

VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Since 1874, Vanderbilt Law School has trained excellent lawyers for careers throughout the United States and around the world. Located on the Vanderbilt University campus in Nashville, Tennessee, the law school combines the advantages of a stimulating university community, a top-tier faculty, a small, carefully selected student body, and a vibrant, livable city. Known for offering a rigorous academic program in a collegial, supportive atmosphere, Vanderbilt Law School attracts law students and faculty seeking a first-rate academic institution that also affords an excellent quality of life. In 2002, the law school completed an extensive renovation and expansion project, and Vanderbilt now offers its students a state-of-the-art 178,000 square feet facility situated on a park-like campus that is a national arboretum.

1) 21st Ave. Main Entrance: Reception Desk on right, Cowden Atrium to left (Admissions Office, Dean's Suite and entry to Legal Clinic – *area under construction*)

The law school was renovated in 2002, so you will notice a modern feel to the interior. The furniture and fixtures are regularly updated as is the building's extensive technology. As you face the large flat screen that shows the law school's daily schedule as well as building and campus maps, the Cowden Atrium is to the left.



21st Ave. Main Entrance with Reception Desk on right, Cowden Atrium to left



Cowden Atrium, Admissions Office and Dean's Suite on left, door to legal clinic on far wall

Beyond the **Admissions Office** (first door on left), you will notice the **Dean's Suite**, where the Dean of Vanderbilt Law School, Chris Guthrie has his office. The tall door you see in the distance is an entry to our **legal clinic**, which serves as a small law office designed to help underserved populations in the Nashville community and beyond. Students work under close faculty supervision to serve clients while learning through experience. Descriptions of current clinical courses are available on the Law School web site under Clinical Legal Education.

The **Career Services Office** is located on the first floor of the Law School. Each J.D. student is assigned a career counselor during the first semester and that person will advise you throughout law school. One of the main programs organized by the Career Services Office is our On-Campus Interviewing (OCI) program. In addition to OCI, Career Services coordinates Off-Site Interview days in a number of U.S cities during the summer. In order to help prepare students for interviews, CSO manages a yearlong educational program designed to help first year students (1L's) navigate various practice areas of law. Practitioners are brought in for lunchtime presentations and Q&A sessions with students to help in identifying practice areas of interest. Additionally, Career Services assists with resume and cover letter editing and coordinates mock interviews with local attorneys.



Front lobby



Corridor toward central portion of building

From the Reception Desk, walk along the corridor toward the central portion of the building and take the first hallway to the left. As you walk, notice the posters along the wall. These advertisements showcase the wide range of topics covered in Law School symposiums, Hyatt Fund speaker series and student organization talks. These serve as a nice supplement to classroom discussion, balancing theoretical training with real world legal issues.

2) **Trial Court Room, Room 121 (door may be locked)**

Up ahead on the left, you will see the **Trial Court Room**. VLS offers a wide range of opportunities for students interested in **Trial Advocacy**: intramural competitions in mock trial and moot court, upper-level elective courses in trial advocacy, traveling teams representing VLS in various national and international competitions, and serving as host for one of the national competitions. The Trial Court Room is equipped with quite a few “bells and whistles” to enhance presentations and offer convenience: voice activated cameras to record trials, a lectern that adjusts to a presenter’s height, touch screen monitors, scanners to display evidence on a large screen, etc.





If you look outside beyond the glass doors at the end of the hall, you will see a red brick building. This is the **Owen School of Management**. Vanderbilt offers two **dual degree programs** with Owen: **JD/MS in Finance (3 years)** and **JD/MBA (4 years)**.¹ VLS also offers the law and business certificate program which allows students to build expertise in business law, corporate management, accounting, and finance by choosing among an extensive array of elective courses, including intensive transactional courses and seminars.

3) Main Street

The central corridor of the law school, affectionately referred to as Main Street, is the social epicenter of the school and is a popular spot for lunch and for student groups to “Table” (advertise) upcoming events. Vanderbilt Law has over 40 student organizations as well as **five academic journals** - Vanderbilt Law Review, Journal of Transnational Law, Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law, Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review, and the Social Justice Reporter (offices located in the basement).



Main Street



As you make your way toward the other end of the building, you will notice two large paintings on the wall to your left. These paintings are a depiction of one of America’s most famous trials, the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial pitting William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow against one another in a case dealing with evolution curriculum in the public education system.

¹ In addition to these dual degrees with the business school, Vanderbilt offers: JD/PhD in Law and Economics, JD/PhD in Law and Neuroscience; JD/MD; JD/Master of Divinity; JD/Master of Theological Studies; and JD/MPP in Education Policy. JD students may also propose customized dual degrees with graduate programs with which the law school has no formal dual degree arrangements.

4) North Lobby

The North Lobby is the most recent addition to Vanderbilt Law School. This new square footage allowed for additional classroom and study space. On each side of the corridor, you will find large auditorium style classrooms (Flynn Auditorium on your right and Renaissance Room on your left). Head up the stairs to the second floor of the North Lobby. Note the large windows located in the Trabue Solarium overlooking Curry Field. The



Trabue Solarium

many windows and solariums give the school an open feel and provide great views of campus.



North Lobby

At the top of the stairs facing the windows, make a U-turn and walk straight ahead toward the double doors that enter the law library. There are three classrooms on this level (Moore Room on your right and Bennett-Miller and Covington Rooms on your left). Classroom space and size vary greatly depending on the topic. 1L sections are about 60 students each, and upper-level courses average 25-30 students with a very few as large as 100.

Enter the library through the double doors.

5) Law Library

As you enter the library, it is important to remain quiet. The main open area of the library is a popular communal study spot for students. The library offers 375 seats, 9 study rooms, 168 carrels, two large reading rooms and a computer lab. The friendly staff will assist you with researching the 650,000 volumes housed here, though your 1L writing courses will train you to navigate the online databases used for legal research. The library is open to Midnight on weekdays and 10pm on weekends.



Law Library

6) Blackacre



Exit the library through the double doors opposite those you entered, and you will be standing on an elevated walkway overlooking the law school's outdoor courtyard: Blackacre (the term for a hypothetical plot of land in property law). In addition to serving as a relaxing venue for lunch, it is also the location of a weekly reception for students, faculty and staff. Often sponsored by law firms or student organizations, this Friday afternoon activity is the perfect way to start the



weekend among colleagues and friends.

7) Faculty Profiles

Head left and make your way to the glass cases on the walls. These profiles represent some of the outstanding and accomplished faculty at VLS. Each highlights their academic background, research interests, a mini-bio and various publications or books they've written or edited. Perhaps it goes without saying, but it's important to research a school's faculty as you're making key decisions about where to attend. We are proud of our diverse faculty and the effort they put into being proficient instructors. Take a minute to look through the profiles and identify faculty who share your academic interests.



8) Bass, Berry & Sims Room (under construction)



Continuing to the end of the hall, you will see the Bass, Berry & Sims Room. Most classes are held in auditorium style rooms, but our seminars are held in set-ups like the one you see in Bass, Berry and Sims. Rather than the popular Socratic method of teaching used in many law classes, seminars employ a discussion-based model. Seminars are smaller courses that cover a special topic with the grade being the result of a research project rather than an end of semester final exam.

Make your way down the stairs on the left and make a U-turn at the bottom of the stairs. You will find yourself back at the front lobby of the Law School.

9) Vanderbilt University Campus

To take a self-guided campus tour or register for a guided tour, visit the [Vanderbilt Undergraduate Admissions website](#).

