

# SCHOOL OF LAW

## Administration

**Morse H. Tan, B.A., M.A., J.D.**

*Dean, School of Law*

*Professor of Law*

**Joseph J. Martins, B.A., J.D.**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Professor of Law*

**Timothy M. Todd, B.S., M.S., C.P.A., ChFC®, J.D., Ph.D**

*Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Scholarship*

*Professor of Law*

**Susan K. Patrick, B.A., M.A., J.D.**

*Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid*

**Timothy R. Spaulding, B.S., J.D.**

*Associate Dean for External Relations*

## Program Directors

A listing of program directors can be viewed on the Program Director webpage.

## Purpose

Liberty University School of Law exists to equip future leaders in law with a superior legal education in fidelity to the Christian faith expressed through the Holy Scriptures.

- **Equip future leaders in law.** Inspiring students and preparing them to excel and lead in their profession.
- **With a superior legal education.** Constructing and implementing an education characterized by excellence.
- **In fidelity to the Christian faith.** Adhering to the perspective that shaped the Western legal tradition.
- **Expressed through the Holy Scriptures.** Pursuing truth in a context of free thought and expression informed by a standard.

## Distinctives

**An emphasis on mastery of foundational legal subjects and skills.** The objective of the School of Law is to equip and prepare students for success as legal professionals. Thus, there is an expectation by administration and faculty that students devote themselves with particular diligence to the subjects and skills identified as critical to professional excellence.

**An emphasis on a rigorous and well-rounded intellectual life.** Students are challenged intellectually at Liberty, not only with the technical aspects of law, but with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to education and knowledge rooted in the Christian intellectual tradition. We firmly believe an educated lawyer should be thoroughly acquainted with the great thinkers and shapers of Western civilization and the Western legal tradition. Liberty University School of Law trains students to think analytically, a skill that can be developed properly only through an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing ideas.

**An emphasis on understanding the significance of constitutional government with a special emphasis on the history and meaning of the United States Constitution and other foundational organic documents.**

**An emphasis on clear and persuasive writing.** Liberty University School of Law requires six lawyering skills courses. Liberty graduates must excel in writing—one of the lawyer’s most powerful skills.

**An emphasis on influential oral advocacy skills.** A lawyer must be able to communicate effectively using the spoken word whether or not a litigation practice is an ultimate goal. Leaders in the legal profession know how to convincingly communicate with an audience. At Liberty, students focus on advocacy in many contexts and take part in demanding lawyering skills courses designed to develop oral communication skills.

**An emphasis on teaching/mentoring.** Liberty is a teaching law school. Members of the faculty are expected to display the highest degree of professional proficiency and scholarly research while prioritizing the teaching/mentoring role. Proficiency in teaching students is the Liberty Law professor’s first priority.

## Accreditation

Liberty University School of Law is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association;

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Chicago, IL  
60654-7598  
(312) 988.6738

The American Bar Association (ABA) approval process is a thorough and careful process intended to ensure that law schools awarded approval meet all of the requirements set by the ABA to ensure a quality legal education.

Liberty University School of Law opened in August 2004 and completed the required full academic year to be eligible to apply for provisional approval by the ABA. On February 13, 2006, provisional approval was awarded. In March 2009, following the required two-year provisional approval time frame, Liberty applied for full approval. On August 5, 2010, Liberty University School of Law was approved by the ABA.

Liberty University School of Law is one of 199 ABA approved law schools in the United States.

## Curriculum Goals

The overarching goal of the faculty in designing and adopting the curriculum is to further the Mission of the School of Law, that is to “equip future leaders in law with a superior legal education in fidelity to the Christian faith expressed through the Holy Scriptures.”

The particular goals of the faculty in designing and adopting the curriculum are to:

1. Reflect the fundamental values upon which our legal system is based:
  - a. that there is a *corpus juris*, a body of law, in which courses are related to one another as a logically consistent, comprehensive whole;

- b. that a government of laws is possible only where law reflects the truths that God has revealed to man and to which man is accountable; and
  - c. that the preservation of the rule of law requires skillful and committed legal practitioners who are much more than mere technicians.
2. Require courses that develop the body of knowledge, set of skills and professional values in which every lawyer must be grounded.
3. Offer a range of electives that allows students to gain an introduction to various areas of law or to develop particular areas of competence.
4. Prepare leaders for success in the two main phases of their professional lives, the study and practice of law.
5. Prepare students to pass bar examinations in the states of their choice.

## Programs

- Dual Degree Programs
- Juris Doctor (J.D.)
- Juris Master (J.M.)
- Juris Master in American Legal Studies (J.M.)
- Juris Master in International Legal Studies (J.M.)
- Master of Laws in International Legal Studies (LL.M.)