

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

2011 ADMITTED STUDENTS' GUIDE



(WELCOME)

ADVOCATE



Admitted Students' Visiting Day—March 30, 2011

On Visiting Day you can tour the Vermont Law School campus and meet faculty, staff, current students, and future classmates. You may choose to sit in on classes, attend an information session on our environmental programs, and visit over 20 information tables about experiential and academic programs, financial aid, student groups, and campus organizations. A list of area accommodations, directions to our campus, and other information for planning your visit to Vermont Law School are available online at www.vermontlaw.edu/admit. To RSVP, call 888-277-5985 or email admiss@vermontlaw.edu.

*Admitted Students' Facebook Page
Vermont Law School—Entering Class 2011*

CONGRATULATIONS!

I am delighted to welcome you to Vermont Law School, a community that prepares exceptional students to have an impact in their careers. Both dynamic and supportive, the school is dedicated to instilling the skills you need to succeed. We foster deep engagement with your studies and your community—encouraging individuality, responsibility, and an interest in public service.

I strongly urge you and your partner to attend the Admitted Students' Visiting Day for all programs on March 30, 2011. In addition to meeting VLS students, staff, faculty, and current partners, you will have a great opportunity to get to know some of your future classmates.

If you are not able to participate in this event, I invite you to schedule a campus visit at your convenience during the enrollment process. Call the Office of Admissions several days in advance of your visit so that we can help you arrange class visits, a campus tour, and appointments with a financial aid or career counselor.

During the summer, you will receive your Orientation schedule and reading assignments. We will keep in touch with you and provide all the information you need.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance as you make your enrollment decisions. I hope to see you at Vermont Law School very soon.

With warm regards,



Kathy Hartman
Associate Dean for Enrollment Management



“Today’s legal market rewards those seeking opportunities with smaller firms, government agencies, and public interest organizations—the very places VLS grads have historically been successful.”

ABBY ARMSTRONG, JD 1984
DIRECTOR OF CAREER COUNSELING



CAREER PATHS

Vermont Law School will expand your career options, whether in the public or nonprofit sectors or in a large firm in private practice.

Our graduates have found jobs at the intersections of law and politics, science, economics, and ethics. Their knowledge, leadership skills, and experience have led them to positions of responsibility and influence throughout the U.S. and in countries around the world.

Our Office of Career Services serves as a clearinghouse for information on professional and experiential opportunities throughout your law school years. It provides tools for résumé and interview preparation and helps you research and apply for internships and summer jobs and explore a range of postgraduate placements. Starting with the first days of orientation and finishing with bar exams, the *VLS Academic and Career Road Map* serves as a three-year guide to finding a job. We offer many resources and services, including a searchable online directory of alumni, an online job posting site updated daily, and a comprehensive *Judicial Clerkship Guide* and a *Career Planning Guide*.

Career Services offers a variety of networking opportunities. Our alumni stay connected and involved by sitting on career education panels,

posting internships or job descriptions, and volunteering as career advisors. Take a look at some profiles of our alumni at www.vermontlaw.edu/Career_Paths/Alumni_Profiles.htm.

For more information, please contact the Office of Career Services or visit www.vermontlaw.edu/Career_Services.htm.

Office of Career Services
802-831-1243
800-227-1395 X1243
Fax: 802-763-3217
careerservices@vermontlaw.edu

Within nine months of graduating, 93 percent of the class of 2009 were employed, in all regions of the country and abroad, in the following areas:

- 29% private law firm
- 17% public interest/nonprofit
- 20% business and industry
- 17% judicial clerkship
- 17% government



Outside Resources

Additional funding may be available through any number of public and private organizations. We encourage you to research these sources. Here are a few websites you may find helpful.

www.accessgroup.org
www.finaid.org
www.ed.gov/OPE
www.vsac.org
www.fastweb.com



“Lawyers should prevail by rigor, logic, and persuasion based on evidence. To care deeply about something is not as compelling as having the skills and resources to competently deal with, navigate, and impact important issues.”

PROFESSOR MICHAEL DWORKIN



SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

About 90 percent of students at Vermont Law School receive some form of financial aid.

If you have been granted a merit-based scholarship, notification is included in your acceptance letter. The Financial Aid Office encourages you to contact them with any questions about financial aid or other financial concerns. Visit www.vermontlaw.edu/admit for details and updates.

When you apply for financial aid you are considered for both federal and private loans and for institutional aid. Federal financial aid includes loans and work study programs, while institutional programs include fellowships, scholarships, and grants. Most of these funds consider financial need, while others consider academic merit as well.

LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS

The new federal income-based loan repayment program is available for anyone who qualifies. The loan forgiveness program helps JD graduates pursue careers in public-interest law. Both of these programs are designed to assist in repaying federal, private, undergraduate, and graduate student loans.

In 1996, Vermont Law School began the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to help JD graduates pursue careers in public-interest law. LRAP is designed to assist in the repayment of

student loans (federal, private, undergraduate, and graduate). All awards are disbursed as loans and forgiven at the end of the year, contingent on continuing public-interest employment. Representative employers include legal services offices, public defenders, environmental advocacy groups, and federal agencies.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid application process consists of two documents. Following these steps will keep you on the right track.

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can do this on paper or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to include the VLS school code: 611934.
- Complete and submit the Vermont Law School Financial Aid Application. Send this completed application to the VLS Financial Aid office.

Financial Aid Applications filed by March 1 will receive priority.

Financial Aid Office
802-831-1235
800-227-1395 x1235
Fax: 802-831-1111
finaid@vermontlaw.edu

TUITION & FEES

TUITION RATE SCHEDULE 2010–2011

Tuition rates for 2011–2012 will be announced in March 2011.

Summer 2010	\$12,248.00 1,166.00 11,665.00 400.00 200.00	Joint Degree Tuition Per Credit MELP/LLM—3rd Semester Audit per Credit Alumni “Audit” per Credit
JD Tuition 2010–2011	\$41,795.00	Annual (Fall 2010 and Spring 2011)
MELP/LLM Tuition 2010–2011	\$36,570.00 12,190.00 12,190.00 12,190.00 1,219.00	30–36 credits Fall 2010 Spring 2011 Summer 2011 MELP/LLM per Credit
Fees	\$ 125.00 300.00 110.00	Student Bar Association Membership Fee Student Administrative Fee (\$150 per Semester) Graduation Fee (3rd-Year JD, MELP, and LLM)
Summer 2011	\$12,799.50 1,219.00 12,190.00	Joint Degree Tuition Per Credit MELP/LLM—3rd Semester

Tuition Payment Plan

Vermont Law School offers a tuition payment plan that allows a student to spread his or her tuition payments over the academic year, interest free. Payment plans are intended to cover tuition (and only tuition) that is not already being paid with financial aid funds. All financial aid must first be applied toward tuition. Payment plans are not to be used to budget living expenses.

Late payments are subject to late fees. If you have questions about the payment plan, please go to www.vermontlaw.edu/businessoffice or call an Accounts Receivable representative at 1-800-227-1395, extension 1271.



Student Bar Association

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the organization of all students enrolled at Vermont Law School. Each year students select a senate, which governs the student body. The senate acts as a bridge between the SBA and the administration, administers the student

body's budget, hosts student activities, and recognizes student groups and clubs. The SBA web pages include announcements and student leadership contacts. www.vermontlaw.edu/sba

Recreation

There are abundant opportunities in the local area for running, hiking, skiing, biking, fishing, canoeing, sailing, and kayaking. VLS students also participate in a number of informal competitions with colleges and universities in ice hockey, rugby, and

Ultimate Frisbee, and intramural competition in basketball, volleyball, and soccer. The Upper Connecticut River Valley Region offers many cultural attractions, including fine dining,

museums, performing arts centers, craft centers, and country fairs, as well as vital commercial centers. Vermont's capital city of Montpelier is only 35 miles away. For more information visit The Region in the Experience VLS section of www.vermontlaw.edu.



STUDENT LIFE

Vermont Law School is distinguished by the character of the students and faculty who have chosen to learn and teach here.

From its founding, VLS has consistently drawn individuals from across the country and world with a passion for public service, a concern for justice, and an interest in pursuing legal education as a means to make a difference in the world. Vermont Law School is also recognized as an entrepreneurial community of energetic students who regularly collaborate on community events as well as advocacy work that reaches far beyond Vermont.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Outside of class, VLS students group together to share their interests, talents, goals, and energies. They have organized voter registration programs and blood drives and cleaned up the banks of the neighboring White River. A wide variety of student groups encompass the academic, cultural, philosophical, recreational, and social aspects of life at VLS. For example:

- The Alliance
- Animal Law Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Student Association
- Business Law Society
- Client Counseling and Negotiation Advisory Board
- Environmental Law Society
- The Equal Justice Foundation
- The Federalist Society
- *The Forum* (student newspaper)
- Guardians ad Litem
- International Law Society

- Latin American Law Student Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Moot Court Advisory Board
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Society
- Outdoors Club
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Schweitzer Fellows
- Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Students for Community Outreach and Education
- Trial Advocacy Mock Trial Team
- *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*
- *Vermont Law Review*
- Vermont Legal Research Group
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
- Women's Law Group

Visit the Organizations and Activities page for links to many of the student groups on campus. www.vermontlaw.edu/studentorgs

"VLS is a place of participation, made up of people who have a desire to solve problems. The backgrounds of faculty and where students go after VLS are the clearest examples of what we are about."

Associate Professor David Mears

HOUSING

Our Housing Office is your resource for local housing rental information. In addition to a searchable database of hundreds of properties, the housing website at www.vermontlaw.edu/housing includes comprehensive information about renting in the area, a list of area service providers, tenant resources, and helpful hints for rural living. Late spring is a good time to begin your active search for housing. If you have special requirements such as family or pets, you should begin your search early. Plan at least one visit to inspect properties, and complete your housing search by late June.

Tammie Johnson, Housing Officer
1-800-227-1395, x1261
tmjohnson@vermontlaw.edu
www.vermontlaw.edu/housing

HEALTH INSURANCE

All students are required to show proof of health insurance. Vermont Law School offers three student insurance plans through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont with deductible amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Visit the Health Insurance link at www.vermontlaw.edu/admit for information about health insurance coverage.

PARTNERS

The Vermont Law School Partners Group consists of husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, and significant others (all of whom are referred to as "partners") of Vermont Law School students. The group serves as a support and social network, providing opportunities for social gatherings, sharing information, and exchanging information about job opportunities in the area. There are monthly gatherings for partners only, as well as additional gatherings for partners and their students.

www.vermontlaw.edu/partners

TECHNOLOGY

Vermont Law School's Information Technology department offers a laptop purchase program that includes technical support. From the IT department you may also purchase software needed for coursework. The details of the 2011 laptop purchase program will be updated regularly in the Laptop Recommendations section of the Admitted Students web pages at www.vermontlaw.edu/admit.

Email your questions about computing to: NewStudentHelpDesk@vermontlaw.edu



EXPERIENCE VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

Come experience this distinctive community for yourself.
We hope to welcome you soon.

2011 Admitted Students' Checklist and Calendar

Today	Join Admitted Students' Facebook page: Vermont Law School–Entering Class 2011
March 1	Priority deadline for Financial Aid Applications
March 30	Admitted Students' Visiting Day
April	First tuition deposit due
May	Begin making housing plans
June	Second tuition deposit due
June–July	Order laptop through VLS Request official final transcript to be sent to the Office of Admissions
August	Move to Vermont
August 15–19	Jumpstart and pre-orientation workshops
August 22–26	Orientation
August 29	First day of classes

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Design: Philographica, Inc.
Photography: Laura DeCapua, Kathleen Dooher, John Douglas/Flying Squirrel Graphics, John Sherman, Mark Washburn
Printing: Arlington Lithograph
 Printed with soy- and vegetable-based inks on recycled content paper.



VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

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Admissions

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802-831-1239

FAX: 802-831-1174

admiss@vermontlaw.edu

Financial Aid

800-227-1395 x1235

802-831-1235

FAX: 802-831-1111

finaid@vermontlaw.edu

Admitted Students' web pages

www.vermontlaw.edu/admit

Admitted Students' Facebook Page

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