward the 87 semester hours required for the Juris Doctor degree.

JD Special Students

Vermont Law School permits enrollment by students who are not enrolled in a degree program at Vermont Law School or another law school, provided that such individuals have obtained a bachelor’s degree or completed substantially all of the work required for a bachelor’s degree. Permission to take a particular class as a nondegree student rests in the discretion of the vice dean for academic affairs and the professor teaching the course. Nondegree students are required to fulfill the same course requirements as degree candidates. They will be graded and receive Vermont Law School credit upon completion of the course. Nondegree students are subject to the same rules and regulations as the degree candidates, and they have access to the law school library and other facilities.

Courses taken as a nondegree student may not be transferred into the JD program for credit and do not satisfy the residence requirement of Academic Regulation II.A.4. Vermont Law School does not grant credit toward the JD degree for courses completed prior to a student's matriculation as a candidate for the JD degree at an accredited law school. Non-degree students are required to pay tuition on a per credit basis.

Auditing JD Courses

Auditing of courses by regularly registered students is permitted provided a) the instructor consents, and b) there is a seat available according to the Registrar's records. The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student's record. A student who has audited for more than three weeks shall not be permitted to take the course for credit unless the instructor consents.

Auditing by non-Vermont Law School students is allowed with the consent of the vice dean for academic affairs and the instructor, under terms prescribed by them and upon payment of the required fee. Any certification of auditing of this type shall state that Vermont Law School makes no representation as to the individual's a) qualifications, b) attendance, or c) comprehension of the materials.

LLM Grading System

Students' cumulative grade-point averages are determined after completion of the first semester of coursework, in accordance with the following grading system:

A.....	4.0
A-.....	3.666
B+.....	3.333
B.....	3.0
B-.....	2.666
C+.....	2.333
C.....	2.0
C-.....	1.666
D+.....	1.333
D.....	1.0
F.....	0.0

Pass (no effect on average).....	P
Pass-Honors (no effect on average).....	P-H
Low-Pass (no effect on average).....	L-P
Unexcused absence from examination.....	FABs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements including attendance, papers, etc.....	F-Wd

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement ..... I  
 [The student must complete the required work by the end of the following semester (in the case of a fall semester course) or by the beginning of the following semester (in the case of a spring semester course), or an additional grade of F will be entered.]  
 Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course..... Wd  
 Year-long course..... Y  
 Administrative Delay..... AD

LLM Probation and Dismissal

To be in good academic standing, LLM candidates must maintain an overall average of at least 2.20.

LLM candidates will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of six credits of coursework, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

Academic dismissal: An LLM candidate will be dismissed if:

1. the student has failed six credit hours of coursework; or
2. the student’s cumulative average is below 1.90 at any time after the completion of six hours of coursework; or
3. the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the LLM program.

LLM Honors and Awards

Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter, and at commencement held annually at the end of spring semester. Students successfully completing the LLM degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to receipt of a diploma.

Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded for cumulative averages as follows:

cum laude .....3.25  
 magna cum laude .....3.50  
 summa cum laude .....3.75

LLM Course Load

The maximum course load in the summer program is 11 credits. The maximum course load in the fall or winter semester is 14 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the director or the director’s designee.

### LLM Auditing

LLM candidates may audit law school courses provided a) the instructor consents, and b) there is space available according to the registrar's records. The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student's record. Students who have audited a course for more than three weeks are not permitted to take the course for credit without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. A student may audit one course free of tuition in each semester in which the student is registered.

### MELP Grading System

Each student's cumulative grade-point average is initially determined after completion of the first semester of coursework, in accordance with the following grading system:

A.....	4.0
A-.....	3.666
B+.....	3.333
B.....	3.0
B-.....	2.666
C+.....	2.333
C.....	2.0
C-.....	1.666
D+.....	1.333
D.....	1.0
F.....	0.0

Pass (no effect on average).....	P
Pass-Honors (no effect on average).....	P-H
Low-Pass (no effect on average).....	L-P
Unexcused absence from examination.....	FABs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements including attendance, papers, etc.....	F-Wd
Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement.....	I
[The student must complete the required work by the end of the following semester (in the case of a fall semester course) or by the beginning of the following semester (in the case of a spring semester course), or an additional grade of F will be entered.]	
Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course.....	Wd
Year-long course.....	Y
Administrative Delay.....	AD

### MELP Probation and Dismissal

To be in good academic standing, students must have an overall average of at least 2.20. Students will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of the first semester of coursework, the student's cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

Academic dismissal: A student will be dismissed if:

- 1.) the student has failed six credit hours upon completion of the first semester of coursework; or
- 2.) the student's cumulative average is below 1.90 at the end of any semester; or
- 3.) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the program.

MELP Honors and Awards

Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter, and at commencement held annually at the end of spring semester. Students successfully completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to receipt of a diploma.

The Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded for cumulative averages as follows:

cum laude .....	3.25
magna cum laude .....	3.50
summa cum laude .....	3.75

Transfer of Credits

Students enrolled in the MELP program may be granted credit for summer or regular semester courses satisfactorily completed at an ABA-approved law school or at another accredited graduate school. Students may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the MELP program with the approval of the director or the designee. Before granting such approval, the director or designee must determine that the course is offered at the graduate level, and that the course is relevant and important to the student's overall program of study. Courses eligible as transfer credit include only those courses with specific environmental substance. Nonenvironmental law courses, with the exception of Administrative Law, may be used to meet required or distributional courses, but may not be transferred for credit. The registrar must receive official notification that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better (as defined in the Academic Regulations) has been awarded. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on student transcripts but will not be used in computing student grade averages. Once a student has enrolled as a degree candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the director or designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than five years prior to matriculation into the MELP program.

Students wishing to take a course previously taken at a law school or college or graduate school may register for the course with the prior approval of the director or director's designee, upon showing that the student would benefit from taking the

course at VLS. Students may not take Administrative Law at VLS if they have taken it at another law school within the previous five years.

#### MELP Auditing

Auditing of MELP courses by regularly registered students is permitted provided a) the instructor consents, and b) there is a seat available according to the registrar's records. The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student's record. Students who have audited a course for more than three weeks shall not be permitted to take the course for credit without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. Students may audit one MELP course free of tuition in each semester in which the student is registered. Auditing of MELP courses by students not enrolled in the MELP program is allowed with the consent of the director or the director's designee and the instructor, under terms prescribed by them, and upon payment of the required fee.

## FACULTY

### Full-Time Faculty

Susan B. Apel (sabbatical fall 2010–spring 2011)  
Director of the General Practice Program  
Professor of Law  
JD, Northeastern University, 1977  
BA, Pennsylvania State University, 1974

Tracy L. Bach  
Professor of Law  
JD, *cum laude*, University of Minnesota, 1994  
MA, University of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey Institute, 1994  
BA, *cum laude*, Yale University, 1984

Alexander W. Banks '87  
Staff Attorney  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
South Royalton Legal Clinic  
JD, Vermont Law School, 1987  
BA, Bates College, 1983

Laurie J. Beyranevand '03  
Assistant Professor of Law  
JD, Vermont Law School, 2003  
BA, Rutgers College, 1999

Teresa Clemmer  
Acting Director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic  
Associate Professor of Law  
JD, *cum laude*, Georgetown University Law Center, 1999  
AB, *cum laude*, Princeton University, 1994

Liz Ryan Cole  
Director of the Semester in Practice Program  
Professor of Law  
JD, Boston University, 1973  
BA, Oberlin College, 1968

Jason C. Czarnecki  
Professor of Law

JD, University of Chicago Law School, 2003  
AB, University of Chicago, 2000

Johanna K.P. Dennis  
Associate Professor of Law  
MS, Johns Hopkins University, 2007  
JD, Temple University, 2005  
BA, Rutgers College, 2002

Sheryl Dickey  
Staff Attorney  
Assistant Professor of Law  
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic  
LLM, Vermont Law School, 2010  
JD, American University, Washington College of Law, 2002  
AB, Smith College, 1993

Michael Dworkin  
Director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment  
Professor of Law  
JD, cum laude, Harvard Law School, 1978  
BA, *summa cum laude*, Middlebury College, 1975

Stephen Dycus  
Professor of Law  
LLM, Harvard University, 1976  
LLB, Southern Methodist University, 1965  
BA, Southern Methodist University, 1963

John Echeverria  
Professor of Law  
JD, Yale Law School, 1981  
MFS, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, 1981  
BA, Yale University, 1976

Arthur C. Edersheim  
Staff Attorney  
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