

WELCOME TO VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

JD

# VLS ORIENTATION



2024

# 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

**Saturday**  
August 17

## 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.

**Student Headshots** 3pm - 6pm 2nd Floor North Lobby **Sign Up Required**

Each student must sign up for one of the time slots listed in the registration link on the [Orientation website](#).

**Sunday**

August 18

## 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.

## Justice for All: Public Interest, Pro Bono, and the Law

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

1:30pm - 3:00pm Flynn Auditorium

**OPTIONAL**

This optional orientation, hosted by the [Public Interest Office](#), will explore the ways in which lawyers use the law to advance the greater good in society. You will have an opportunity to interact with Vanderbilt Law faculty as well as practicing attorneys who work in areas including civil rights, criminal defense, youth advocacy, immigration, pro bono law firm practice, and access to justice for underrepresented individuals.

If you have any questions about this event, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Interest Program Manager, [Erin Parr-Carranza](#).

# Your Orientation Schedule

## Monday

August 19

### 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  
Michelle Kovash, Director of Student Affairs  
Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success

8:40am - 9:25am  
Flynn Auditorium

### Envisioning Our Community

Student Center for Social Justice & Identity

9:30am - 11:00am  
Flynn Auditorium

### Co-Counsel Circuit Lunches

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

11:20am - 12:20pm  
Pick up in North Lobby and meet in assigned areas

### Ethics, Accountability, and the Profession

Chris Guthrie, Dean & John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law  
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students  
George Messenger, Honor Council President

12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Flynn Auditorium

### Ice Cream Social

Enjoy some Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Blackacre Courtyard  
**OPTIONAL**

### Office Hours with Student Life & Financial Aid

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life  
Michelle Kovash, Director of Student Affairs  
Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success  
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students  
Richelle Acker, Associate Department Director of Admissions (Financial Aid Support)

1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Main Street  
**OPTIONAL**

### Student Headshots

Each student must sign up for one of the time slots listed in the registration link on the [Orientation website](#).

1:40pm - 4:40pm  
2nd Floor North Lobby  
Sign Up Required

### Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

After 4:30pm  
Scheduled by your Circuit President  
**OPTIONAL**

# Your Orientation Schedule

## Tuesday

August 20

### Building Our Community Together: The Student Experience

A panel of VLS students discuss their experiences moderated by Dean Yesha Yadav, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Community

8:30am - 9:30am  
Flynn Auditorium

### Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 9 of schedule

9:40am - 10:40am  
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

**Take a break and walk outside for a few minutes!**

### Girl Walks Out of a Bar

A conversation with author Lisa F. Smith

**LUNCH PICK UP BEGINS AT 11:00AM**

11:10am - 12:10pm  
Flynn Auditorium

### Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 9 of schedule

12:20pm - 1:20pm  
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

### Co-Counsel Coffee Hour & Resource Hub

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

1:20pm - 2:20pm  
North Lobby  
OPTIONAL

### Public Interest Drop-in

Students interested in public interest work can join Assistant Dean Beth Cruz for coffee while getting all your questions answered. Coffee available for pick up on Main Street before heading to Alexander Room.

1:20pm - 2:20pm  
Alexander Room  
OPTIONAL

### Project Safe @ Vanderbilt

Cara Tuttle Bell, Director, Project Safe Center

2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Flynn Auditorium

### Library Tour

30-minute tour and overview of services. Also available on Thursday.

3:40pm - 4:10pm  
Library Service Desk  
OPTIONAL

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

Led by Ambassadors of VLS. Also available on Thursday.

3:40pm - 4:10pm  
Front Lobby of VLS  
OPTIONAL

# Your Orientation Schedule

**Wednesday**  
August 21

**Breakfast Courtesy of Foley & Lardner LLP**

7:30am - 9:00am  
Main St.

## Student Headshots

Each student must sign up for one of the time slots listed in the registration link on the [Orientation website](#).

Note: avoid overlap with J.D. class photo from 8:15am - 8:30am

7:30am - 8:45am

2nd Floor North Lobby

Sign Up Required

## J.D. Class Photo

Please arrive no later than 8:15am

8:15am

Front Steps of VLS

## Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 9 of schedule

9:00am - 10:00am

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

## Financial Planning for Law Students

Morgan Cutright, AccessLex

10:10am - 11:10am

Flynn Auditorium

## Lunch: On Your Own

ONElevate cohort reminder - lunch in Alexander Room (invitation only)

## Student Headshots

Each student must sign up for one of the time slots listed in the registration link on the [Orientation website](#).

11:10am - 12:30pm

2nd Floor North Lobby

Sign Up Required

## Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 9 of schedule

12:40pm - 1:40pm

Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

## Considering the Possibilities

Join our panel of experts to learn about a wide range of professional opportunities. At the end of the session, students can choose to meet with their assigned career counselor to ask questions.

1:50pm - 3:20pm

Flynn Auditorium

## Student Headshots

Each student must sign up for one of the time slots listed in the registration link on the [Orientation website](#).

Note: if meeting with career counselor, please do not schedule until after 3:20pm

2nd Floor North Lobby

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Sign Up Required

## Soccer Scrimmage

Led by the Vanderbilt Law Soccer Club

6:00pm - 8:00pm

TBD

OPTIONAL

## Did You Know:

Vanderbilt Law School has two student lounges and a Wellness Room available to our students. Take a break in one of our lounges to hang out with friends or play some ping pong! Our Wellness Room is equipped for quiet meditation and relaxation. Law school can be stressful, be sure to find ways to take care of yourself!



# Your Orientation Schedule

## Thursday

August 22

### Law, the Greater Good, and Becoming a Happy, Healthy Lawyer

Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students  
Beth Cruz, Assistant Dean and Martha Craig Daughtrey Director for Public Interest

8:00am - 9:30am  
Flynn Auditorium

### Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 10 of schedule

9:40am - 11:10am  
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

### Lunch: Provided

Pick up lunch on Main St. and enjoy lunch with new classmates and friends

11:20pm - 12:20pm  
Pick Up on Main St.

### Life of the Law

See Life of the Law schedule on [Orientation website](#) or pg. 10 of schedule

12:30pm - 2:00pm  
Check Room Assignment on Life of Law Schedule

### Office Hours with Student Life & Financial Aid

Jasmin Felton, Director of Academic Life  
Michelle Kovash, Director of Student Affairs  
Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success  
Chris Meyers, Assistant Dean and Dean of Students  
Richelle Acker, Associate Department Director of Admissions (Financial Aid Support)

2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Main Street  
OPTIONAL

### Library Tour

30-minute tour and overview of services

2:30pm - 3:00pm  
Library Service Desk  
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

### Explore Nashville with your Co-Counsel Circuits

Co-Counsel Circuit leaders will schedule small group events

As Scheduled  
OPTIONAL

# Your Orientation Schedule

**Friday**  
August 23

**Coffee & Pastries available on Main St.**

8:00am - 8:30am

**Life of the Law: The Basics of Legal Writing Style**

Meg Phillips, Director of Academic Success

8:30am - 10:00am

Flynn Auditorium

**Life of the Law Assessment**

Exam open for 4 hours; you have 2 hours to complete once you begin

10:30pm - 2:30pm

Take Home/Flynn Auditorium available

## GET INVOLVED:

# ENGAGE

Student Organization  
Information Sessions  
FLYNN AUDITORIUM  
12:10pm - 1:10pm

Tuesday, August 27th

**AND**

Wednesday, August 28th



# Life of the Law: Tuesday & Wednesday Schedule

<b>Tuesday</b> 9:40am - 10:40am	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	How to Prepare for Class	Designing Law School Success	A Student's Guide to VLS	Plagiarism in Law School: What It Is and How to Avoid It
	Moore Room	Renaissance Room	Bennett Miller Room	Hyatt Room
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:20pm - 1:20pm	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	Plagiarism in Law School: What It Is and How to Avoid It	How to Prepare for Class	Designing Law School Success	A Student's Guide to VLS
	Hyatt Room	Moore Room	Renaissance Room	Bennett Miller Room
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00am - 10:00am	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	A Student's Guide to VLS	Plagiarism in Law School: What It Is and How to Avoid It	How to Prepare for Class	Designing Law School Success
	Bennett Miller Room	Hyatt Room	Moore Room	Renaissance Room
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:40pm - 1:40pm	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	Designing Law School Success	A Student's Guide to VLS	Plagiarism in Law School: What It Is and How to Avoid It	How to Prepare for Class
	Renaissance Room	Bennett Miller Room	Hyatt Room	Moore Room

# Life of the Law: Thursday Schedule

<b>Thursday</b> 9:40am - 11:10am	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>
	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	<b>U.S. Legal System</b> Flynn Auditorium	<b>Mock Class</b> Renaissance Room

<b>Thursday</b> 12:30pm - 2:00pm	<b>Circuits 1&amp;2</b>	<b>Circuits 5&amp;6</b>
	<b>Circuits 3&amp;4</b>	<b>Circuits 7&amp;8</b>
	<b>Mock Class</b> Renaissance Room	<b>U.S. Legal System</b> Flynn Auditorium