

WELCOME TO VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

LLM

# VLS ORIENTATION



2023

# Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to Vanderbilt Law School!

Student Orientation Week marks the start of your legal education at Vanderbilt. Your first law class, Life of the Law, will introduce you to some foundational concepts that you will encounter throughout your legal education (and beyond).

We aspire to ease you into law school this week, but we want to be clear from the outset that we have very high expectations of you both inside and outside the classroom.

As lawyers, you will be charged with upholding the rule of law and safeguarding our adversarial system of justice. To carry out this important responsibility, you need to commit as law students to embrace arguments with an open mind; to listen, discuss, and debate in a civil and respectful manner; and to give one another the benefit of the doubt as you discuss and debate some of society's most vexing and contested issues.

We want each of you to flourish while you are here (and after you leave!). Take good care of yourselves and one another.

Sincere regards,

Chris Guthrie

Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law



# Your Orientation Schedule

## Friday

August 11

### International Graduate-Professional Student Mixer

OPTIONAL

4:00pm - 6:00pm Alumni Hall Building

A great opportunity to meet international graduate and professional students from across campus. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring government-issued I.D. if you wish to have a drink.

RSVP link will be sent via email in early August.

Find Alumni Hall on the [campus map here](#).

## Saturday

August 12

### Welcome Reception

4:30pm - 6:00pm Vanderbilt Law School North Lobby/Main Street

We invite you to join us and meet your classmates as well as staff and faculty. Light food and drinks will be served as we celebrate the start of your Vanderbilt Law School experience.

## Sunday

August 13

### I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites

Registration Required: visit our [Orientation website](#)

10:00am - 12:30pm Front Lobby of VLS

OPTIONAL

In conjunction with volunteers from the rising 2L and 3L classes, the Law Students for Social Justice Organization, the George Barrett Social Justice Program, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community are coordinating optional student-led tours during the week of orientation for incoming students. The tours will be based on the guidebook "I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites," which all students attending the tour will receive, courtesy of Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Community Yesha Yadav. The book provides historical background and context to many frequently visited sites in Nashville and also highlights lesser-known places with histories of significance in struggles for racial and social justice in the city.

# Your Orientation Schedule

## Monday

August 14

### Visit Check-in Table

Continental Breakfast in North Lobby

8:00am - 8:30am

Main Street

### Welcome & Orientation Overview

Chris Guthrie, Dean & John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

8:40am - 9:25am

Flynn Auditorium

### Envisioning Our Community

Dr. Ashley Brown, Director, Student Center for Social Justice & Identity

9:25am - 11:10am

Flynn Auditorium

### Co-Counsel Circuit Lunches

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

11:20am - 12:20pm

Pick up in North Lobby and meet in assigned areas

### The LL.M. Experience Student Panel

A panel of LL.M. alums talk about their experiences in the program and at VLS.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Hyatt Room

### LL.M. Academic Success

Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success

1:40pm - 2:40pm

Hyatt Room

### Ice Cream Social

Come enjoy some Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream before you head out with your Co-Counsel Circuits

2:50pm - 3:50pm

Blackacre Courtyard

**OPTIONAL**

### Office Hours with Student Life

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Main Street

**OPTIONAL**

### Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

After 4pm

Scheduled by your Circuit President

**OPTIONAL**

**Reminder: Review for Life of the Law!**



#### Sandy Xu, LL.M transfer to J.D., Class of 2020

There is really no secret sauce for success, but if you know what you want and work hard for it, you will do great. Be prepared for each class and enjoy them. Participate if you want and if you can; I miss those inspiring interactions and discussions already!



# Your Orientation Schedule

## Tuesday

August 15

### **Ethics, Accountability, and the Profession**

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Miles Brinkley, Honor Council President

8:30am - 9:30am

Flynn Auditorium

### **Life of the Law**

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

9:40am - 11:10am

Hyatt Room

### **Girl Walks Out of a Bar**

A conversation with author Lisa F. Smith

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

11:20am - 12:20pm

Flynn Auditorium

### **Life of the Law**

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Hyatt Room

### **Co-Counsel Coffee Hour**

Meet fellow Circuit members and leaders for coffee and ask questions or just take a break while browsing our Resource Hub on Main St.

2:00pm - 2:20pm

North Lobby

**OPTIONAL**

### **Resource Hub in North Lobby**

Join us on main street to learn about VU and community resources available to you.

2:00pm - 2:20pm

North Lobby

**OPTIONAL**

### **Project Safe @ Vanderbilt**

Cara Tuttle Bell, Director, Project Safe Center

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Flynn Auditorium

### **A Law Student's Walking Guide to the Rest of Campus**

Led by Ambassadors of VLS. Multiple opportunities available to attend.

3:40pm - 4:10pm

Front Lobby of VLS

**OPTIONAL**

### **Yoga on the Lawn**

Join our VBA Wellness Chair for yoga with certified instructor and 2L, Sophia Howard!

Bring your own mat, extras will be available.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Meet at VLS Back Doors (V Doors)

Yoga will be at Curry Field

**OPTIONAL**

# Your Orientation Schedule

## Wednesday

August 16

### LL.M. Class Photo

Please arrive no later than 8:45am

8:45am  
Front Steps of VLS

### Life of the Law

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program  
Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

9:30am - 11:00am  
Hyatt Room

### LL.M. Library Tour and Overview

Meet with VLS Library staff to learn all you need to know about our library resources.

11:10am - 11:50am  
Library Service Desk

## Lunch: On Your Own

### Life of the Law

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program  
Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

1:10pm - 2:40pm  
Hyatt Room

### Life of the Law: Legal Writing

Jennifer Swezey, Associate Professor of Law, Director, Legal Writing and Research

2:50pm - 4:20pm  
Hyatt Room

### Soccer Scrimmage

Led by the Vanderbilt Law Soccer Club

6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Vanderbilt Rec Center, Field 4  
OPTIONAL

## Reminder: Review for Life of the Law!



**Chutian Wang, LL.M. transfer to J.D., Class of 2021**  
“Classes here are super different from classes in China,” Chutian said, “especially the cold-calling.” Taking advice from international intellectual property expert Daniel Gervais, who teaches classes in international property law at Vanderbilt, Chutian volunteers. “Professor Gervais said, ‘Don’t let them call on you---volunteer!’”

# Your Orientation Schedule

**Thursday**

August 17

## Life of the Law: Becoming a Happy & Healthy Law Student and Lawyer

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students

Beth Cruz, Assistant Dean and Martha Craig Daughtrey Director for Public Interest

8:30am - 9:30am  
Flynn Auditorium

## Life of the Law

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

9:40am - 11:10am  
Hyatt Room

## Life of the Law LL.M. Pro Bono

Beth Cruz, Assistant Dean and Martha Craig Daughtrey Director for Public Interest

**LUNCH PROVIDED: Pick up on Main St.**

11:20am - 12:50pm  
Hyatt Room

## Life of the Law

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Hyatt Room

## Book Order Pick-up

2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Ray Room  
**OPTIONAL**

## A Law Student's Walking Guide to the Rest of Campus

Led by Ambassadors of VLS

2:30pm - 3:00pm  
Front Lobby of VLS  
**OPTIONAL**

## Life of the Law Film and Discussion

4:00pm - 6:30pm  
Hyatt Room

## Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

As Scheduled  
**OPTIONAL**

**Reminder: Review for Life of the Law!**



**Alvaro Manrique Barrenechea, LL.M. Class of 2019**

The LL.M. program is challenging and demanding, this is why you should make sure to take breaks and worry about your mental health. Nashville has many attractions and a lot of history, make sure you take time to explore the city and network with your colleagues.

# Your Orientation Schedule

**Friday**

August 18

## **Life of the Law**

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program  
Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

8:30am - 10:00am  
Hyatt Room

## **Probable Cause for Brunch: You're Almost Done with Orientation Week!**

Join us for brunch as we celebrate the last day of orientation

10:00am - 11:00am  
North Lobby

## **Life of the Law**

Daniel Gervais, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program  
Yesha Yadav, Professor of Law & Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program

11:10am - 2:10pm  
Hyatt Room

## **LL.M. End of Orientation Celebration**

Join us for sweet treats to celebrate the end of orientation week!

2:10pm - 3:00pm  
Main St.



**Turn in Release of Academic Information and Policy Form**



**Read for Monday's Classes**

Check assignment board on Brightspace for Monday's reading assignments (Access Brightspace via the Law School webpage).



**Kejia Zhao, LL.M. transfer to J.D., Class of 2022**

Be active! Being active to discuss with professors and native students any topics you are interested in, by that, you can improve your language and learn more about American culture and American legal system.