



On the Doorstep of the Nation's Capital

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## George Mason University School of Law



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*The photo left provides a view of the monument to George Mason, Virginia patriot and statesman for whom the university is named. Dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 9, 2002, the monument honors Mason, one of the greatest of the founding fathers and among the least known. The acknowledged leader among those founders pressing for a Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, Mason persuaded Federalists, such as James Madison, that the new constitution was unacceptable absent amendments safeguarding individual rights.*

*Previously, Mason had helped draft the first constitution for an independent state, his native Virginia, in 1776. The Virginia Constitution begins with the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by Mason. The Declaration of Rights served as a model for the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, as well as the famous Declaration of the Rights of Man, produced by the French Revolution in 1789.*



*“Superior reputation and great professors.”*

*“[I’d] heard great things about Mason from many different people.”*

*“Really impressed when I began looking into law school and [I’m] definitely happy with my choice to attend.”*

*“Everyone I have met has been friendly and accessible.”*

*“When I came to visit, the ladies in the Career Center were so sweet and helpful, and they were a major factor in my decision to attend GMU.”*

—Select comments from 2010 New Student Survey

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

These are just a few of the overwhelmingly positive comments we received from our annual new student survey. An unusually large class of 303 students joined the Mason community in August 2010. They rank, by all objective measures, in the top 12% of all entering law students in the country. Over half are non-residents of Virginia. Matriculants came from 146 undergraduate institutions, and close to 13% of them have advanced degrees. They already have enriched Mason’s law community.

These newest students cited many reasons for selecting George Mason. Some wrote of our national reputation or location, others our various tracks or our law and economics courses. But the single most common response cited interaction with our staff, students, professors, and alumni.

### A DYNAMIC YOUNG LAW SCHOOL

In less than a decade, George Mason has gained recognition as a national law school, as measured by national magazines, surveys, and members of the profession. George Mason has attracted an accomplished faculty that includes leading legal scholars. Being highly educated in multiple disciplines, the Mason faculty infuses the traditional law curriculum with elements of finance, economics, politics, and jurisprudence. In this setting, our faculty offers each George Mason student a rigorous intellectual challenge, inspiring scholarly debate both in and outside of the classroom, and the perfect community for an aspiring lawyer.

### OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE NATION’S CAPITAL

George Mason’s location—just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, D.C.—affords Mason students a wide range of professional opportunities unequaled in other areas of the country. Through our field placement programs, students may gain practical experience with real cases and real clients by working for credit in judges’ chambers, government agencies, and law firms. Exposure to a variety of employment opportunities aids students in solidifying their career goals.

Our Office of Career, Academic and Alumni Services then helps students reach those goals. We host fall and spring recruiting programs and job fairs. Each student receives the personal attention of a career development counselor. Additionally, as the only law school in Northern Virginia, we enjoy support from the regional and local communities, with many practicing attorneys, government officials, and judges teaching courses and mentoring students on attaining career goals.

### COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

George Mason takes pride in its student body. We take seriously our obligation to prepare our students for success in all areas of practice. Consequently, our graduates enjoy a high employment rate. They may choose to clerk, work in large national firms, or undertake a career in public service. By keeping tuition rates reasonable, we enable our graduates to pursue their chosen careers without the same education debt constraints that many young lawyers face upon graduation.

George Mason is committed to offering the best that legal education has to offer. If you have decided to attend law school, I invite you to look closely at George Mason University School of Law. As one of the highest-value choices in professional education, George Mason offers the finest in legal education and practical training in an unparalleled location. Come visit us and experience the George Mason Law community for yourself.

## ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

George Mason University School of Law sits just a few miles from downtown Washington, D.C., the nexus for the creation of the world's most important legislation and jurisprudence. Metropolitan Washington offers students access to hundreds of opportunities and legal resources of tremendous scope and depth:

- ◆ Outstanding instruction from faculty and guest lecturers with significant experience in governmental and public policy organizations such as the White House, the Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- ◆ Year-round employment opportunities with major executive branch agencies, congressional commissions and federal agencies, and the hundreds of private law firms located in the Washington, D.C., area.
- ◆ Access to the “rocket docket,” the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, which has the fastest trial docket in the United States and adjudicates some of the most complex civil cases in the nation, particularly patent, copyright, and employment cases.



After college I moved from Utah to Virginia to work for a government contractor. I chose Mason Law because it was close to D.C. and was a bargain compared to other D.C. law schools. While obtaining my law degree I've had the chance to work for the federal government in D.C. It's been wonderful to be able to do substantive work during the day and quickly make it to classes at night. Whether you're interested in business, government, or public interest work, there is something here for everyone!

**KASEY CLEMANS**  
Castle Rock, Colorado  
Fourth-Year Law Student



*A view of Washington, D.C., at twilight showing the Potomac River and the Memorial Bridge connecting Arlington, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.*

*At right is an image of the region's Metro subway system, which connects Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Mason Law students make frequent use of the system through a stop adjacent to the campus to travel between home and classes, jobs, and internships throughout the Washington area. Travel time to Federal Triangle is a mere 14 minutes from the Virginia Square/George Mason University Metro station.*

# THE LAW SCHOOL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Northern Virginia offers professional advantages and diverse social, cultural, and educational opportunities unequaled in any other metropolitan region.

Arlington County has vibrant commercial districts that host a number of industry leaders and Fortune 500 companies; the City of Alexandria houses the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and provides a venue for the headquarters of many national associations; Fairfax County, a world center of commerce and trade and the technology hub of the United States East Coast, has offices of more than 4,000 technology companies and national law firms located within its borders.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

George Mason University, established as a branch of the University of Virginia in 1957, gained independent university status in 1972 by act of the Virginia General Assembly. The university is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. George Mason University is part of the public university system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The university is a living memorial to George Mason, the Virginia patriot and statesman who is best known for having drafted the Virginia Declaration of Rights on which the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution is based.

## The School of Law

Founded in 1972 as the International School of Law, the law school became a part of George Mason University in 1979. It is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA)\* and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

During the past decade, the law school has been in the forefront of curricular innovation. Recognizing the rapid changes that are occurring in legal practice and profession, George Mason has pioneered three core competencies—often neglected at more traditional institutions—for its students: (1) specialized substantive preparation for practice; (2) intensive development of legal writing and research skills; and (3) the legal application of economic tools and methods. Our demanding curriculum offers students unique advantages in today's competitive employment market.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/about](http://www.law.gmu.edu/geninfo/about).

\*Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 N. Clark Street, 21st Floor, Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: 312.988.6738  
[legaled@americanbar.org](mailto:legaled@americanbar.org)



“This summer I will be a legal intern at the in-house counsel’s office of K2M, a medical technologies firm. I have a strong interest in business law, so I am grateful for the opportunity to work with both the Legal and Regulatory & Compliance Divisions. With the chance to learn about day to day contractual matters and compliance with international law, I am sure that there won’t be a dull day at work. I am truly looking forward to joining the team this summer.

**ANNA ARYANKALAYIL**  
Boys, Maryland  
Second-Year Law Student



# A CHOICE OF PROGRAMS

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF A WELL-DESIGNED LAW PROGRAM

George Mason offers a general course of study, which allows students to choose electives as their interests develop. All George Mason Law students are required to satisfactorily complete 89\* credit hours for graduation. Forty of those credit hours are in general courses; 49 credit hours are in elective courses. As part of the 89\* credit hours, students must complete the School of Law's writing requirements.

Students attending George Mason University School of Law may pursue full-time day study or part-time evening study. Unlike many other law school programs, the day and evening programs stand on equal footing, as the courses taught in the day and evening divisions are identical and are taught by the same professors.

### Day Division

In the day division, students take three years to complete the 89\* credit hours required for graduation. Day students take 14 to 15 credits each semester. Day classes are scheduled between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Frequently in upper class years, day students select classes from the evening division.

### Evening Division

In the evening division, students take four years to complete the 89\* credit hours required for graduation. Evening students average 11 to 12 credit hours each semester. Evening classes are scheduled between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. After the first year, evening students may choose to take some of their classes during the day.

### Summer Term

George Mason University School of Law holds a summer term each year that typically runs from late May to mid-July. All summer courses are held in the evenings, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

*\*Required credit hours are subject to change.*

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/parttime](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/parttime).



“One thing that I really love about Mason is that the same extra-curricular opportunities that are available to the full-time students are also available to the part-time students. The Mason community is considerate of the extra obligations that many part-time students have and accommodates our schedules to allow us to take advantage of the full range of opportunities that are offered.”

**VICTORIA WALKER**  
Stafford, Virginia  
Second-Year Law Student

*Howard Chandler Christy's famous depiction of the nation's founders in "Scene at the Signing of the Constitution" does not include a rendering of George Mason, who was one of three delegates to the Constitutional Convention who refused to sign the finished document.*

*The painting hangs in the east stairway of the House wing of the United States Capitol.*



# A CURRICULUM FOR TODAY'S PRACTICE

The School of Law has designed a curriculum that addresses three of the most pressing requirements of contemporary legal practice: a thorough grounding in the fundamental skills of legal research, writing, and analysis; facility with economic and quantitative methods; and the increasing need for specialization.

## LEGAL RESEARCH, WRITING, AND ANALYSIS

Our three-year legal writing program emphasizes continual practice through the development of actual transactions and cases and effective use of technology. Students receive intensive legal research, writing, and analysis training in small sections.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd).

## ECONOMIC AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

For the past 18 years, George Mason has integrated economic theory, as well as basic mathematical and financial skills, into our law and economics-oriented curriculum. Our curriculum introduces students to legal methods, along with economic and quantitative tools, stressing the application of the nonlegal methods in legal contexts.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/jd).

## SPECIALTY PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The practice of law grows more segmented as the body of law grows in both volume and complexity. The option to pursue specialty programs ensures that Mason graduates can demonstrate depth as well as breadth in their legal education and that they are prepared for practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Specialty Tracks

- ♦ *Litigation Law*
- ♦ *Patent Law*
- ♦ *Regulatory Law*

With specialty tracks, students may acquire a sophisticated understanding of particular substantive areas of the law usually gained only after years of practice or through advanced legal study. A student pursuing a specialty track will take 24 to 31 credit hours of the 89\* total credit hours required for graduation in the area of specialization *and* write a thesis.

### Concentrations

- ♦ *Communications Law*
- ♦ *Intellectual Property Law*
- ♦ *Personal Law*
- ♦ *Corporate and Securities Law*
- ♦ *International Business Law*
- ♦ *Regulatory Law*
- ♦ *Criminal Law*
- ♦ *Legal and Economic Theory*
- ♦ *Tax Law*
- ♦ *Homeland and National Security Law*
- ♦ *Litigation Law*
- ♦ *Technology Law*

Students preferring greater freedom in their course selection but desiring some degree of specialization may pursue concentrations. To complete a concentration, a student must earn from 14 to 16 credit hours in a particular area.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/specializations](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/specializations).

For individual course descriptions, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/courses](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/courses).



“I chose Mason because of the strength and reputation of its IP program. I have taken advantage of the many specialized patent classes, which are taught by experienced practitioners who work at local law firms and provide practical training in the classroom. Being so close to the many IP-focused government agencies and the largest concentration of IP lawyers in the country also allows for excellent networking and job opportunities. I have been impressed with the many resources available at Mason for students interested in IP law.”

**LILY ROBINSON**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Class of 2011

First-year Associate  
Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,  
Garrett & Dunner, LLP

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND



Serving as a judicial law clerk can be one of the most valuable experiences in a young lawyer's career. Despite the extremely competitive nature of the federal clerkship application process, George Mason's faculty and its Career, Academic, and Alumni Services office assisted me in successfully securing two federal clerkship positions after graduation. CAAS, as well as the law school's faculty, helped me fine-tune my interview skills, polish my applications, and also connected me with alumni who had previously clerked and who offered me a wealth of useful advice. I am extremely grateful to CAAS and the faculty at George Mason for getting my legal career off to a great start.

### GEORGE INGHAM

Herndon, Virginia

Class of 2011

Clerk to

The Honorable

W. Harold Allbritton III,

District Judge,

U.S. District Court for the

Middle District of Alabama

(2010-11)

and

The Honorable

Karen LeCraft Henderson,

Circuit Judge,

U.S. Court of Appeals for the

District of Columbia Circuit

(2012-13)

George Mason University School of Law commits to teaching its students to think clearly and critically, to develop sound judgment, and to apply the knowledge they obtain in law school in practical ways that will lead them to success and fulfillment in their legal careers. We strive to prepare our students to achieve their personal professional goals and to become contributing and valuable members of our local, national, and international legal communities.

### OFFICE OF CAREER, ACADEMIC AND ALUMNI SERVICES

#### Services for our Students

The Office of Career, Academic and Alumni Services aids students and alumni in finding permanent full- and part-time employment and summer jobs by serving as a clearinghouse for information on available positions in both the Metropolitan Washington area and across the nation. This office provides job counseling to students; conducts seminars on resume writing, interviewing skills, and strategies; and coordinates on-campus interviews and job fairs.

#### Practical Experience

The law school's location in Metropolitan Washington, D.C., gives Mason Law students unparalleled opportunities to gain substantial practical experience while in law school. Students work outside the classroom under the supervision of an attorney, receive exposure to various areas of practice, build basic lawyering skills, and obtain valuable networking ties while receiving credit for working in such places as federal and state courts, the Recording Industry Association of America, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Mason offers in-house field placement opportunities, as well:

- ◆ **Domestic Relations**—Assisted by a mentor, students represent clients in obtaining uncontested divorces or other domestic relations matters, preparing for interviews, court filings, and hearings.
- ◆ **Immigration**—Selected students serve as interns to the highest administrative tribunal for the interpretation and application of immigration and nationality law in the United States.
- ◆ **Virginia Practice**—Under the supervision of a local judge, students intern in judges' chambers, public defenders' or Commonwealth Attorneys' offices, legal aid, or a private firm.

Mason provides students an alternative opportunity to earn credit while working on real cases with real clients, applying classroom experience in a practical setting.

- ◆ **Law and Mental Illness**—Students study the history and development of the laws affecting the mentally ill and prepare for and represent petitioners in civil commitment hearings.
- ◆ **Patent Law**—Students work directly with an inventor to draft an actual patent application for submission.
- ◆ **Regulatory Law**—While working with a mentor, students may engage in the federal regulatory process, analyzing an active regulation and filing public comments.
- ◆ **Legal Assistance to Servicemembers**—Students provide active-duty members of the armed forces and their families with free representation in civil cases of clear injustice or in which they could not retain counsel without undue hardship.
- ◆ **Supreme Court**—George Mason law students provide *pro bono* legal representation before the United States Supreme Court, working closely with Wiley Rein attorneys to identify cases of interest, research legal issues, and draft Supreme Court briefs on behalf of parties and *amici* at both the *certiorari* and merits stages.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/academics/clinics](http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/clinics).

## George Mason Launches New Supreme Court Clinic in Fall 2011



William S. Consovoy    Thomas R. McCarthy

In the Fall of 2011, George Mason University School of Law, in partnership with Wiley Rein LLP, a Washington, D.C., law firm, launches a Supreme Court Clinic to provide *pro bono* legal representation before the United States Supreme Court. The year-long clinic will provide George Mason law students with the opportunity to work closely with Wiley Rein attorneys to identify cases of interest, research legal issues, and draft Supreme Court briefs on behalf of parties and *amici* at both the *certiorari* and merits stages. The Supreme Court Clinic will be directed by

William S. Consovoy and Thomas R. McCarthy. Mr. Consovoy and Mr. McCarthy are lawyers in Wiley Rein's Appellate Group and both are 2001 graduates of George Mason University School of Law. Mr. Consovoy previously clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court and Chief Judge Edith H. Jones of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Mr. McCarthy previously clerked for Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Judge Frank W. Bullock Jr. of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

*“We are very pleased to partner with such a highly regarded firm as Wiley Rein on the Supreme Court Clinic. Our students eagerly seek field experiences, and this program will give them new opportunities to observe and participate in the business of the highest court in the land.”*

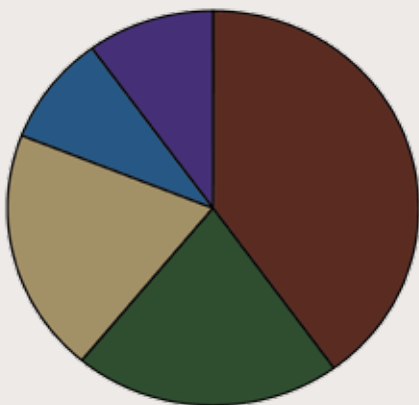
Dean Daniel Polsby

### JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

A judicial clerkship for one or two years following graduation is an excellent way to bridge the gap between law school and the practice of law. It also can be an extremely valuable step in an attorney's professional development and ultimate career success. Our students have been selected for judicial clerkships covering the full range of state and federal opportunities, including the United States Supreme Court.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/career/clerkship](http://www.law.gmu.edu/career/clerkship).

## CLASS OF 2010 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS



**Employment Rate 99%\***

**Private Practice 40%**

**Government 21%**

**Business 20%**

**Judicial Clerkship 9%**

**Other 10% (Public Interest, Academia)**

Information is based on data from surveys received from every 2010 graduate and from follow-up contact conducted by the Career, Academic and Alumni Services Office from May 2010 through February 2011.

\*1% unemployed includes those not seeking paid positions.

## A FACULTY WITH AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

One of the School of Law's greatest assets is our outstanding faculty. With some of the brightest minds in the legal academy, our faculty possesses significant professional experience in the practice of law and public policy. In the most prominent ranking of faculty scholarship and quality, Professor Brian Leiter of the University of Texas ranks George Mason's law faculty 23<sup>rd</sup> in scholarly impact (April 2006). The School of Law's full-time faculty is complemented by a remarkable adjunct faculty that includes a number of federal and state court judges and well-established practitioners who deal with cutting-edge legal issues on a daily basis.

George Mason's faculty has enabled the school to become not only a fine place in which to receive a traditional education, but also one of the nation's premier centers for the study of economics- and technology-related matters. Because George Mason University School of Law has one of the greatest concentrations of gifted legal scholars in the world, a legal education obtained at George Mason has exceptional value in today's competitive employment market.

To view faculty biographies, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/faculty/directory](http://www.law.gmu.edu/faculty/directory).

*When I first got here, I was delighted to see not just how much the faculty was writing and speaking, but the questions they were taking up and the places where they were taking them up. They are likely to be testifying in front of Congress, writing for some of the leading newspapers and magazines, speaking at major law review symposia or at leading think tanks. You'll see them on C-SPAN and on PBS. They are actually excited to pursue the questions they are going after. They're really taking up the questions that are driving law and politics and culture and the economy here.*

**HELEN ALVARÉ**  
Associate Professor of Law



## A DIVERSE AND TALENTED STUDENT BODY

At Mason we take pride in our student body, whose members come to us from every part of the nation and from many countries throughout the world. Our students range from recent college graduates in their twenties to senior citizens. Our evening program allows many nontraditional students to further their education while pursuing a career. As a result, our law school has a mix of students who are rich in experience, knowledge, and professional background. Students bring varied and interesting perspectives to the classroom, and their association with one another is an enriching experience in itself.

Mason provides its students many opportunities to expand their horizons through a multitude of student organizations and activities, all intended for both day and evening students. For information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs).

With a student body of approximately 800, Mason's School of Law is small enough to allow meaningful interaction among students, faculty, and administrators while large enough to offer a broad spectrum of educational choices and student activities. At Mason, there really is something for everyone.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/diversity](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/diversity).



*Mason Law's fall 2010 entering class of 303 students was derived from 146 different colleges and universities across the nation and the globe. Of those students, 234 attended day classes, while 69 attended class in the evening. With an average age of 24.4 years, 56 percent of the matriculating students came from outside Virginia, and 40 percent were female. The median LSAT for matriculants was 164, and the median undergraduate GPA was 3.72.*



At Mason there is a huge emphasis on student life. Our student organizations are very active, hosting a mixture of career panels, speaker events, and social activities. Mason has a group for just about any interest you may have. With four academic journals, an award-winning moot court board, and a trial advocacy association that hosts a national competition, Mason is excellent at providing opportunities for students to showcase their talents and leadership abilities.

**ALLISON TISDALE**  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Third-Year Law Student  
President, Student Bar Association

## A COMPREHENSIVE LAW LIBRARY

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

George Mason offers students many ways to enhance their legal educations by becoming active in one or more of our student organizations. These organizations, listed below, not only add to the vitality of the law school, but also create valuable networking opportunities for students with special interests.

Advocates for Life  
Alternative Dispute Resolution Society  
American Bar Association/Law School Division  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Constitution Society for Law and Policy  
American Inn of Court  
Arab Law Students Association  
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association  
Association for Public Interest Law (APIL)  
Black Law Students Association (BLSA)  
Business Law Society  
Christian Legal Society  
Civil Rights Law Journal  
The Docket  
Environmental Law Society  
The Federalist Society  
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Law Association  
George Mason Law Review  
Hispanic Law Students Association  
Honor Committee  
Immigration Law Society  
Intellectual Property Law Society (IPLS)  
International Law Society  
J. Reuben Clark Law Society  
Jewish Law Students Association  
Journal of International Commercial Law  
Journal of Law, Economics & Policy  
Law Students for the Second Amendment  
Mason Law Democrats  
Mason Law Republicans  
Mason Sports and Entertainment Law Association  
Moot Court Board  
Muslim Law Students Association  
National Security Law Society  
Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International  
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Student Bar Association  
Thomas More Society  
Trial Advocacy Association  
VBA Pro Bono Society  
Women's Law Association

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs](http://www.law.gmu.edu/students/orgs).

George Mason's Law Library combines a strong collection of print and electronic materials with a very experienced staff dedicated to ensuring students and faculty have access to the resources they need for their legal education, teaching, and research.

The library's collection consists of over 476,000 print and microfiche volumes and access to hundreds of electronic journals, treatises, and databases, including LexisNexis, Westlaw, HeinOnline, BNA, and CALI. Law students and faculty have access to thousands of non-legal journals and databases provided through the University Libraries and VIVA, a consortium of academic libraries in Virginia. All electronic services are available both on campus and off. The Law Library is a depository for U.S. Government documents and belongs to the Washington Research Library Consortium, which enables students and faculty to easily borrow materials from the major academic libraries in Washington, D.C.

Spanning three levels of the law school building, the library has more than 300 study carrels and table seats, nearly all of them wired with electrical and network connections so students can plug in their laptops to access online resources. In addition, a wireless network is available in all areas of the building, including the library. The library operates two computer labs that offer students a variety of software, including Microsoft Office. Law students have access to free Lexis and Westlaw printing from both on and off-campus. In addition, there are several laser printers located in the library that students may use with the university's Pay-For-Print system. The university also operates a full-service copy/print center which is located on the entrance level of the library.

The Law Library employs 13 full-time staff members, including six librarians trained as both librarians and lawyers, as well as several part-time evening librarians and a number of student assistants. The librarians also teach legal research classes in the Legal Research, Writing and Analysis program and provide students with assistance in conducting research. Technology support for the law school is provided by three staff members who have offices in the library and work closely with library and university staff to ensure the highest levels of computing services to students and faculty.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/library](http://www.law.gmu.edu/library).



# THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The admissions process at George Mason University School of Law is extremely competitive. The Admissions Committee reviews and considers each application in its entirety. First-year students are admitted only in the fall.

### Early Decision Program

**Students seeking an early decision must submit and complete all of the standard application procedures no later than December 15, 2011.** Early decisions will be made no later than **January 31, 2012.** Applicants who apply but are not admitted through early decision may be considered in the standard admission process, or they may be denied admission.

### Standard Admission Process for First-Year Applicants

**The standard application deadline for fall 2012 admission is April 1, 2012.** Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to matriculate, an applicant must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting association of the United States. Alternatively, applicants completing their undergraduate work at an institution outside the United States must have their degrees certified as equivalent to those acquired in an accredited institution.

Application may be made during the final year of undergraduate study, and acceptance is contingent upon award of a baccalaureate degree before matriculation at the School of Law.

All applicants must register with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS) and take the LSAT.

## TRANSFER ADMISSION

Admission of transfer students is highly selective. Only students who have completed one year at an ABA-accredited law school will be eligible for transfer admission.

## VISITING LAW STUDENTS

The School of Law accepts a number of visiting students each semester and for the Summer Term.

Detailed information concerning the application procedures for early decision and standard first-year applicants, transfer applicants, and visiting applicants is available at [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/howtoapply](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/howtoapply).

## ADMISSIONS INQUIRIES, TOURS, AND CLASS OBSERVATIONS

Applicants who have questions should contact the Admissions Office at [lawadmit@gmu.edu](mailto:lawadmit@gmu.edu).

For tours or class observations, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/events](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/events). Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, during the academic year.

For expanded information, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions).



Photos by Steve Tuttle, Paul Bohman, Donna Sneed, Photos.com, and iStockphoto.com

# FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

## ESTIMATED COSTS FOR 2011-12

With the rising cost of financing a law degree, Mason's lower tuition offers a top value in legal education. For the most current posting of tuition rates for the School of Law, please visit: [budget.gmu.edu](http://budget.gmu.edu), and select *FY12 Tuition and Fees, Law—In-State or Out-of-State*. Tuition is subject to change at any time.

## FINANCIAL AID

George Mason University's Office of Student Financial Aid, located at the Fairfax Campus, provides a variety of services to assist students in financing their education. George Mason University participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program.

Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year as soon as possible after January 1. To receive priority consideration for available, applicable funds, the FAFSA must be received by the federal processor on or before March 1. Types of financial aid available include Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, privately sponsored education loans, and Federal Work-Study.

For more information, visit the Office of Student Financial Aid on the Web ([financialaid.gmu.edu](http://financialaid.gmu.edu)), or schedule an appointment to meet with a financial aid counselor.

Mason's Title IV school code is 003749.

## SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

A small number of scholarships are awarded to incoming law students each year. All scholarship awards are based upon merit as evidenced in applicants' applications for admission. **No additional or special scholarship applications are required.** All law students offered admission to the law school are considered for scholarship awards.

For a detailed listing of the scholarships that are available, please visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/financing](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/financing) or [financialaid.gmu.edu](http://financialaid.gmu.edu).

## Applicants for the Robert A. Levy Fellowships in Law & Liberty

*Robert A. Levy Fellowships in Law & Liberty* were created through the generosity of Dr. Robert A. Levy, a 1994 graduate of the law school. Through this generous fellowship program, Dr. Levy seeks to encourage young scholars to enter the academic field of law and economics by sponsoring their pursuit of a JD degree. Fellowship grants cover tuition and fees and provide a substantial stipend for up to three years. To be eligible for a Levy Fellowship, an applicant must either (1) have earned a PhD from an accredited university in economics or a closely related field such as finance or political science; or (2) have successfully completed all course work in one of the above fields and have passed the general exam for a PhD from an accredited university. Applicants for full-time, first-year law admission who also are applying for the Levy Fellowship must, in addition to all requirements for first-year applicants, provide a cover letter with the names of three references, a curriculum vitae, graduate school transcripts, and a copy of current research. **The deadline for Levy Fellowship and School of Law applications is April 1, 2012.**

For more information about the Levy Fellowship, visit [www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/levy\\_fellowships](http://www.law.gmu.edu/admissions/levy_fellowships).

George Mason University maintains the confidentiality of student education records pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Once a student is enrolled, a student's name, address, telephone number, major, and e-mail address are subject to publication in the George Mason University Telephone Directory. Students who do not want to be listed in the campus telephone directory must submit a directory hold form to the registrar's office by 5 p.m. on the Friday of the first week of classes of the fall semester. George Mason University does not sell student contact information. However, because it is published in directory format, it is possible that unauthorized persons could access the information, thereby leading to unwanted solicitations.

George Mason University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university and employer. Consistent with these principles and in compliance with the Student Right-to-Know Act, George Mason University publishes annual reports that disclose information about the athletic program and campus security. The campus security report includes campus crime statistics and is published annually by September 1. A copy may be obtained by calling 703-993-2816. The athletic reports include athletic participation and graduation rates and are published annually by October 15. A copy of either of these athletic reports may be obtained by calling Intercollegiate Athletics at 703-993-3204.



While I could have stayed local for law school and paid a low in-state tuition, it was important to me that I study at the heart of where the laws are made. Studying so close to the nation's capital has enhanced my educational experience by being able to visit the Supreme Court and have visits from Supreme Court justices in our classes, and it has also proved beneficial for future job prospects. Receiving scholarship money from Mason helped fulfill my desires and gave me the opportunity to prepare myself for my future career at the best possible location.

### TERESA WILLIAMS

*Class of 2011*

*Coconut Creek, Florida*

*DHS Honors Attorney,  
Department of Homeland  
Security Honors Program*

The list below is illustrative of the undergraduate institutions from which George Mason Law has drawn its students in recent years.

American University  
Arizona State University  
Auburn University  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Baylor University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Bowie State University  
Brandeis University  
Brigham Young University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Campbell University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University of America  
Central Methodist College  
Christopher Newport University  
Clarkson University  
Clemson University  
Colgate University  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of William and Mary  
Colorado College  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
Dickinson College  
Drexel University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Florida International University  
Furman University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Grove City College  
Hamilton College  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hampton University  
Harvard University  
Haverford College  
Hobart and William Smith College  
Hollins University  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Ithaca College  
Jacksonville State University  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lehigh University  
Lewis-Clark State College  
Liberty University  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University  
Marquette University  
Mary Washington College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
McGill University  
Michigan State University  
Mississippi State University  
Morgan State University  
Muhlenberg College  
New York University  
Norfolk State University  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Old Dominion University  
Oregon State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Randolph-Macon College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University  
Roanoke College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
San Diego State University  
Seton Hall University  
Skidmore College  
Smith College  
Southern Methodist University  
Spelman College  
St. Lawrence University  
St. Louis University  
Stanford University  
State University of New York  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University  
Towson State University  
Trinity University  
Truman State University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
U.S. Military Academy  
U.S. Naval Academy  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado  
University of Delaware  
University of Denver  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Hawaii  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maine  
University of Manitoba  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Memphis  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Montana  
University of Nebraska  
University of Nevada  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina  
University of North Dakota  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Richmond  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of San Francisco  
University of Scranton  
University of South Carolina  
University of Tennessee  
University of Texas  
University of the South  
University of Utah  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Western Ontario  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wyoming  
Utah State University  
Valparaiso University  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University  
Virginia State University  
Wake Forest University  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington University  
Wellesley College  
West Virginia University  
Williams College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University

George Mason is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution committed to the principle that access to study or employment opportunities afforded by the university, including all benefits and privileges, be accorded to each person—student, faculty, staff member, or applicant for employment or admission—on the basis of individual merit without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, sex, or age (except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification). George Mason shall maintain a continuing affirmative action program to promote equal opportunity and to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices in every phase of university operations. Furthermore, affirmative action will be taken to ensure that opportunities afforded by the university are fully available to persons with disabilities, women, Vietnam veterans, and minorities. The university will make every reasonable accommodation to enable students or employees with disabilities to undertake work or study for which they qualify.

Inquiries regarding the university's equal opportunity and affirmative action programs may be made to the University Equity Office, Mason Hall, Room D105, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030, telephone 703-993-8730.



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## School of Law

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E-mail: [lawadmit@gmu.edu](mailto:lawadmit@gmu.edu)

[www.law.gmu.edu](http://www.law.gmu.edu)