

For more than 90 years, the St. Mary's University School of Law has educated legal leaders with a commitment to service, justice and peace. As the only law school in San Antonio and the only Catholic law school in Texas, our students and alumni are serious about pursuing the mission of giving a voice to the voiceless through community service and pro bono work.

Graduates of St. Mary's have become members of the U.S. Congress, governors and lieutenant governors nationwide, members of the federal judiciary, justices of the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, state legislators and leaders of some of the nation's most prestigious law firms.

## ST. MARY'S LAW AT A GLANCE

Tuition about \$12,000  
less than average for  
private law schools



The first fully online J.D.  
program accredited by  
the ABA



More than 500 University  
alumni have served in  
elected or judicial positions



Only Catholic,  
Marianist law school  
in Texas



Top 11 Advocacy  
Program in nation,  
according to the ABA



Eighth-most racially and  
ethnically diverse law school  
in the nation, according to  
U.S. News & World Report



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

St. Mary's Law is home to many nationally known subject-area experts, scholars and practitioners. As the southernmost law school in Texas, St. Mary's Law serves as a resource to the legal community of San Antonio and beyond.

In the past year, faculty have shared their expertise through:

**32+** works of scholarship

**14** books

**420+** media interviews

## LEADERS IN THE LAW

Our faculty continue to lead at a national level.

Member of ABA Working  
Group to Implement Human  
Rights Protections in  
International Supply Contracts



**Ramona Lampley, J.D.**

Associate Dean for Research and Faculty  
Development and Professor of Law

President of the National  
Association of Legal  
Advocacy Educators



**A.J. Bellido de Luna, J.D.**

Assistant Dean for Advocacy Programs,  
and Hardy Service Professor of Law

Leading legal education  
in best practices  
post-pandemic



**Zoe Niesel, J.D.**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

## SCHOLARLY WORKS

Our faculty regularly explore current trends and issues through scholarship.

*Total Return Meltdown:  
The Case for Treating Total  
Return Swaps as Disguised  
Secured Transactions*

Pepp. L.  
Rev. (forthcoming 2022-23)



**Colin P. Marks, J.D.**

*Associate Dean for Strategic  
Partnerships and Innovative Programs,  
and Ernest W. Clemens Professor of Law*

*The Lawyer's Conscience:  
A History of American  
Lawyer Ethics*

University Press of  
Kansas (2022)



**Michael S. Ariens, J.D., LL.M.**

*Aloysius A. Leopold Professor of Law*

*One Step Backward: The Ninth  
Circuit's Unfortunate Rule 404(b)  
Decision in United States v. Lague*

Loy. L.A. L.  
Rev. 739 (2022)



**Dorie Klein, J.D.**

*Professor of Law and  
Englehardt Research Fellow*

## LEADING THROUGH TRADITION AND INNOVATION

In Fall 2022, the St. Mary's University School of Law welcomed our newest class of 277 J.D. students, a quarter of whom identify as first generation and represent 80 universities and 21 states. The entering class was admitted from the largest application pool in the school's history — 2,366 applicants. Our enrollment numbers continue to climb amid a national decline in law school applications. We are making strides toward a bench and bar more reflective of our population, and the diversity of our students shows it.

St. Mary's has provided outstanding online legal education for more than five years through its graduate law programs, the Master of Jurisprudence and Master of Laws and, now, we're midway through the first semester of our fully online J.D. program. Our renowned faculty — legal experts in specialties from business law to international law — receive extensive training in online education and pedagogy, and all professors are fully certified to teach online.

Visit [law.stmarytx.edu](http://law.stmarytx.edu) for more information.

*"The St. Mary's School of Law trains ethical and creative problem solvers who become servant-leaders in their communities, informed by faith that the practice of law is their vocation. Legal education at St. Mary's is enriched by impactful community service and inspired by characteristics that include justice, peace, adaptation and change. This is a close-knit community that embraces the values of inclusivity, equity, collaboration and service to others."*

— Dean Patricia E. Roberts, J.D.,  
Charles E. Cantù Distinguished Professor of Law



School of Law Dean Patricia E. Roberts, J.D., hosts the **EdUp Legal** podcast, which explores the opinions of legal education leaders regarding the future of legal training, and considers the value proposition of law school. Listen to the podcast at [anchor.fm/patricia-roberts2](https://anchor.fm/patricia-roberts2).

Find out more at [law.stmarytx.edu/faculty-scholarship](http://law.stmarytx.edu/faculty-scholarship).



## DATA-DRIVEN SUCCESS

The mission of the St. Mary's University School of Law's Law Success Program is to help prepare students for success in law school, on the bar exam and in practice. To accomplish this, the Law Success Program takes an innovative, data-driven approach to student growth by using assessments and data-gathering to plan legal skills development, bar exam initiatives and individual academic counseling.

This data is used as the foundation for a rigorous legal skills curriculum, which include the first-year Legal Research and Writing Class, the second-year Fundamentals of Law and Analysis class, and a bar preparation for credit course for third-year law students. The cocurricular Principles of Law and Analysis program also implements this data and involves significant writing development, practice readiness simulations and individual student skill building.

## MENTOR PROGRAMS

St. Mary's Law is a community of like-minded students, professors and alumni who are committed to serving not just the community, but each other. We know the law school transition can be hard for students, but especially for first-generation students.

In Summer 2021, we launched the First-Generation Law Student Pre-1L Boot Camp, a program that prepares participants for the law school experience before law school begins through mock classes, case analysis and an introduction to the campus. Once the semester begins, first-year J.D. students may sign up for a peer mentoring program with second- and third-year J.D. students.

Second- and third-year J.D. students have the option of participating in the Mentor Circles Program, which pairs up to eight students with two or more volunteer lawyers and judges. It's a unique way for law students to interact with experienced attorneys who are willing to discuss the challenges of practicing law and balancing personal and professional lives.

Last summer, the School of Law partnered with a student organization supporting Latina law students to host more than 150 Latina pre-law, law students and lawyers as well as their allies. Attendees enjoyed fellowship, mentorship and networking opportunities encouraging Latinas in their pursuit of legal careers. We look forward to the next event in October 2023.

## ASSESSMENT



### PRE-1L

Before students begin their studies, they complete an assessment that provides the following information:

Academic background and expectations about **study habits and time**

Attitudes toward **learning and intelligence**

Assessments of **skills and abilities** relating to class discussion; rule application; case briefing; outlining; issue, rule, application and conclusion (IRAC) analysis; and essay writing

With this initial data, the Law Success Program instructors meet with students individually to discuss results and to direct students to appropriate skills remediation as needed. Instructors also use cohort-level data to adjust skills coverage in the mandatory first-year Legal Skills and Writing Class.



### RISING-2L

Before a student's second year, they complete an additional assessment that examines substantive law knowledge from first-year courses, as well as skills development. This assessment provides the following information:

Substantive **knowledge performance** on each first-year subject as compared to bar readiness

Multiple choice **test-taking skills**

Ability to **state a rule, apply law to facts and identify issues**

Knowledge and use of the **components of IRAC**

Each student receives their pre-second-year assessment report. Using cohort-level data, staff design bar workshops and substantive topic coverage in curricular and extracurricular programs. The Law Success Program's bar preparation for credit course uses this data to make adjustments during the third year of law school to best prepare students for the bar exam.

## BAR EXAM PREDICTIVE MODELING AND THE RAISE THE BAR PROGRAM

At the heart of the St. Mary's Law data programming is predictive modeling, which allows the law school to calculate factors that most contribute to bar pass rates at the individual and cohort levels. Through predictive modeling, Law Success Instructors share information with students, design bar exam interventions and ensure students have adequate and tailored coaching during their bar preparation. During each bar cycle, Law Success runs the Raise the Bar program, which provides individual, data-driven, post-graduation bar preparation available to all St. Mary's Law alumni.

The data includes the impact of multiple independent variables on bar passage. Variables include:

- ✓ **Demographic information**
- ✓ **Entering credentials**
- ✓ **Law school courses**
- ✓ **Law school GPA at various points**
- ✓ **Commercial course completion**
- ✓ **Hours put into study time**

Thanks to this data, St. Mary's Law Success Instructors recommend data-driven best practices for each student and counsel them about what actions to take to pass the bar exam.

Raise the Bar participants have a 7% to 15% higher first-time pass rate on the bar exam compared to those who chose not to participate. Raise the Bar provides individual, data-driven, post-graduation bar preparation available to all St. Mary's Law alumni.

**15%↑**

## LEADERS IN ADVOCACY AND SERVICE

One of the core principles of St. Mary's University is to educate for adaptation and change. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the School of Law discovered new ways to continue excelling in advocacy and public service. Under the direction of Assistant Dean A.J. Bellido de Luna, J.D., the Advocacy Program led the way nationally for virtual advocacy competitions. These competitions, created with the help of partner schools, continue to ensure students at St. Mary's and beyond have opportunities to practice important advocacy skills. These efforts led to:

**The largest invitational Trial Advocacy competition in the country**

**Three competitions (All Star National Bracket Challenge, All Star National Challenge and National All Star Moot Court Challenge)**

**Hosted the equivalent of more than 80 online tournaments over the course of the past three years, including hundreds of teams and thousands of students and attorneys**

The Center for Legal and Social Justice continues to expand access to justice for residents of San Antonio and South Texas and received a \$690,000 grant from the City of San Antonio to continue housing advocacy for the next two years. Students earn academic credit in the Clinical and Externship Programs and fulfill the School of Law's public service graduation requirement through Pro Bono Program opportunities. These efforts resulted in:

**St. Mary's Law graduates being awarded the prestigious Equal Justice Works Postgraduate Fellowship in 2020 and in 2022, and the Texas Access to Justice Commission Law Student Pro Bono Award in 2020 and in 2022**

**The law school receiving the 2020 Texas Access to Justice Commission Law School Commitment to Service Award**

**Law students tallying more than 13,000 service hours in 2021-2022**

**A new Housing Hotline aiding more than 3,000 San Antonio residents**

"A lot of schools loved the fact that St. Mary's Law stepped up to host virtual advocacy competitions when other schools were stepping down, not because they wanted to, but because they didn't have the support or the resources to move forward."

— A.J. Bellido de Luna, J.D.,  
Assistant Dean for Advocacy Programs  
and Hardy Service Professor of Law

